

AUSTIN + MERGOLD

June 2010

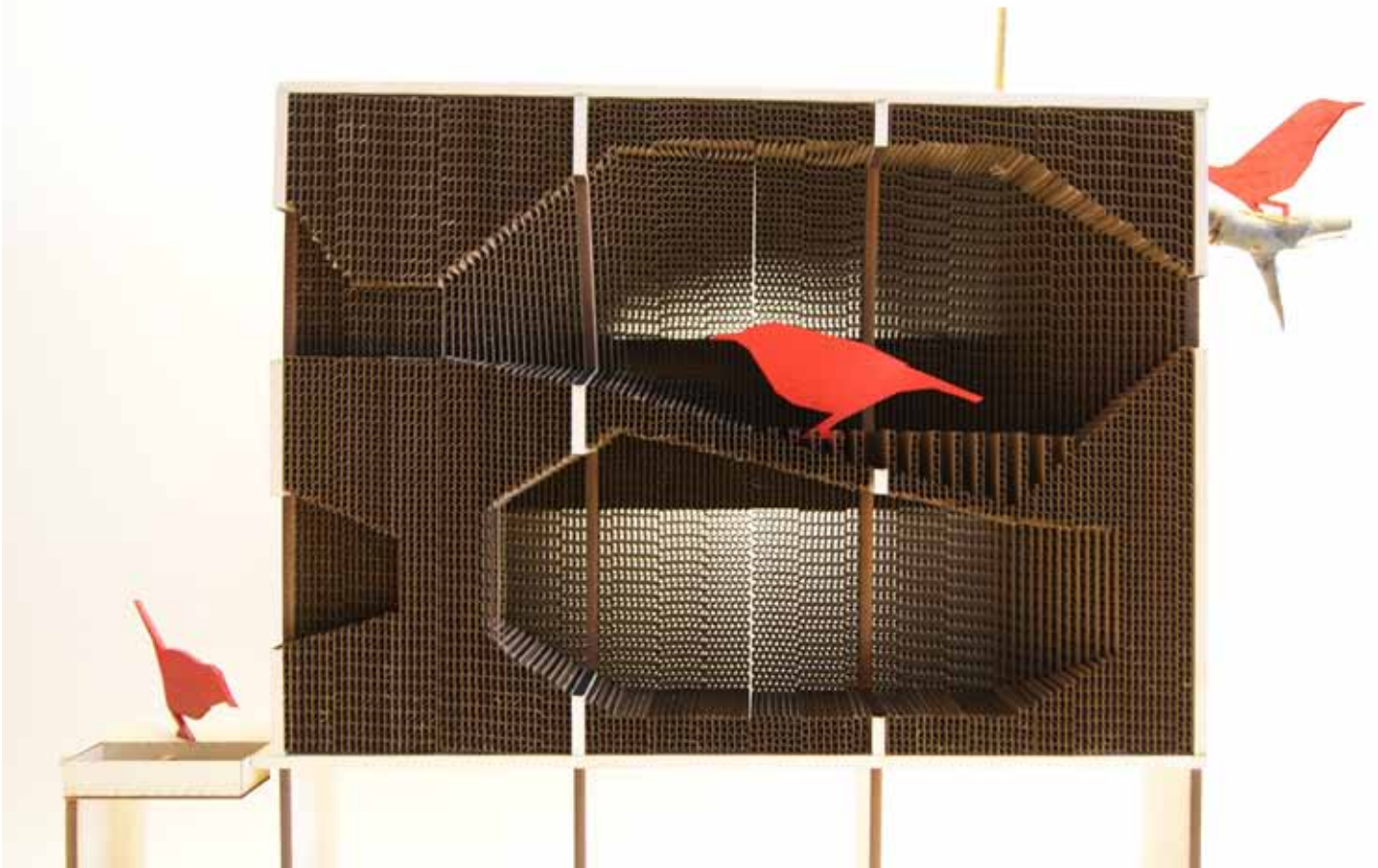
Domus Avicus Philadelphicus

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James Bowman, Kelly Tigera and Sally Reynolds

Domus Avicus Philadelphicus endeavors to draw aviary urban habitats into the public eye by creating urban bird shelters, inspired by Philadelphia's iconic rowhomes. We aim to have the public ponder the life of their fellow urban inhabitants – the birds – and how the functions of aviary habitats – dry, sheltered, and well-ventilated spaces - are similar to that of our own. The Domus Avicus birdhouses highlight the existence of an often-overlooked urban eco-system and support the need to protect and provide for Philadelphia's native wildlife. As part of Art in the Open in Philadelphia several of the *domi* were sited and constructed on the banks of the Schuylkill River, and were exhibited in the University of Arts. Reclaimed materials and sustainable fabrication techniques were incorporated in the birdhouse construction. Exhibited works were accompanied by wood block prints of the birdhouses' construction drawings.

A+M's shift of focus toward avian architecture is the direct result of the rather saddened outlook for design and construction industry aimed at human occupation following last year's economic crisis. Instead of lamenting on the years of bygone prosperity, A+M sees this as an opportunity to provide architectural services to a multitude of eager clients in the metropolitan area of Philadelphia and other urban settings.



