PORTFOLIO

COLUMBIA UNIVERSITY GSAPP | MSAAD

YEWON HONG

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1. Net-Negative Living: A New Economic and Environmental Model for housing

Spring 2025 | Michael Bell

The development of single-family housing in the United States spans less than a century, yet within that brief period, it has experienced dramatic fluctuations shaped by wars, economic depressions, oil embargoes, financial crises, material shortages, and pandemics. Each disruption has left a mark on the built environment, influencing not only the pace of construction but also the accessibility and affordability of housing. Historical data from the Case-Shiller U.S. National Home Price Index, U.S. Census Bureau, CoreLogic, and the Federal Reserve show significant volatility in housing starts and prices, particularly during periods of crisis. In recent decades, single-family housing has also attracted the attention of private equity firms and institutional investors, who view these homes as lucrative, rent-generating assets. From 2011 to 2017, institutional investors purchased more than 200,000 homes, and during the COVID-19 pandemic, their activity surged-at times accounting for more than 60% of home purchases in certain counties. This surge in largescale acquisitions has intensified competition in housing markets, making it harder for median-income individuals and families to afford homeownership.

Beyond financial pressures, climate change has emerged as a parallel force exacerbating housing scarcity. The U.S. housing sector is heavily reliant on fossil fuels for energy production, construction, and operation. After multiple oil crises and steadily increasing energy consumption over the last century, households today face not just expensive mortgages but rising utility costs tied to energy inefficiency and environmental degradation. This raises a critical question: can innovations in energy and technology offer a path out

of scarcity without requiring austerity? Breakthroughs in renewable energy, fiber optics, low-emission vehicles, and high-efficiency appliances demonstrate that resource limitations can sometimes be overcome through design, science, and systems thinking.

This paper explores how both private equity and climate pressures have reshaped the single-family housing landscape, and proposes architectural and policy-based interventions-including rethinking enclosure, energy systems, and land use-to disrupt scarcity-driven models and reclaim housing as a social good.

In classical economics, scarcity refers to the fundamental problem of limited resources in the face of unlimited human wants (Investopedia). Within the housing sector, this scarcity manifests not only in physical materials-such as lumber, concrete, and steel-but also in labor shortages, finite land supply, and restricted access to affordable financing. Unlike consumer goods, housing scarcity is magnified by its dual role as both shelter and financial asset. A refrigerator or smartphone may be scarce, but it is not speculative; homes, however, are increasingly treated as appreciating investments rather than essential social infrastructure. This shift has fueled housing commodification, particularly since the 2008 financial crisis, when single-family homes were repositioned as a high-yield asset class. The Case-Shiller U.S. National Home Price Index shows persistent upward pressure on housing prices, and U.S. Census and Federal Reserve data on housing starts illustrate how supply has failed to keep pace with demand (Federal Reserve Bank of St. Louis). Further exacerbating this issue is the rise of insti-



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BTI 1179 LLC CHUQUETE INVESTMENTS LLC CIU PROPERTIES LLC CLEMENCEAU LOGISTICS ASSETS LLC COLIBRI ENDOWMENTS LLC CORDOVA PROPERTY MANAGEMENT LLC DOWNWOOD FOREST HOLDINGS LLC EVERYDAY PROPERTIES LLC FATE COMPANY LLC FATEMEH & ZAHRA LLC FORMULA SALES LLC GL CAPITAL MANAGEMENT LLC H & LHOMES LLC

