M2 URBAN HOUSING STUDIO

URBAN COLLAGE HOUSING

M2 URBAN HOUSING STUDIO
course description

Kurt Schwitters, *Mz 601*, (1923)

Calendar Description

This studio explores the aesthetic, tectonic, sociocultural, and economic challenges presented by contemporary high-density, mixed-use development. The relationships of architecture to urbanism, and building to city, will be explored through exemplary precedents and the design of housing and its associated commercial, institutional and recreational components.

Additional Description

This studio will investigate the social role of architecture in the city and particularly how this is achieved through urban housing. Understanding and then challenging the default models of housing development today, we will investigate another description and pattern for urban development, *Collage Housing*, a form of inclusive housing development that puts the city, the collective, and the individual all equally first. Our mottoes in this investigation include "All Housing is Public Housing"; "The First Room is the Public Room"; "My House is your House and Our House is the City". In this studio, students will design a large, multi-unit, mixed-program, urban housing project in Halifax.

Learning Objectives

Comprehensive in its scope, this studio will challenge students to operate at a graduate level of architectural investigation. Students will develop a facility in designing simultaneously at the scale of the city, the room, and the building; considering concurrently both theory and practice; and sidling up to history while looking forward. Students will be able to put to work all that they have found in architectural education so far. It is also intended that the studio will well prepare students to begin the thesis process in their upcoming work term and subsequent academic terms. Specific awareness and understanding of, and skills and abilities include:

- Developing an architectural project through theory, research, process, and application.
- Principles of urban design.
- Primary design factors in housing plan/section types (eg. circulation, light and air, outdoor space, building systems).
- Complex programming – work/live, public/private balance, demographic mixing.
- A general understanding of density, FAR, zoning principles, gross to net ratios, development economics, fire / building safety, and accessibility.

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Teaching and Learning
This year the course will be offered in a 'blended' learning environment. While the class is primarily an in-person course, we will be using digitally enhanced methods for some components of the course. This may include digital desk crits, group crits, lectures, etc.

Our main digital platforms for the course will be:

Brightspace: ARCH5002 - Urban Housing Studio (Sec 01) - 2023 Fall.
Official course home; submissions, evaluation and grading.
Conceptboard: Some studio activities, including individual and group crits, group work, project reviews.
Zoom: Audio and visual meetings, alone or combined with other platforms.
Dal Email: Primary communications, scheduling.

Digital Tools
Along with analog methods of teaching, representation, and presentation, we will be using the following digital tools in this course:
- Adobe Creative Cloud including Photoshop, InDesign and/or Illustrator for image editing and layout.
- 2D & 3D drawing and modelling softwares.

Equity, Diversity & Inclusion
The Faculty of Architecture and Planning is committed to recognizing and addressing racism, sexism, xenophobia and other forms of oppression within academia and the professions of architecture and planning. We, the faculty, are working to address issues of historic normalization of oppressive politics, segregation, and community disempowerment, which continues within our disciplines today. For more information about how the Faculty is working to enhance equity, diversity and inclusion, see the website: https://www.dal.ca/faculty/architecture-planning/about/edicommittee.html

- Dalhousie University is located in Mi'kma'ki, the ancestral and unceded territory of the Mi'kmaq. We are all Treaty people.
- We recognize that African Nova Scotians are a distinct people whose histories, legacies and contributions have enriched that part of Mi'kma'ki known as Nova Scotia for over 400 years.

University Policies and Resources
This course is governed by the academic rules and regulations set forth in the University Calendar and the Senate. See the School's "Academic Regulations" page (http://tinyurl.com/dal-arch-regulations) for links to university policies and resources on:

- Academic integrity
- Accessibility
- Code of student conduct
- Diversity and inclusion; culture of respect
- Student declaration of absence
- Recognition of Mi'kmaq territory
- Work safety
- Services to students, including writing support
- Fair dealing guidelines (copyright)
- Dalhousie University Library

SLEQ's
Class time will be set aside for students to complete the Learning Experience Questionnaires in the last two weeks of the course.

