



CANADIAN ARCHITECT GREGORY HENRIQUEZ HAS INNOVATIVE HOUSING SOLUTION FOR REFUGEES WORLDWIDE

GHETTO travels to the Museum of Vancouver, presenting a unique development model envisioning refugee housing funded by tourist timeshare condominiums

Vancouver, BC – August 23, 2023 – Henriquez Partners Architects, known for inclusive, mixed-use developments, is announcing that its theoretical project GHETTO – originally displayed at the European Cultural Centre (ECC) 2021 Venice Architecture Biennale, and Art Gallery of Ontario (2022) – is travelling to the Museum of Vancouver (MOV), between August 23 and November 12, 2023.

On September 14th, the public is invited to join an Open House at the MOV, with food, drinks and music for this theoretical rezoning, which aims to encourage meaningful dialogue on our collective responsibility to care for one another through the creation of inclusive cities. Public input will be gathered at the Open House and throughout the duration of the exhibition through an online survey.

GHETTO was originally created for the ECC 2021 Architecture Biennale invitational TIME SPACE EXISTENCE, responding to the event's theme "How will we live together?". The genesis of the installation was inspired by multiple factors: the site of the first exhibition in Venice and its historic origin as the world's first ghetto; the global refugee crisis; and, the Henriquez credo that architecture has the potential to be a poetic expression of social justice. Henriquez Partners' GHETTO exhibition at the Museum of Vancouver is hosted in collaboration with UNHCR Canada, the UN Refugee Agency; ECC; and, MOV. SFU Public Square will join the collaboration to provide support for the public facing Open House and Panel Discussion.

The exhibition aims to illustrate the leadership role that architects and all citizens can play in the creation of inclusive, engaged cities, as well as the power held by the development community in providing social benefits for those most in need. Gregory Henriquez, Managing Principal at Henriquez Partners Architects, presents the idea that: "Contemporary architecture is often revered purely as an aesthetic rather than a social force. In the creation of communities that encourage values of inclusivity, diversity and social benefit, the architect's role has the potential to facilitate a transfer of equity to those most in need."

GHETTO imagines a physical conduit for redistributing wealth from tourists, through the sale of time share units, for the purpose of refugee housing. While this project explores one iteration of this economic redistribution model, it can be applied across different geographies, scales and contexts.

GHETTO has been honoured with awards from the European Cultural Centre, Architecture MasterPrize, Architizer A+ and Azure Magazine.

About Museum of Vancouver

The Museum of Vancouver connects Vancouverites to each other and connects Vancouver to the world. The museum's programs, exhibitions and collections bring people together and inspire conversation about the future. The museum, an enthusiastic civic advocate, is an independent non-profit organization dedicated to inspiring a socially connected, civically engaged city.

About Henriquez Partners

Henriquez Partners Architects is a Canadian architectural practice, headquartered in Vancouver, British Columbia, with a Toronto studio opening at Mirvish Village in 2023. Led by Gregory Henriquez, the studio seeks to re-examine the role of ethics, activism, and critical commentary in architectural practice, and to re-establish the leadership role of the architect in the creation of collective spaces that form the fabric of our daily lives and communities.

Henriquez is now best known for ambitious, inclusive mixed-use projects that typically require rezoning. The Woodward's redevelopment, completed in 2011, in Vancouver's Downtown Eastside, remains unprecedented in Canada due to its scale, humanitarian aspirations and complexity. Since then, the studio's socially, culturally and environmentally sustainable projects continue to have a major impact on shaping local communities.

Current large-scale mixed-use projects include the 5 million ft² Oakridge Park development in Vancouver; 1 million ft² Mirvish Village (100% rental) and a Housing Now affordable housing project on Dundas Street West, both in Toronto; and, the 1.5 million ft² WB1200 project in Seattle.

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ADDITIONAL INFORMATION:

[Henriquez Exhibition Website](#)

[MOV Exhibition Website](#)

[Eventbrite](#)

[GHETTO: Sanctuary for Sale book](#)