Private Equity Owr **Price Trend Chart** Source: https://www.har.com/pricetrends/remingtonranch-realestate/2889 125 CONSTRUCTION PERIOD 100 75 50 2004 2006 2008 2010 2012 2014 2016 2018 2020 2022 **US Housing Affordability** Source: Goldman Sachs Housing Affordability Index 150 120 60 2000 2010 2020

tutional investors: between 2011 and 2017, firms acquired investors. As ownership rates stagnate, control over housing over 200,000 single-family homes, and by 2022 instituincreasingly shifts to a rentier class, raising concerns about tional ownership ballooned to approximately 700,000 long-term wealth inequality and tenant vulnerability. While properties (HUD). During the COVID-19 pandemic, investor institutional ownership may enhance rental supply and activity spiked-reaching 28% of all single-family home introduce efficiencies in property management, it simultapurchases in early 2022, with even higher concentrations in neously restricts access to homeownership and consolidates specific counties (HUD). Simultaneously, households faced power within a narrow set of corporate entities. This raises rising costs of living driven by high energy consumption the question of whether private equity is helping to alleviand dependence on fossil fuels-a legacy of sprawling, ate housing scarcity or merely profiting from it. The result is energy-intensive housing typologies. This convergence a housing market that increasingly serves financial returns of financialization and resource scarcity underscores the over social stability, compounding scarcity under the guise urgent need to rethink how we build, finance, and occupy of addressing it. single-family homes. Climate change has heightened the urgency of

Private equity firms began entering the single-family housaddressing both operational and embodied energy in ing market in earnest following the 2008 financial crisis, housing, exposing the vulnerabilities of a built environment capitalizing on widespread foreclosures and plummeting long reliant on cheap, carbon-intensive energy. Post-World home values. Large-scale investors like Blackstone and War II suburban sprawl, enabled by inexpensive fossil Invitation Homes acquired tens of thousands of distressed fuels and mass production, created vast low-density develproperties, often in cash, transforming formerly owner-ocopments with high energy demands for heating, cooling, cupied neighborhoods into rental portfolios. Between 2011 and transportation. The oil shocks of the 1970s were early and 2017, institutional investors purchased over 200,000 indicators of this dependence, and today's volatile energy single-family homes, and their activity accelerated during markets continue to impose disproportionate burdens on the COVID-19 pandemic (U.S. Department of Housing and low- and middle-income homeowners, whose energy costs Urban Development). In early 2022, investor purchases constitute a growing share of household expenses (U.S. peaked at 28% of all single-family home transactions, EIA). Economist William Nordhaus emphasizes the imporwith disproportionately high activity in regions like Tarrant tance of "pricing externalities"-that is, accounting for the County, Texas, where institutional buyers accounted for environmental and social costs of emissions not reflected more than half of all sales (HUD). This surge has intensified in market prices-as a tool to align economic systems with competition, especially for first-time buyers, who cannot climate realities (Nordhaus). Despite these challenges, techmatch the speed or financial leverage of institutional nological innovations such as solar panels, high-efficiency

1968

1970

1975

1980

1985

1995

2000

2005

2010

2015

Stope .

2020



Case	stuc	ly	house	Sing	le	tami	ly	rent	t	house	by	priva	te	equ	ity
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appliances, and fiber-optic communication networks have offered pathways to reduce energy use and expand access to critical infrastructure. These breakthroughs suggest that climate adaptation does not have to mean austerity; rather, it could be a route toward greater economic equity. If homes can be designed to generate energy, conserve resources, and support local ecosystems, then climate-responsive architecture might disrupt traditional cost structures and help reverse the forces that drive scarcity.

The Scaling House proposal offers a radical architectural rethinking of the single-family home to directly challenge the resource inefficiencies and financial barriers embedded in current housing models. By enclosing the home within a transparent greenhouse envelope constructed of advanced solar glass or photovoltaic shingles, the design transforms the building into a renewable energy generator capable of surpassing its own consumption needs. This shift not only achieves energy independence but also introduces the possibility of generating surplus electricity as a new revenue stream for homeowners (Fraunhofer ISE). Removing the conventional roof and exterior walls reduces the use of materials, labor, and long-term maintenance, while redefining the architectural enclosure as a flexible system of floating programmatic planes within a controlled microclimate. These planes can be spatially reconfigured to support multi-family living or shared housing models, introducing new layers of adaptability and affordability. Internally, the greenhouse creates a thermally buffered environment, using passive solar heating and cooling to stabilize indoor temperatures and reduce HVAC demands (Zhang et al.). Beyond its functional