Wrenhouse / Sectional Model

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Cardinal Trinity

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Wrenhouse and Cardinal Trinity

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Wrenhouse / front perch

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Woodpecker Trinity and Wrenhouse

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Woodpecker Trinity / green roof

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DOMUS AVICUS PHILADELPHICUS

BIRDS OF THE WISSAHICKON AND FAIRMOUNT PARK
A PROJECT FOR ART IN THE OPEN 2010



House Wren
TROGLODYTES AEDON

DESCRIPTION
L 4.75" W 6" WT 0.39 oz
SMALL AND RELATIVELY SLENDER; NOTE DRAB PLUMAGE WITH WEAKLY MARKED FACE PATTERN.

HABITAT
PREFER FOREST EDGES, OPEN WOODLANDS, SWAMPS, CITY PARKS, AND SUBURBAN AREAS. ONCE AN APPROPRIATE SITE IS SELECTED, THE WRENS FILL THE NEST CAVITY WITH COARSE TWIGGS, STICKS AND GRASS. THE NEST IS LINED WITH FEATHERS, WOOL, HAIR OR CATKINS.

HOUSE PREFERENCES

BOX FLOOR 4"x4"
BOX HEIGHT 6"x8"
ENTRANCE HT. 4 to 6"
ENTRANCE DIA. 1.25"
PLACEMENT HT. 6 to 10'



WRENHOUSE

PROTOTYPE
AUSTIN + MERGOLD

DOMUS AVICUS PHILADELPHICUS

BIRDS OF THE WISSAHICKON AND FAIRMOUNT PARK
A PROJECT FOR ART IN THE OPEN 2010



Northern Cardinal
CARDINALIS CARDINALIS

DESCRIPTION
L 8.75" W 12" WT 1.6 oz
LARGE, TRIANGULAR BILL ALWAYS RED OR ORANGE ON ADULTS.

HABITAT
ONE OF THE MOST COMMONLY SEEN BIRDS IN THE BACKYARD OF THE EASTERN UNITED STATES. PREFER NESTING PLATFORMS IN SHRUBBY AREAS, THICKETS, OR AREAS WITH A VERY DENSE UNDERSTORY. THESE AREAS CAN BE URBAN, SUBURBAN OR OPEN WOODLANDS.

HOUSE PREFERENCES

PLATFORM FLOOR 6"x6"
PLACEMENT HT. 4'



CARDINAL TRINITY

PROTOTYPE
AUSTIN + MERGOLD

DOMUS AVICUS PHILADELPHICUS

BIRDS OF THE WISSAHICKON AND FAIRMOUNT PARK
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Red-headed Woodpecker
MELANERPES ERYTHROCEPHALUS

DESCRIPTION
L 9.25" W 17" WT 2.5 oz
QUIET AND INCONSPICUOUS; STRIKING WHITE RUMP AND SECONDARIES. FLIGHT ACTIONS VERY SIMILAR TO BLUE JAY.

HABITAT
MOST WOODPECKERS LIVE ALL YEAR IN THE SAME AREA, AND CAN BE FOUND IN A VARIETY OF HABITATS INCLUDING FARMLAND, WOODLANDS, ORCHARDS, PINE WOODS, PARKS AND GARDENS.

HOUSE PREFERENCES

BOX FLOOR 6"x6"
BOX HEIGHT 14"
ENTRANCE HT. 11"
ENTRANCE DIA. 2"



WOODPECKER TRINITY

PROTOTYPE (w / ROOF DECK)

AUSTIN + MERGOLD

DOMUS AVICUS PHILADELPHICUS

BIRDS OF THE WISSAHICKON AND FAIRMOUNT PARK
A PROJECT FOR ART IN THE OPEN 2010



House Finch
CARPODacus MEXICANUS

DESCRIPTION
L 6" W 9.5" WT 0.74 oz
SMALL BODY, SLIGHTLY NOTCHED TAIL, SHORT, ROUNDED WINGS, ROUNDED HEAD, SHORT BILL, AND A DISTINCTLY CURVED CULMEN.

HABITAT
FINCHES LIVE IN A BROAD RANGE OF HABITATS INCLUDING FOREST EDGES, DESERTS, TOWNS, AND CITIES. THEIR BIRD-HOUSES SHOULD BE MOUNTED IN THE MIDDLE OF A YARD, OUT OF HUMAN REACH, AND ARE DESIGNED TO AVOID ALLOWING IN PREDATORS.

HOUSE PREFERENCES

BOX FLOOR 6"x6"
BOX HEIGHT 6"
ENTRANCE HT. 4.50"
ENTRANCE DIA. 1.50"



FINCH STABLE

PROTOTYPE
AUSTIN + MERGOLD



About A+M

Collectively, A+M has extensive experience in a multitude of disciplines (architecture and landscape, graphic, exhibition and interior design, and installation). Established in 2007, we thrive on solving design problems around multiple obstacles: time and budget constraints, common (often, unglamorous) materials and long-established local methodologies. Working directly with clients and builders often means designing (and sometimes reworking) on the construction site, and requires quickness of thought and precision of communication. We often use our design projects as a laboratory, looking for ways to rethink material applications.

A+M's work has been profiled in *Domus*, *Abitare*, *BLDGBLOG*, *The New York Times* and *Philadelphia Inquirer*.

In 2010 A+M won the NY Architectural League Prize (a.k.a Young Architects).

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Cardinal Trinity / back yard

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