HOUSING THEORY
course description, structure

Co-Requisite
ARCH 5002.06 Urban Housing Studio

Calendar Description
This class compares significant historic housing schemes with contemporary examples. It focuses on historic examples such as the Weissenhof Exhibition, Le Corbusier’s contribution to housing, Le Corbusier’s imitators, the work of Team X, as well as the work of contemporary practitioners.

Additional Description: Fall 2016
This class will investigate the history of Housing as an instinctual human activity and one motivated by a response to changing social and political conditions. These social and political conditions repeat themselves (albeit with different technology), and we see a repeating architectural response in Housing Form and Landscape. To identify and study this repeating architectural response, and its variations throughout history, is to study the concept of Type in architecture; to understand its roots is to describe Archetype, and to apply this understanding to a contemporary architectural project is Design.

All housing is Social Housing. The housing models we see today and the examples from a thousand years ago, all reflect a society’s condition; its values, motives and ethics. Sometimes the housing agenda is inclusive and sometimes it is exclusive. Sometimes the housing models employed make for good cities and sometimes new housing models are employed that are anti-urban, divisive, and contrary to the better qualities of human nature. Fortunately and unfortunately there are many examples of both models. In this class we will investigate these examples and trace their evolution, variations, and consider new models for urban housing today.

Learning Objectives
The course will challenge students to operate at a graduate level of architectural research and investigation. Students will gain knowledge of the evolution of housing types through history, be introduced to a method of investigation based on the formulation of a position and thesis in architectural research, and gain the ability to apply this understanding to the critical analysis and the design of contemporary housing projects.

Structure, Method
The instructor will present six lectures on the themes of housing described in the schedule opposite. These lectures will be followed by seminar discussions on each topic. Students will concurrently undertake an individual Case Study of a significant housing project from history. The instructor will provide a list of potential case study projects to choose from. Each student is expected to research, design and present their case study to the class in three phases:

1. Historical Context – the significance of the project in housing theory; the social and political motivation for the project; the place of the project in the architect’s body of work; the cultural context of the project.
2. Form and Landscape – a detailed analysis of the formal organization of the building(s) in the landscape; identification and description of the building’s Type, origin, variation, or as a new ‘species’ of housing; plan and section type (principles of spatial composition); material and technology.
3. Room and City – the experiential effect of the building in the city. Design and construct a detailed, rendered sectional model (or drawing) of a principle room and its real connection to its urban context.

The case studies are equally written and illustrated documents. The case studies are intended to be cumulative throughout the term and should be formatted and presented as pages in the final document. The first and second presentations will be digital presentations to the class, while the third will be in the form of a pinned-up presentation. The final submission is a .pdf document, submitted to the instructor by December 4th, 2016.
Monday 9:30am – 12:30pm
weekly schedule > Housing Theory

Week 1
Sep 12
Lecture 2: SURVIVAL HOUSING
Settlement patterns and the instinct toward collective housing:
• Early housing; temporary housing; agricultural settlements – the YARD and the ROOF

Case Study Seminar: Presentation of case study buildings and research topics

Week 2
Sep 19
Lecture 3: PROTECTIVE HOUSING
Inside vs Outside • Us vs Them:
• Feudal societies; Asian models; monasteries; gated communities – the COMPOUND and the WALL

Seminar: Lecture discussions

Week 3
Sep 26
Case Study Presentation 1: Chapter One Presentations
Historical Context

Week 4
Oct 3
Case Study Presentation 2: Chapter Two Presentations
Form and Landscape

Week 5
Oct 10
no class today

Week 6
Oct 17
Lecture 4: PRIVATE HOUSING
Class, society and the neighborhood:
• Served and Servant; Roman models; worker housing; suburbia; objects and laws – the SQUARE and the FLOOR

Seminar: Lecture discussions

Week 7
Oct 24
Case Study Presentation 3: Chapter Three Presentations
Room and City

Week 8
Oct 31
Lecture 5: PUBLIC HOUSING
New to House the Revolution:
• Urbanism; 18th-20th century housing models; modernism – the STREET and the STAIR

Seminar: Lecture discussions

Week 9
Nov 7
no class today

Week 10
Nov 14
Lecture 6: COLLAGE HOUSING
Composition in the Urban Landscape:
• Searching for a new model of urban housing – the PARK and the HEARTH

Seminar: Lecture discussions

Week 11
Nov 21
Case Study Presentation 4: Chapter Four Presentations

Week 12
Nov 28

Week 13
Dec 5
Final Submissions
Booklets Due 11:59pm, Sunday, December 4, 2016
Evaluation
Evaluations will be done by Niall Savage, with feedback from the class members after each presentation. When evaluating student work, the evaluator is searching for a sense of completeness and thought in the research and presentation of your work; an engagement with the subject matter; the ability to impart (teach) the lessons learned from your study to the other members of the class; and evidence of a theoretical position being applied in the design studio co-requisite, Arch 5002.

• Seminar and class participation – 15%
• Case Study presentations 1, 2, 3 – 15%+15%+15%= 45%
• Case Study final submissions – 40%

Primary Reference Material


Hayden, D. Redesigning the American Dream. New York: WW Norton, 1984


Norberg-Schulz, C. The Concept of Dwelling. New York: Rizzoli, 1985


Schoenauer, N. 6,000 Years of Housing. New York: WW Norton & Co., 2000
GW Reference Material

History/Theory of Housing:

Fabrication/Tectonics and Finance:
- City of Vancouver. Housing Families at High Densities. 1978.

House/Form/Culture:

Types:
- Diamond, AJ. “Residential Density”, in JAE, Vol. 19, No. 3.

