

# M2 HOUSING THEORY

ONE HISTORY OF HOUSING IN THE SOMETIMES HARSH LIGHT OF HUMAN MOTIVATIONS

## M2 HOUSING THEORY

ARCH 5102.03  
Fall 2023

Co-requisite with Urban Housing Studio ARCH.5002.06  
School of Architecture, Dalhousie University

Instructor: Niall Savage (niall.savage@dal.ca)

# M2 HOUSING THEORY

## course description

### Calendar Description

This course investigates the architectural history and theory of housing as an essential human motivation shaped by social forces. It investigates fundamental housing types from past and present, near and far, and compares their formal characteristics and social meaning. Students conduct research into historical and emerging theories of urban housing, and develop a position on the design of contemporary, multiple-unit, urban housing projects.

### Additional Description

This class will investigate the architectural history of housing as an instinctual human activity and one motivated by a response to changing social, cultural and political conditions. The class will not be structured as a survey of housing theories or housing projects, but rather, the class will investigate the history and theory of housing through the lens of the instructor's own research subject:

*Collage Housing.*



#### All Housing is Public Housing

If all housing is public housing, what then of my house? What then of the innate human aspiration for land ownership, security, status, and a stand-alone Palladian-like villa overseeing the territory? The fact that the 'territory' may only be 1000m<sup>2</sup> in the contemporary residential suburb shouldn't really matter, should it, for am I not the lord of this domain? It's always been this way, right?

Well, no, not really. The history of human settlement and the architecture that expressed those patterns of settlement, is, was, and are a manifestation of a composition of human motivations. In the design and development of housing types throughout history, these motivations continuously range between the public and the private – between what is good for the collective and what is good for the individual. Some housing models may take a polar position (say, the commune or say, the villa), but most are a mix of often competing motivations. Our cities, past and present, are an expression of this competition of motivations, for better or for worse.

This class, through the lens of architectural inquiry into urban housing, will look at this competition of motivations, the housing models that describe them and their implications on the city, and then compose a new (albeit ancient) model for the architecture of urban housing developments: *Collage Housing.*

### Learning Objectives

The course will challenge students to operate at a graduate level of architectural research, criticism and investigation. Students will gain knowledge of the evolution and meaning 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 practice, and gain the ability to apply this understanding to the critical analysis and design of contemporary housing projects. Other specific skills include:

- Critical research.
- Developing a research question and critical position on a topic in architecture (anticipating thesis).
- Writing skills.

### 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>

### 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                          | • Recognition of Mi'kmaq territory                |
| • Accessibility                               | • Work safety                                     |
| • Code of student conduct                     | • Services to students, including writing support |
| • Diversity and inclusion; culture of respect | • Fair dealing guidelines (copyright)             |
| • Student declaration of absence              | • 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.

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### Teaching and Learning

This year the course will be offered in primarily an online learning environment. Our main digital platforms will be:

- Brightspace: ARCH5102 - Housing Theory (Sec 01) - 2022 Fall.  
Official course home; submissions, evaluation and grading.
- Zoom: Audio and visual meetings, lectures, presentations.
- Conceptboard: Digital workspace.
- Dal Email: Primary communications, scheduling.

### Digital Tools

The following digital tools will be required in this course:

- Adobe Creative Cloud including Photoshop, InDesign and/or Illustrator for writing, image editing and layout.
- All submissions must be in .pdf format.

### Course Structure

#### Lectures:

The instructor will present a series of lectures on the themes of housing described in the weekly schedule, followed by seminar discussions on the lecture topics. The lectures are based on the instructor's own area of research in the architecture of urban housing, and are presented as an ongoing research project for students to critically engage with, and to inform their own design research.

#### Seminars:

There will be seminar discussions and presentations on assigned readings.

#### Design Research Document: (iTOC)

Students will design, write and illustrate a research document on a topic in Urban Housing using the *illustrated Table of Contents* method. The subject of these research documents is aligned with and theoretically supports each student's design project in ARCH 5002. Students will present the ongoing development of their iTOC throughout the term.