innovations, the Scaling House disrupts traditional aesthetics, challenges zoning conventions, and reframes housing as an infrastructure of self-sufficiency rather than dependency. If widely adopted, such a model could lower life-cycle costs, encourage cooperative development frameworks, and help reclaim single-family housing as a socially equitable asset in the face of climate and financial pressures. Policy and economic tools play a crucial role in scaling disruptive housing innovations like the Scaling House. Reimagining mortgage structures to account for the long-term savings generated by on-site renewable energy could open new financial pathways for low- and middle-income homeowners. Subsidies for homes that produce more energy than they consume, or carbon credits for households that export surplus electricity to the grid, could further incentivize energy-positive design (U.S. Department of Energy). However, beyond financing, there is a critical need to modernize the construction industry itself. While technological development has rapidly advanced in sectors like electronics and communications, construction practices have lagged behind. Emerging technologies such as 3D-printed housing offer promise, yet they remain in early stages and are not yet broadly compatible with on-site construction workflows (Perkins and Will). Traditional housing still relies heavily on manual labor-concrete must be mixed and poured on site, screws fastened individually, and wood components sealed due to grain imperfections. By contrast, materials like factory-cut architectural glass offer precise tolerances and can reduce labor, sealant use, and construction time. These innovations could lead to a more controlled building

Area (sf)	Volume (cf)	Weight (lb/cf)	Cost	
2447	1286.64	150.28	\$	12,000.0
1560	16.25	74.91	\$	6,000.0
11655	757.41	34446.3	\$	180,000.0
1399	71.12	68.67	\$	1,000.0
7931	370.7	1240.57	\$	10,000.0
1940	440.41	106.13	\$	2,000.0
			\$	10,000.0
			\$	600.0
			\$	1,000.0
			Ş	500.0
Count	Cost/count	Total		
7	\$ 1,000.00	\$ 7,000.00		
2	\$ 2,000.00	\$ 4,000.00		
1	\$ 4,000.00	\$ 4,000.00		
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Case study house | Bill of material



Case study house | Exploded Axon

Labor		Time (days)
Ş	13,000.00	7 to 14
Ş	3,000.00	3 to 5
Ş	150,000.00	14 to 48
Ş	3,000.00	7 to 14
Ş	18,000.00	7 to 14
Ş	8,000.00	2 to 5



Transparent Solar Panels: Reforming Future Energy Supply



New solar panel technologies are set to transform the global <u>solar energy landscape</u>. Some of these promising technologies are already in the advanced stages of development, and could hit the market fairly soon. With these innovations, solar is no longer going to require extensive land parcels or unsightly roof spaces. (Aesthetically appealing and highly efficient <u>solar shingles</u>, for example, are already creating attractive solar roofs.)



environment and even shift the nature of construction labor toward higher-skill, tech-integrated tasks. Thus, advancing housing affordability and sustainability depends not only on new policy tools, but also on embracing new materials and methods that reconfigure labor, reduce waste, and accelerate efficiency.

In the face of converging crises–financialization, climate change, and outdated construction paradigms-the single-family home must be radically rethought. Institutional investment has altered the housing landscape, concentrating ownership and driving up prices, while climate pressures demand a break from our fossil-fueled dependence. The Scaling House offers a provocative yet plausible alternative: one that transforms the home into an energy-producing, self-contained system and invites reconfiguration of use, ownership, and spatial arrangement. Through material innovation and policy reform, this model challenges scarcity not by limiting growth but by reimagining how housing functions within ecological and economic systems. As climate adaptation becomes inseparable from affordability and equity, architecture must act not just as shelter, but as infrastructure for a more just and sustainable future. Housing, long treated as a commodity, can once again be seen as a social good-scalable, flexible, and shared.