City:
Significant Historic/Contemporary Examples:

• Four Sisters Co-op, by Davidson and Yuen, Vancouver
• Hydro Block AND Dundas-Sherbourne Project by Diamond and Myers, Toronto
• Special Needs Housing (various), by Paul Reuber, Toronto
• St. Lawrence Neighbourhood, City of Toronto Housing Department, Toronto
• Don Mills, EP Taylor/M Hancock, Toronto
• Habitat, Moshe Safdie, Montreal
• Strachan House, Levitt & Goodman, Toronto
• 7211 West Fourth Avenue, Hotson Bakker Architects, Vancouver
• Undergraduate Student Housing, Erindale Campus, UofT, by Baird, Sampson, Neuart
• District Lofts, Spadina Ave, Toronto, Architects Alliance
• Twenty Niagra, Toronto, Architects Alliance
• Mezo, King and Sherbourne Sts, Toronto, Architects Alliance
• Eigen Haard and Other Projects, Michael de Klerk, Amsterdam South
• Zaanhof, HJM Walenkamp, Amsterdam
• Pentagon Housing, Van Eyck & Bosch, Amsterdam
• Haarlemmer Houttuinen Housing, by Herman Hertzberger, Amsterdam
• Hubertus House, by Aldo van Eyck, Amsterdam
• Zwanenburgwal Canal Housing by Paul de Ley, Amsterdam
• Terrace Housing by JJP Oud at Kleeheek, Rotterdam
• Dagoon Housing by Herman Hertzberger, Utrecht
• Spanger, by M Brinkman, Rotterdam
• Parklaan Apartments, by JJP Oud at Kiefhoek, Rotterdam
• Sjipzenbaan Housing, Theo Bosch, Deventer
• Slolodam, MVRDV, Amsterdam
• Hagen Island, MVRDV, The Hague
• Letchworth Garden City, Parker & Unwin, England
• Roehampton Housing Estates, by London County Council, London
• Lillington Gardens, by Darbourne & Darke, London
• Byker Community, by Ralph Erskine, Newcastle-on-Tyne, England
• Westmoreland Road Housing by Edward Cullinan, London
• Highgrove Housing by Edward Cullinan, London
• Radburn, NJ, Stein and Wright, USoA
• Levittown, Levit & Sons, New York, USoA
• Usonian Houses, FLWright, various locations, USoA
• Hybrid Building, Steven Holl, Seaside, USoA
• Nya Bruket, by Ralph Erskine, Sandviken, Sweden
• Tapetseraren, byn Ralph Erskine, Sandviken, Sweden
• Tinggarden 1 and 2 by Tegnestuen Vandkunsten, Koge, Denmark
• Immeuble Clarle, by Le Corbusier, Geneva
• Sleeping Car Houses, by Le Corbusier at the Weissenhof Exhibition, Stuttgart
• Terrace Housing by JJP Oud at the Weissenhof Exhibition, in Stuttgart
• Apartments, by Mes van der Rohe, Weissenhof Exhibition, Stuttgart
• Housing Estates 1926-30 (various), by Ernst May, Frankfurt
• Lindenstrasse Neubau, IBA, by Herman Hertzberger, Berlin
• Romeo & Juliet Towers, Hans Scharoun, Stuttgart
• Karl Marxhof, Karl Ehr, Vienna
• Familiestre, Godin Stove Factory at Guise, Roff, 1859-83
• Unite d’Habitation, by Le Corbusier, Marseilles, Roff
• Swiss Pavillion, by Le Corbusier, Paris, Roff
• Porte Molitor Apartments, by Le Corbusier, Paris, Roff
• Social Housing, Henri Citrani, St. Denis AND Mane-La-Vallee AND Colombes, Roff
• Social Housing & Renewal of Mazzorbo, Giancarlo di Carlo, Venice Lagoon

Local Historic/Contemporary Examples:

• Apartments, 1544 Summer Street, on the westside of the Public Gardens, mid 19th C & 21st C
• Terraces’ B ‘Apartments, Jubilee Rd, Cherry & Edward Sts by Ned Maxwell, late 19th C
• Almeda Apartments, formerly the ‘Gold Institute’, College Street, late 19th C
• Morris Apartments, at SE corner of Morris and Church Streets, early 20th C
• The Oxford Apartments, 1675 Oxford at Jubilee, early 20th C
• Apartments, 5269-75 South Street (north side), early 20th C
• Hydrostone Neighbourhood, by Thomas Adams, Halifax, 1919 Garden City Suburb, NS
• Westmount Neighbourhood, based on Radburn, CMHC, post WW2 Vets Housing, 1950’s
• Avrimum Towers, Quinpool Road at the Armdale Mall, Rotch, classic 50’s
• Apartments, 990 Maclean Street at Inglis, classic 50’s
• Mulgrave Park, Public Housing, late 50’s, CMHC
• Forest Hills Community, ‘New Town’, NS Dept of Housing, 1960’s
• Uniaclique Square, Public Housing & Urban Renewal, late 60’s, CMHC
• Fenwick Tower, Student Housing, Fenwick Street, 1980’s
• Park Victoria Apartments, South Park Street, 1980’s
• Peter Green Hall, student co-op residence, 1034 Wellington Street, late 1980’s
• Shaunslieve Apartments, 580 Bedford Highway, by H Nakashima, late 1970’s
• John Hugh MacKenzie Seniors Co-op, Green Street, by Peter LeClaire, late ‘70’s
• Cranberry Lake Co-op, Forest Hills, NS, by Don Williams, early ‘80’s
• Singles Apartments, Metro Non Profit Housing Assoc, 2330 Gutttingen St, by C/GDA & Niall Savage, early 2002
• The Creightons, Creighton Street, by C/GDA & Niall Savage, fall 2004
• The Newman Building, Creighton & Buddy Daye Streets, by C/GDA & Niall Savage, Summer 2008