M2 URBAN HOUSING STUDIO

weekly schedule >

Contact Times:
Monday and Thursday, 2:00 – 5:30pm, Atlantic Time

URBAN SYSTEMS
A City as Social Collage

monday <   > thursday

Weekly Targets

	monday	thursday		Weekly Targets
Week 1 Sep 11 + Sep 14	Intro / walkabout	**Urban Collage 1** – *Locus in Urbe* A Place in the City	< GIS Workshop Wednesday, 2pm	Critical reading of the project's urban condition and its potential for urban housing.
Week 2 Sep 18 + Sep 21	**Urban Collage 2** – *Urbe in Urbe* A City within the City	**Urban Collage 3** – *Locus Publicus* The Public Room of the Project		Find, name, and develop the intent of your housing project through program and public space studies.
Week 3 Sep 25 + Sep 28	**Urban Collage 4** – *Urbana Habitationi Belli* Urban Housing Strategy	Individual Desk Crits		Define and describe the architectural strategy for the project.

HOUSING SYSTEMS
A City of Rooms

monday <   > thursday

	monday	thursday		Weekly Targets
Week 4 **Oct 2** + Oct 5	Truth & Reconciliation Day	**Urban Systems Review**		Present the thesis & architectural strategy of the project.
Week 5 **Oct 9** + Oct 12	Thanksgiving Holiday	**9 Rooms of the City** – Developing the project through the 9 rooms study in section & plan		
Week 6 Oct 16 + Oct 19	Group Meeting	Individual Desk Crits		
Week 7 Oct 23 + Oct 26	Group Meeting	Individual Desk Crits		
Week 8 Oct 30 + Nov 2	Group Meeting	Individual Desk Crits		
Week 9 Nov 6 + Nov 9		**PENULTIMATE REVIEW >>>** Thurs, Nov 9		

BUILDING SYSTEMS
A City in Section

monday <   > thursday

	monday	thursday
Week 10 Nov 13 to Nov 17	Fall Study Break – No Classes	
Week 11 Nov 20 + Nov 23	Group Meeting	Individual Desk Crits
Week 12 Nov 27 + Nov 30	Individual Desk Crits	Individual Desk Crits
Week 13 Dec 4 + Dec 7	Group Meeting	**Building Systems Review** Final Project Penultimate

Review Week
Dec 11 to Dec 15

<<< FINAL REVIEW >>>
Wednesday / Thursday, Dec 13 / 14

DESIGN RESEARCH

PROJECT DESIGN METHOD

PROJECT REALIZATION

M2 URBAN HOUSING STUDIO
course structure + deliverables

Structure, Method

In combination with the co-requisite Housing Theory course, students will develop a theoretical position on urban housing and an architectural hypothesis, or 'question', which will be explored and tested through a structured design process. The intent is to simulate the thesis process – that is, it's not just a project but rather, your work is a contribution to the discourse on the architecture of urban housing – grounded in theory, defined by a design process, and proven, or tested, through a comprehensive architectural design project.

Our design process will move, iteratively, through three phases of design and research:

1. Urban Systems –   The city as social collage and the 'city within the city'.
The first part of the term will focus on developing a hypothesis and architectural strategy for urban housing – defining our intent and giving it a name. Through collage studies, research, and diagrammatic analysis, each student will start by finding: a) the character of the Public Room of the project; b) the Strategy for Circulation in the project; and c) the Programmatic Composition of the project.
> Deliverable: **Urban Housing Hypothesis & Project Strategy**
- Hypothesis and proposal for a new development pattern through text, diagrammatic analysis, and compositional strategy.
- 3D conceptual urban massing model – the project strategy
  This model includes: – Urban Context and Site strategy
                                         – Building configuration strategy
                                         – Circulation strategy
                                         – Program distribution strategy