EXPANDATBILITY/FLEXIBILIGY OF PROGRAM MULTI-HOUSING



1. Live-Work Studio 2. Multi-Housing 3. Single Family Greenhouse





2. Architecture of Invisibility:

New York City Job Training Center for Homeless | Substation

Summer 2023 | Dan Wood



This semester we will research the history of air architecture and work to understand how wind power works – at every scale from the atmosphere to the apartment - and its physical requirements for a new age of sustainable electricity. We will work with representatives from NYSERDA to understand the new wind power strategy for New York. We will speak with people involved in building ports, power stations and vessels. We will visit sites for this new infrastructure including a trip out into the ocean. New infrastructure is by nature a new form of public architecture and new ideas and forms of infrastructure can be used to imagine and create new forms of public spaces and public experiences. Based on what we learn, you will work indi-

vidually to create new structures to support the new investments in wind power, public buildings and public spaces that utilize the invisible forces that shape our cities as inspiration. We will design civic and public wind infrastructure for the future. You will design a structure that integrates networks, education, social equity, public space – and DESIGN – in the creation of a new radically green visible-invisible-icon for the city.

WIND

People used wind energy to propel boats along the Nile River as early as 5,000 BC. By 200 BC, simple wind-powered water pumps were used in China, and windmills with woven-reed blades were grinding grain in Persia and the Middle East.

Different methods to harness wind power began to spread all around the world during the Early Middle Ages. During the 9th century in now-Iran, Afghanistan and Pakistan, wind-powered machines were developed to mill cereals and pump water. Throughout the Middle Eastern region, windmills were used in food production.

In 1887, Professor James Blyth of Anderson's College, Glasgow, Scotland, created the first wind turbine for electricity production, which he used to power the lighting in his holiday cottage.

In the United States, Charles F. Brush created the world's first automatically operated wind turbine generator between 1887 and 1888. The machine was a lot bigger than Blyth's, with a 17-metre rotor diameter and mounted on an 18-metre-high tower. The machine turned very slowly and had 144 blades, only producing 12 kW.

In 1890, farmers and ranchers started using wind power to pump water for irrigation using windmills that generated electricity for homes and businesses. The invention of steel blades for windmills made them more efficient and as homesteaders moved west, more than 6 million windmills were erected throughout the countryside. Soon after, in 1970, the price of oil skyrocketed and so did interest and research in wind turbines and the power that they generate, which eventually made the president sign the Public Utility Regulatory Policies Act in 1978. This act required companies to buy a certain amount of electricity from renewable energy sources, including wind.

In 2011, the U.S. Department of Energy released the National Offshore Wind Strategy in partnership with the Department of the Interior to reduce the cost of energy through technology development. Soon after, the amount of wind energy produced in the United States reached the point of being able to power 15 million homes by having intalled capacity reaching 60 gigawatts. In 2016, the first U.S. offshore wind farm started operating off the coast of Rhode Island. In 2021, the first commercial scale offshore wind project in the United States got approved which was capable enough to power 400,000 homes and businesses. In 2022, the DOE launched interagency Energy Earthshots Initiative to reduce the cost of floating offshore wind by more than 70%.



Figure 1. The world's first offshore wind farm in Windeby in Denmark https://windeurope.org/



1850 U.S. Wind Engine Company Established

Daniel Halladay & John Burnham start the US. Wind Engine Company & build the Halladay Windmill, which is designed for the landscape of the American West.



1890 Wind Power Used for Pumping Water and Electricity

Wind power in North America is used to help farmers and ranchers pump water for irrigation and windmills generate electricity for homes and businesses.



1941 Largest Turbine Powered Local Utility During WWII

The largest wind turbine of the time operates on a Vermont hilltop. Its 1.25 megawatts feed electric power to the local utility network for several months during World War II.



