



The Mobile City Farmstead



BY THE MOBILE CITY FARMSTEAD TEAM

Our team has partnered with Ken Dunn to provide a design for a mobile storage and office facility for his newest urban farm, called City Farm, located at the corner of Division and Clybourn, next door to the Cabrini-Green housing project. Although we are using the Division and Clybourn farm as our site, the intent is that this facility can be duplicated on other sites as well.

We're calling this facility The Mobile City Farmstead. It will provide tool and produce storage, sheltered workspace, an office, restroom, temporary housing for one employee, and a small farm stand. The Farmstead will also serve to anchor the site, focusing attention to the entry point and providing a place from which to conduct educational classes, tours, and summer-time dinner gatherings.

The architectural components that make up the Farmstead will be those that are salvaged, cheap, degradable and, especially, easily transportable—such as shipping containers, chain-link fencing, canvas, and straw bales. The idea of mobility is critical since City Farm must be able to relocate quickly when the site is sold or ready for redevelopment. While the Farmstead will lend City Farm a sense of establishment (key to the success of any business venture), it will sit as lightly on the land as the agriculture itself.

Together, the agriculture and architecture will give new life to once forgotten pieces of the urban landscape, encouraging curious onlookers to become educated consumers and participants, thereby generating momentum for the drive toward a local, sustainable economy.

The Mobile City Farmstead Team is Matthew Kuhl, Karin Lucas, Dan Rappel, AIA, Amy Struckmeyer, and Shwetha Subramanian.