2. Housing Systems – The city as a house of rooms.
The second part of the term will focus on realizing the individual projects through the lens of "A City of Rooms". The idea is to see the design of housing as an exercise in city-making; as a relationship and composition of always-interconnected-rooms, from the most public to the most private, from the community to the individual. Students must design the rooms outside equally to those inside.
> Deliverable: **Schematic Design for Penultimate Review**
- 9 Rooms Study: the inhabitation of nine significant places in your project and the compositional interrelationships between them.
  It includes the design for: – Inhabited Urban Section > 9 beautiful rooms.
                                         – detailed design of the primary circulation system and its impact on form-making, room types, and both public and private spaces.
                                         – structural system and its impact on form-making, room types, and both public and private spaces.
                                         – public/private composition, housing types, plan and section types.
                                         – detailed housing unit design, community programs, building aggregation.

3. Building Systems – The house and the city as an integrated architectural section.
The final part of the term will be about developing the project through the detailed design of Critical Conceptual Conditions.
> Deliverable: **Design Development**
- Inhabited Section of whole project.
- 1:20 detail section representative of project's intent and thesis – ie. the 'proof'.
- Prepare final project presentation: synthesis and resolution of Urban, Housing and Building systems.

M2 URBAN HOUSING STUDIO
program

Program

This studio takes a position with respect to housing development in the city: the provision of a mix of housing types including market value, affordable, low income, work/live and institutional accommodation – along with providing the mix of civic, commercial and social amenity necessary for a vibrant place – *is the model for housing projects in the city*. Each housing development, whether urban or suburban, needs to be conceived of as a whole community within, and integrated into, the larger community – ***a city within the city***.

9 Rooms

These are the compositional components of Urban Collage Housing, and each 'room' plays a crucial role in the overall composition. These components are evident at all scales of design – that is, they describe the necessary elements of a City, a House, and a Room. In your project you will develop a set of desired form characteristics for each of these rooms, and then re-compose (collage) them into a new pattern and strategy for your housing project. Like collage, these components can be layered, merged, inserted and 'played with' to achieve new compositions and formal clarity.

1. Infrastructure   The necessary systems found or built to allow inhabitation of a place.

2. Hearth   The organizing element or conception – the *Activator* – of every place; from settlement, to city, to building, to room.

3. Street/Square   The Civic Realm: the *Public Room* and the place of connection between the city, the family, and the individual.