### Deliverables

1. Each student will complete a ≥1500 word, illustrated design research document (iTOC), for the course.
  - There will be two interim (outline/draft) digital submissions and/or presentations by each student outlining the primary thesis, structure and the development of their iTOC.
  - Students should design their document to be reviewed in both printed and digital formats.
  - Compose and write your document using Adobe InDesign, and save to .pdf.
2. There are 3 assigned readings (5 texts) for the course.
  - Each student will submit a one paragraph synopsis and critical comment for each reading prior to seminar discussions. Note: If your group is presenting the reading, you do not have to submit the paragraph.
  - Three subgroups will present and lead seminar discussions on each of the three readings.

### Evaluation

Assignment submission dates and attendance at lectures and seminars are mandatory – unless pre-arranged or following university regulations on absence and grading. All evaluations will be by the instructor.

Class/Seminar Participation	20%
iTOC Outline/Draft submissions	20%
Final Design Research Document (iTOC)	60%

Evaluation of the final iTOC is based on the following criteria:

- Thesis statement and structure of the argument = 15%
  - Exposition of the argument through text and visual reference material = 50%
  - Writing quality (grammar, spelling, composition) = 15%
  - Graphic quality, design and layout = 15%
  - Illustrative reference material and citations = 5%
- (Guidelines for citing sources: author-date style (Chicago Manual of Style) ([tinyurl.com/chicago-author-date](https://tinyurl.com/chicago-author-date)))

### Submissions

Submissions (pdf) will be posted to Brightspace on the assignments page for this course.

- Late submissions for essay-related items will be assessed a 1/3 letter grade penalty per weekday late, unless pre-arranged with the instructor.
- Paragraphs on the readings will not be accepted after the seminar due dates.
- 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 and synthesize; outstanding grasp of subject matter; evidence of extensive knowledge base.
	A	4.0	85-89	
	A-	3.7	80-84	
GOOD	B+	3.3	77-79	Evidence of grasp of subject matter, some evidence of critical capacity and analytical ability; reasonable understanding of relevant issues; evidence of familiarity with the literature.
	B	3.0	73-76	
	B-	2.7	70-72	
N/A	Graduate courses must achieve a minimum B- to pass the course.			

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

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weekly schedule >

Class Time: Tuesdays 2:00 pm – 5:00 pm, Atlantic Time.  
Zoom: Meeting ID: 872 8813 3220 / passcode: Theory

		Weekly Activities		Readings	Notes and Due Dates	
		2:00 pm – 3:30 pm	3:30 pm – 5:00 pm		Notes:	Due:
Week 1	>	lecture: <b>ALL HOUSING IS PUBLIC HOUSING</b> or, <i>My House is Your House and Our House is the City</i>	Lecture Q&A Building a research question with the Illustrated Table of Contents (iTOC)	Readings assigned		
Week 2	>	lecture: <b>THE I AND THE WE OF HOUSING</b> parts 1 & 2 or <i>One History of Housing in the Sometimes Harsh Light of Human Motivations</i>	Lecture Q&A Design Research Topics Considered			
Week 3		Seminar – First Readings Group 1 leads talk	Design Research Topics Proposed	First readings discussed; summary paragraphs due		
Week 4		Seminar – Second Readings Group 2 leads talk	Design Research Topics Update	Second readings discussed; summary paragraphs due		
Week 5		Seminar – Third Reading Group 3 leads talk	iTOC Outlines Reviewed Abstract > <i>Theory, Process, Project</i>	Third reading discussed; summary paragraph due		Submit iTOC Outlines Tuesday, Oct 10, 11 pm
Week 6	>	lecture: <b>THE CASE-STUDY FOR COLLAGE HOUSING</b> or, <i>Why the Unité d'Habitation is so Damn Good</i>	Lecture Q&A			
Week 7	>	lecture: <b>COUPÉ De La VILLE</b> or, <i>The Social &amp; Architectural Composition of Collage Housing</i>	Lecture Q&A			
Week 8		Presentation of iTOC Drafts <i>Including: Illustrated Table of Contents &gt; Title, Thesis Statement, 6 representative paragraphs, 6 representative images, 6 representative project design diagrams</i>				Submit iTOC Drafts Sunday, Nov 5, 11 pm
Week 9		M2 Design Penultimate Week - no class today			Note: M2 Design Penultimate Reviews, Thursday, Nov 9	
Week 10		Fall Study Break – No Classes				
Week 11		iTOC 'desk crits'				
Week 12		iTOC 'desk crits'				Final Research Document (iTOC) Due: Sunday, Dec 3, 11 pm
Week 13		no class today			Note: M2 Design Final Reviews Next Week	