1981 NASA Scientists Developed Method to Predict Turbine Performance

NASA Scientists Larry Viterna & Bob Corrigan develop the most common method for predicting wind turbine performance, thus increasing the efficiency of turbine output to this day.



2011 Strategy Announced

2011

1890

1890

Steel Blades Invented for Windmills

The invention of steel blades for windmills makes them more efficient and as homesteaders move west, more than six million windmills are erected throuhgout the countryside.



1893

1893

Wind Power if Showcased at the World's Fair

The Chicago World's Fair showcases 15 windmill companies and their wind turbine designs.



1980

First Large Wind Farms are Installed

The first large wind farms are installed in California. Greater awareness of environmental affects lead to development of lower impact designs.



1993

National Wind Technology Center Built

The NWTC is built to be the nation's premier wind energy technology research facility, and continues to help industry reduce the cost of energy so that wind can compete with traditional energy sources.



National Offshore Wind

The US. Department of Energy releases the National Offshore Wind Strategy to reduce the cost of energy through technology development. In the following year, 3 offshore wind projects are choses as a part of this \$168 million initiative.



2016 First U.S. Offshore Wind Farm

The 30-megawatt, 5-turbine Block Island Wind Farm started operating off the coast of Rhode Island in December 2016

2013

2013

First Grid-Connected Offshore Wind Turbine in the U.S.

2016

With the support of \$12 million investment from the U.S. Department of Energy, 20-kw concete-composite floating platform wind turbine is deployed.





2



Electricity moves to the onshore substation through a buried cable where it is then transferred to the existing transmission network.

- 1. HUB The hub supports the blades and houses the pitch system, which optimizes blade angle and rotation speed.
- 2. BLADES Blades capture the wind's energy and convert it into mechanical energy.
- 3. NACELLE The nacelle houses the components that convert mechanical energy to electrical energy.
- 4. TOWER The tower supports the mass of the nacelle, hub and blades.





- 1. FOUNDATION Foundations secure the tower and above-water turbine components to the sea floor. A variety of technologies are available, including jackets, monopiles, and gravity-based foundations.
- 2. ARRAY CABLES A network of array cables link the wind turbines together and deliver power from the turbines to the offshore substation.
- 3. OFFSHORE SUBSTATION The offshore substation collects and stabilizes the power generated by the turbines, preparing it for transmission to shore.

- 1. EXPORT CABLE The export cable is buried deep enough to avoid disturbing ocean users and wildlife, and it transmits power from the offshore substation to the onshore substation.
- 2. CABLE LANDING Horizontal direction drilling, a common method for landing export transmission cables from offshore wind farms, minimizes environmental impacts and disruption to beaches and the shoreline.
- ONSHORE CONNECTION

 Electricity is transferred to the existing transmission network.





"Most of these machines will not be seen from land. They will avoid the classic visual impact concerns that caused a lot of projects to be delayed because they could be seen from the

Goals set by the New York State Energy Research and Development Authority -

The law mandates that at least 70% of New York's electricity come from Renewable Energy sources by 2030 and calls for development of 9,000 megawatts of offshore wind energy by 2035.





The Future of Wind Energy in the U.S. is Floating Turbines as tall as 30 Rock-

Floating wind farms have enormous energy potential, capable of producing more energy than solar panels or onshore wind. A robust set of floating turbines could unlock up to 2.8 terawatts of clean energy in the future – more than double the country's current electricity demand. The vast majority of offshore wind turbines around the world are affixed to the bottom of the sea floor on sturdy foundations. But those turbines also are limited to shallower waters closer to the coast. Pushing wind farms into deeper water

means more area can be developed, and the farms themselves will be much farther away from the coast – and away from the view of homeowners.





Public Work

1. Substation 2. Job Traning Center

New York City has long grappled with a significant homeless population, a persistent challenge that has marked its history. Their presence has become ingrained in the cityscape, often overlooked as people pass by without a second glance. Though they exist, they are often intentionally unseen. Perhaps invisibility in architecture extends beyond physical structures to include city occupants who are easily disregarded. This project seeks to restore their visibility and reclaim their identity. Through proposed programs, the project aim to transition them from invisibility to visibility, ensuring that they are recognized and supported within the urban fabric.





