4. Circulation   The <u>inhabited</u> pattern of movement connecting and between the public and private domains.

5. House   The Domestic Realm: the private place of connection between the city, the family, and the individual.

6. Workplace   The places of employment, production, and exchange.

7. Garden   The necessary connection to the landscape and environment in a public way, and in a private way.

8. Amenity   What it gives back to the city and provides to the individual.

9. Institution   The place of ideas and public expression.
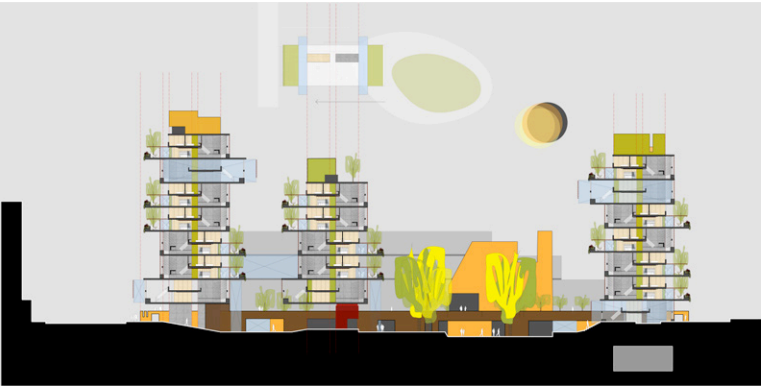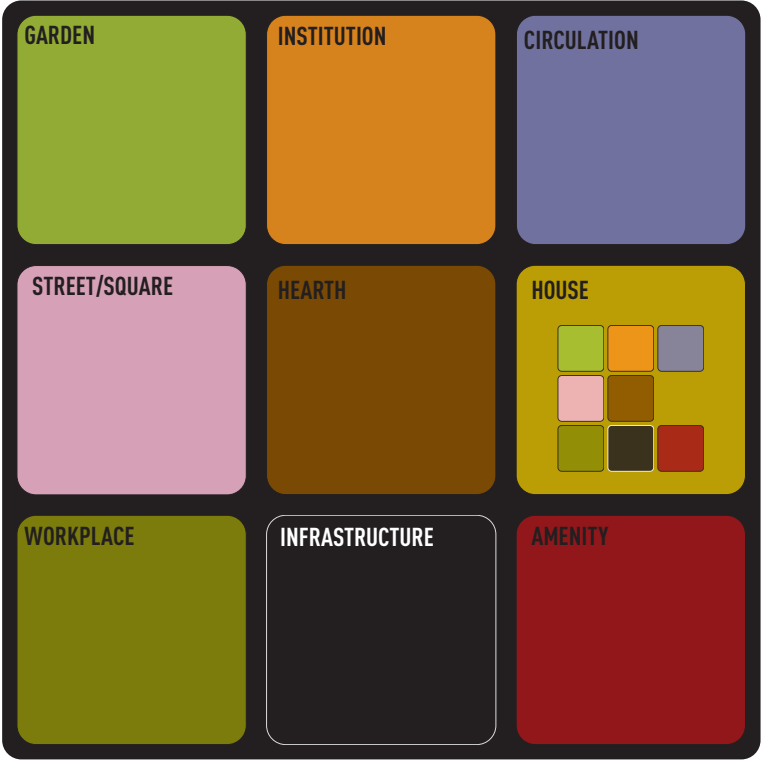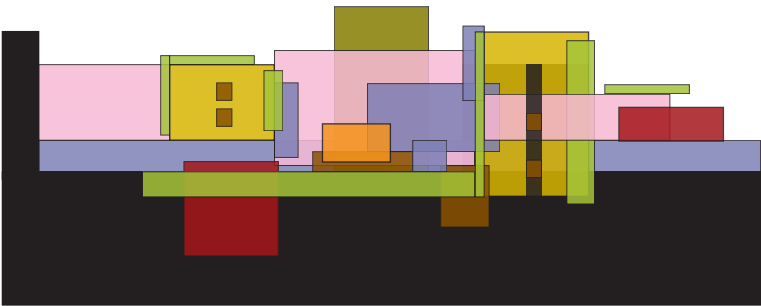
M2 URBAN HOUSING STUDIO
project brief

In this studio we are interested in exploring urban collage programming. Your project should develop a strategy for composing the 9 Rooms and making them present at all scales of inhabitation.

At a minimum, your project should provide for these uses:

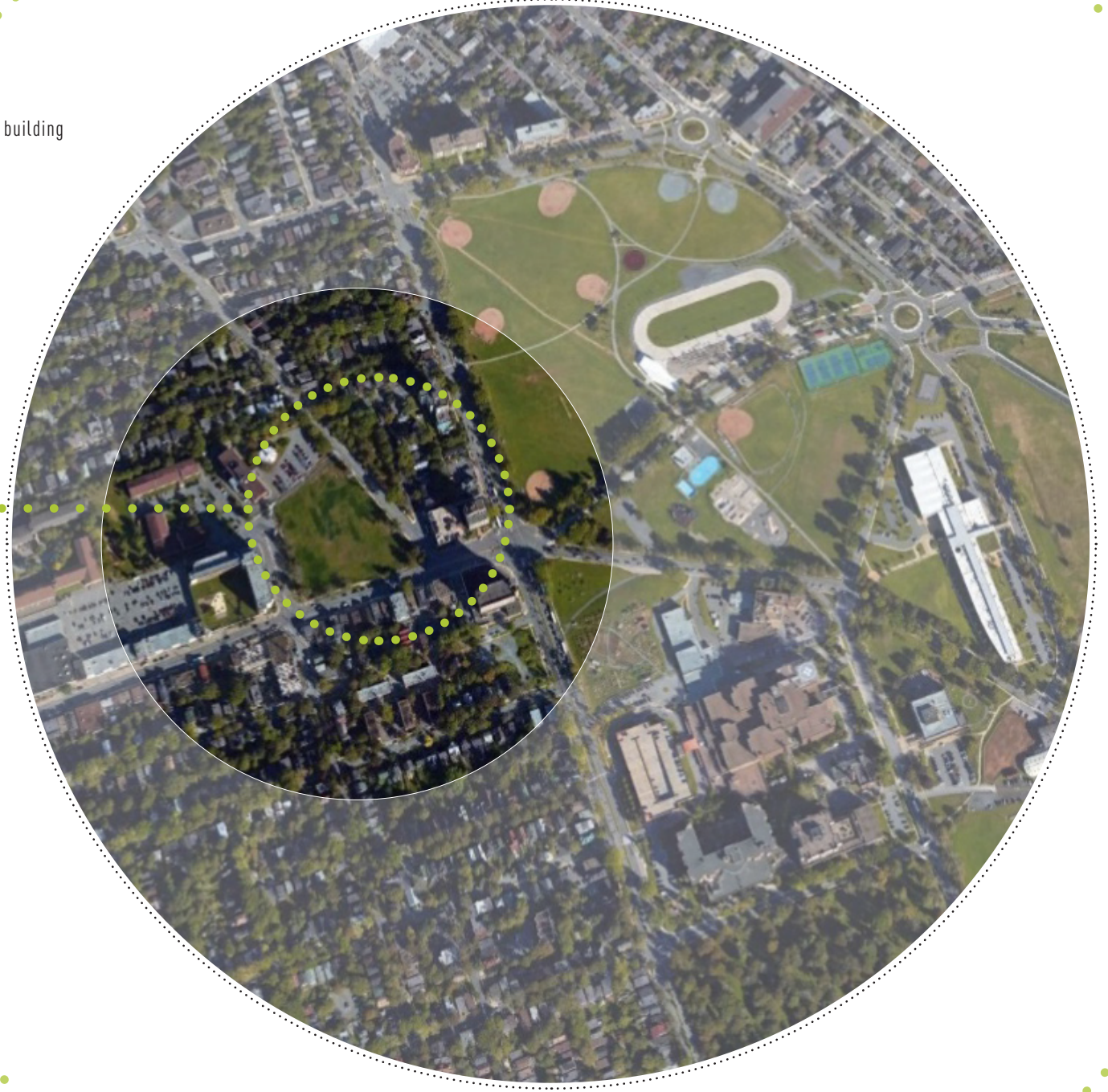| Use	Type	No.	% of Building Area
Public Room	Site-defining urban space		
Public Space	Public/private/shared Interspersed throughout the site and building(s)		Area equal to total site area
Housing	Mixed, including: – singles, families, groups – various incomes and occupations, including home occupations – private outdoor space for each unit – shared community indoor/outdoor spaces and amenities – workspace in each unit	≥ 200 units, ≥ 400 persons	60% +/–
Civic Amenity	Publicly accessible facilities: – recreation, library, transportation, etc.	1 major public amenity	10% +/–
Community Services	Publicly accessible services: eg. clinic, daycare, education, rehab, community meeting spaces, gardens	1 primary service, or group of services	10% +/–
Commercial	eg. retail, food, fitness, etc.		10% +/–
Work Spaces	eg. workshops, studios, offices, food production; public, private, and shared		10% +/–
Accessibility & Safety	Including fire safety, egress, environment	≥ project should meet or exceed building code standards	
Parking	Resident and guest parking	≥ 100 covered resident; appropriate guest, amenity and commercial parking, uncovered	
Utility, mechanical and storage			proportional to project

Google Earth

M2 URBAN HOUSING STUDIO
project site

Our site for testing our theories on Urban Housing is in Halifax at the "Willow Tree" intersection. The primary building site is the vacant land on Quinpool Road, previously occupied by St. Patricks Highschool.