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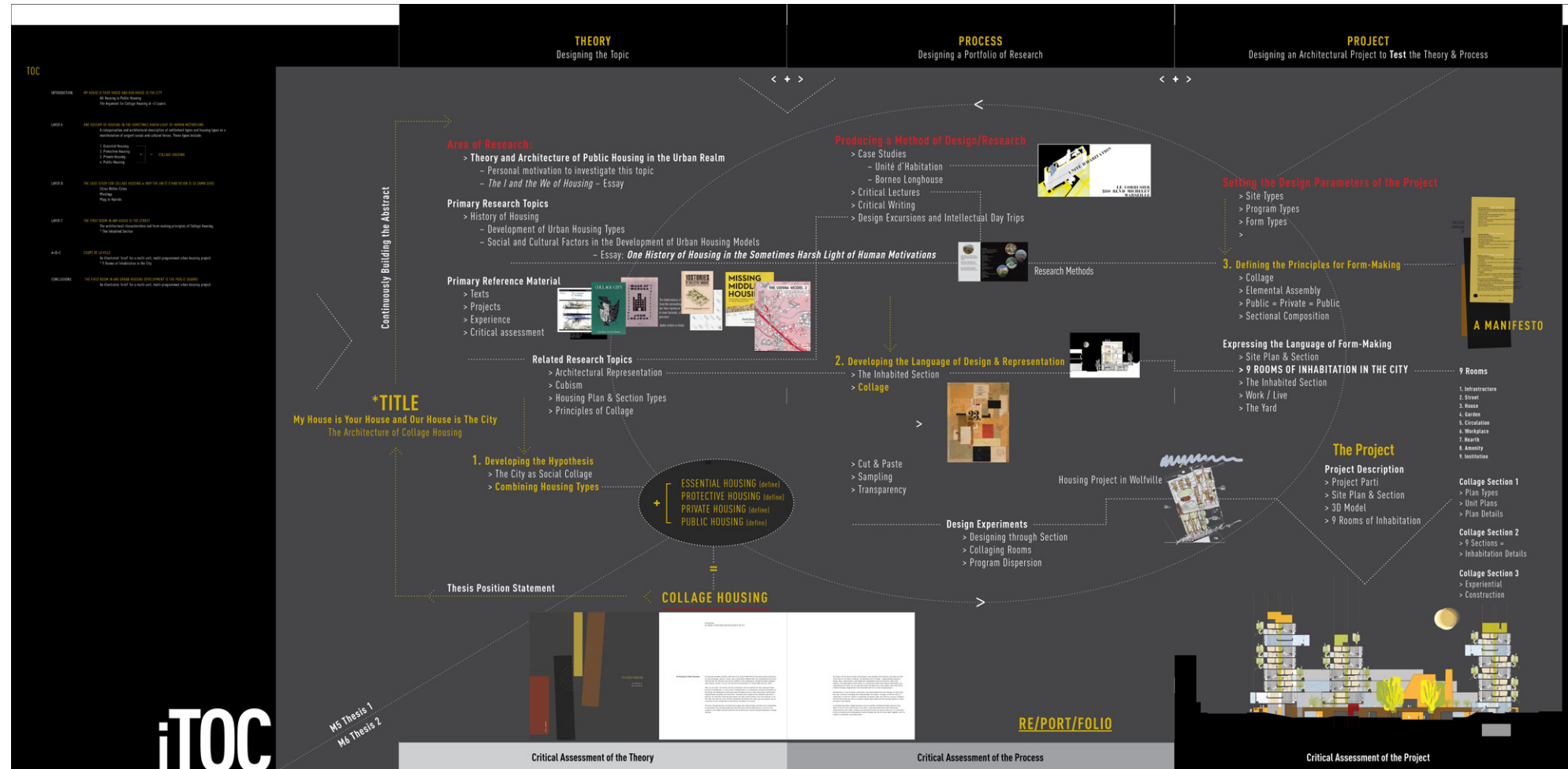
## iTOC