3. Wetropolis: Tribeca Bazaar

Fall 2023 Amina Blacksher

This project reimagines the early waterfront life of New York City in response to the challenges posed by rising sea levels. Set in Tribeca, it introduces a new typology of food culture anchored at the shifting intersection of land and water. By treating the ground floor not as a fixed datum but as a fluid threshold, the design reinterprets storefronts, galleries, and public interfaces to align with a future "eye-level" defined by the waterline. This speculative proposal explores how urban heritage and everyday culture can be retrofitted to adapt, persist, and thrive within new environmental paradigms.











500 YEAR WATER LINE W/ PROPOSED ROOF PLAN









URBAN DEVELOPMENT PROPOSAL

ARCH A6886 BUILDING THE ENGINE: INDUSTRY + THE AFRICAN URBAN AGENDA

HOUSIN
Key Compone

linerals Sect	or Profile	
	2014	2015
Total Local Production	па	n.o
Total Exports	\$210 million	\$148 million

Speculative City

d rather have Covid-I9 Jun Newson Newson An Anecse Aner Ican

A LANA LANA A LA

LL AMERICANS

SILENT SKYLINES

REQUEST FOR PROPOSAL ARCHITECTURAL **DESIGN SERVICES**

Prepared by: YEWON HONG M.S.AAD, GSAPP

The RFP was initiated with a deep curiosity about the complex relationship between urban change and infectious diseases. By examining how cities respond to diseases and adapt to resulting changes, this RFP aims to gain insights for the future development of cities.

In New York City,

the once-luminous glass facades of office skyscrapers now stand as silent sentinels to the unprecedented disruptions caused by the COVD-19. The vacancy of these high-rise building has triggered a reevaluation of architectural principles, challenging traditional notions of urban design and the purpose of these mega

structures. The primary reason behind the mere emptiness of office spaces. the vacancy of office spaces during the While the economic fallout is undeniable COVID-19 was concerns about health and and has jeopardized job security, the visafety due to the virus. The spread of the rus has also wrought significant psychovirus led to social distancing measures logical distress on individuals. Furtherand a surge in remote work, prompting more, it has fueled xenophobia, inevitably businesses to reconsider the necessity of against the Chinese community, and has physical office presence. The repercus- unfortunately escalated into broader ansions of the COVID-19 extend far beyond ti-Asian sentiments and violence.

The onset of COVID-19 was not the first instance of a pandemic wielding significant influence. Looking back through history, there have been several precedents of formidable contagions, each leaving an indelible mark on the course of human events.

One of the earliest and most devastating pandemics in human history is The Black Death, which swept through Europe in the 14th century. This plague resulted in the death of an estimated 75-200 million people, causing significant demographic and social disruption.

The Spanish Influenza pandemic of 1918-1919 marked another significant moment. Caused by H1N1 influenza A virus, it infected on-third of the world's population and claimed 50-100 million lives. The aftermath witnessed significant changes in public health infrastructure, with many countries strengthening their healthcare systems in response to the devasting impact of the influenza.

As of January 2023, the global estimated death toll due the COVID-19 pandemic is approximately 55 million. This worldwide pandemic brought tremendous sadness, anger and fear with its fast and unavoidable spread through the air.

1. "Plague Victims" is a photograph by Library Of Congress/science Photo Library which was uploaded on September 20th, 2018.

3. A memorial honoring

COVID-19. Image credit:

4. Rally and march honoring the victims of Asian-hatred. Image credit: Trevor Huges, usatoday.com

5. *The Protesters*. Bruce Plante/Tulsa World/PoliticalCartoons.com

6. Persecution of Jews during the Black Death. dou Tielt, Pierart (c.1353), illustration from illuminated manuscript, Bibliotheque Royale de Belgique.