M2 URBAN HOUSING STUDIO
site info

primary site

Site Stats:

Lot A
Area: 14,000 m²   150,000 ft²
         1.5 hectares   3.5 acres

Lot B   currently under construction
Area: 2,400 m²   26,000 ft²
         0.25 hectares   0.6 acres

PARK
Area: 3,500 m²   40,000 ft²
         0.4 hectares   1.0 acre

NORTH

PARK

HALIFAX
COMMON

Parker Street

Robie Street

± 88m

± 150m

± 64m

± 36m

Windsor Street

LOT B

± 38m

± 65m

LOT A

Willow
Tree

Quingate-Place

± 110m

± 142m

Quinpool Road

Robie Street

M2 URBAN HOUSING STUDIO
evaluation + reference materials

Evaluation

Evaluations will be done by the instructor, with advice from the other M2 Design instructors. Guest critics attending class-wide reviews will also be consulted for studio feedback.

When evaluating student work, the evaluators are searching for a sense of completeness in the expression of an architectural idea (33%), evidence of investigation at the three scales of inquiry (33%), clarity of intention and the quality of the formal response to that intention (33%).
Each student will receive oral feedback of their progress after the penultimate review.

Assessment:
- Penultimate Review including Urban Systems and Housing Systems   =   40%
- Final Ensemble   =   60%

Submissions

Penultimate and Final submissions will be posted to Brightspace on the assignments page for this course.
- See *tinyurl.com/dal-grading* for grading standards.
- Late submissions will be assessed a 1/3 letter grade penalty per weekday late, unless pre-arranged with the instructor.
- Student Declaration of Absence (SDA's), will be accepted for missed classes only (max.2), but a medical note will be required for any late submissions, unless pre-arranged with the instructor or a student has an accessibility plan that allows for extensions.

Dalhousie University Grading Standards (graduate)

	Grade	Value	Percent	Definition
EXCELLENT	A+	4.3	90-100	Considerable evidence of original thinking; demonstrated outstanding capacity to analyze
	A	4.0	85-89	and synthesize; outstanding grasp of subject matter; evidence of extensive knowledge
	A−	3.7	80-84	base.
GOOD	B+	3.3	77-79	Evidence of grasp of subject matter, some evidence of critical capacity and analytical
	B	3.0	73-76	ability; reasonable understanding of relevant issues; evidence of familiarity with the
	B−	2.7	70-72	literature.
N/A		Graduate courses must achieve a minimum B− final grade to pass the course.		

NOTE: Individual assignments and submissions are graded using the full 0 – 100% spread.

Primary Reference Material

Bacon, E. 1976. *The Design of Cities*. New York: Penguin.

Chey, Katy. 2018. *Multi-Unit Housing in Urban Cities*. New York: Routledge.

Förster, W., & W. Menking. 2019. *The Vienna Model 2: Housing for the 21st Century City*. Berlin: Jovis.

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

Heckmann, O., et al. 2011. *Floor Plan Manual Housing*. Basel: Birkhäuser.

Hester, R.T. 2006. *Design for Ecological Democracy*. Cambridge: MIT Press.

Holl, S. 1983. *Rural and Urban House Types*. New York: Princeton Architectural Press.

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

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Rowe, C., & F. Koetter. 1978. *Collage City*. Cambridge: MIT Press.

Sherwood, R. 1978. *Modern Housing Prototypes*. Cambridge: Harvard University Press.

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