An architectural project does not exist in a vacuum. In our courses this Fall, we are motivated by the search for, and the architectural expression of, new concepts in Urban Housing. Both your studio project and your work in Housing Theory should be like a manifesto on urbanism and housing.

In the first 4 weeks of the term you will be developing a theoretical position on urban housing that will drive your Urban Housing Studio project – and provide the structure for your Housing Theory design research document – the **iTOC**.

The iTOC combines research and design into a visual and textual architectural inquiry. Like a thesis, it provides an architectural argument for the project, based in theory, and tested through design application.

Our job is to develop a specific topic that provides a way into the greater discourse on urban housing. It's like an architectural “experiment”, based in the language of design, and the iTOC is our lab to conduct and ‘publish’ our experiment. This experiment focuses on an issue, poses a hypothesis to address it, describes a method and process of investigation, and finally, tests it rigorously through the design of an architectural project.





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## seminar readings

There are 3 assigned readings for the course, which will be distributed by the instructor and posted on Brightspace. Students are expected to have read the texts and prepare a one paragraph synopsis and critical comment for each reading. Three subgroups will present and lead seminar discussions on each of the readings. If your group is presenting, you do not have to submit the one paragraph synopsis.

### Readings

Excerpts from:

- Christian Norberg-Schulz – *The Concept of Dwelling*.
- Jan Gehl – *Cities for People*.
- Jane Jacobs / Kevin Lynch
- Wolfgang Förster & William Menking – *The Vienna Model 2: Housing for the 21st Century City*.

There may be other, supplemental readings referred to and distributed throughout the term.

### Seminar Subgroups

Group 1	Group 2	Group 3
<u>Christian Norberg-Schulz/Jan Gehl</u>	<u>Jane Jacobs/Kevin Lynch</u>	<u>The Vienna Model</u>
Camylle Arsenault	Daniel Henriques	Tony Rukongwa
Jam Babilio	Erika Kirkland	Patrick Stewart-Jones
Dontae Dipanfilo	Kaylee Peters	Chris Suh
Rodrigo Guerreiro	Simin Rasooli	Harlan Thompson
		Jack Ziemanski

Each group will lead a discussion on one of the readings. Prepare a pdf presentation of the content of the reading, including:

- a critical summary of the author's position and primary theory.
- the text's relevance to, and implications on, urban housing development and design.
- one question by each member of the group to the class for discussion.



## reference texts

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

Fernandez, Aurora, & Javier Mozas. 2013. *10 Stories of Collective Housing*. Vitoria-Gasteiz, Spain: a+t Research Group.

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

Gehl, Jan. 2010. *Cities for People*. Washington, DC: Island Press.

Hayden, Dolores. 1982. *The Grand Domestic Revolution*. Cambridge: MIT Press.

Hayden, Dolores. 2002. *Redesigning The American Dream*. New York: WW Norton.

Jacobs, Jane. 1961. *The Death and Life of Great American Cities*. New York: Random House.

Lynch, Kevin. 1960. *The Image of the City*. Cambridge: MIT Press.

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

Parolek, Daniel. 2020. *Missing Middle Housing*. Washington, DC: Island Press.

Rowe, Colin, & Fred Koetter. 1978. *Collage City*. Cambridge: MIT Press.

Rüegg, Arthur, ed. 2015. *The Corbusier Cell. Unité d'habitation, Marseilles*. Paris: Imbernon.

Schoenauer, N. 2000. *6000 Years of Housing*. New York: WW Norton & Co.