The unforeseen population decline caused by unexpected viruses brings conflicts across various sectors, including the economy, politics, society, health, and more. The closure of numerous public and medical facilities, alongside the economic downturn triggered by the shutdown of businesses, has not only led to financial strain but has also fueled mental health concerns, pervasive anxiety, career uncertainties, and more, thereby precipitating societal tensions.

Inadequate government solutions and somewhat coercive measures such as social distancing, mask-wearing, lockdowns, and guarantine have eventually led to social actions such as racial hatred, protest, and distrust in the government, fostering criticism and resistance towards policies. Such issues find parallels throughout history, with example like the persecution of Jews during the Black Death.

7. John Leech's cartoon in Punch, 23 (25 September 1852): 139) Image credit: Wellcome Library, London.

and health outcomes.

break in London, John Snow, a physician, well-being. mapped the cases and traced the source

in 1850 included, first, widening narrow and more livable urban environments. streets to enhance traffic flow and air including the installation of sewage and results of what COVID-19 has caused. water supply systems to provide clean-

Throughout history, architectur- er water to people, reducing waterborne al intervention and urban planning have diseases. Lastly, the creation of public contributed to improved living conditions parks and green spaces aimed not only to provide areas for exercise and fresh In 1854, during a cholera out- air but also to improve mental health and

In the early 20th century, the of the outbreak to a contaminated public Garden Cities movement emerged as a water pump on Broad Street. His actions response to the negative health effects of highlight the importance of the linkage rapid urbanization. Their vision emphabetween infrastructure and public health sized planned communities with green and encourage large-scale urban plan- space, affordable housing, and an intening efforts for healthy living in the city. grated approach to living, working, and Haussmann's renovation of Paris recreation, eventually leading to healthier

As mentioned, architecture has circulation, potentially helping disperse played an important role in protecting pollutants and improve air quality. Sec- urban life and its citizens from diseases. ond, improving sanitation infrastructure, It should also be able to respond to the 8. The Avenue de l'Opera, created by Haussmann, painted by Camille Pissarro 1898.

9. The Garden City Concept by Ebenezer Howard, 1902. Image credit: Sonnenschein publishing.

67

1. Purpose and Objective

The purpose of this Request for Proposal (RFP) is to obtain proposals from qualified design firms interested in providing architectural solutions that embrace flexibility, inclusivity, and adaptability to reshape the New York City skyline and foster a resilient, economically vibrant future.

2. Background

As the dust settles on four years since the onset of the COVID-19 pandem- face the challenge of reimagining ofic, New York stands as a testament to un- fice spaces to align with the changing wavering resilience and relentless efforts. dynamics of work. Innovative designs Many aspects of life have returned to a that prioritize flexibility, collaboration, semblance of normalcy, with fading fears and employee well-being are crucial. of the virus. The end of social distancing Co-working spaces, shared facilities, and measures has seen a revival of business- hybrid models that accommodate both es, the easing of mask policies has tem- remote and in-person work are potential pered anti-government sentiments, and solutions to breathe life back into these the violent rhetoric and actions against vacant spaces. Asians have subsided. Yet, amid these positive strides, the stark reality persists COVID landscape, the vacant office spac-— significant challenges linger. This RFP es in high-rise buildings serve as both delves into the issues surrounding vacant a symbol of change and a challenge to office spaces in high-rise buildings and traditional norms. Architectural solutions explores potential architectural solutions that embrace flexibility, inclusivity, and in the post-COVID era.

issues post-COVID is the prevalence of economically vibrant future. The measure empty offices in skyscrapers. The remote of success lies in ensuring that the benework revolution has left corporate spaces fits of these changes reach all New Yorkunderutilized, prompting a reassessment ers, creating a city that thrives on innovaof the role of traditional office structures tion, equity, and collective prosperity. in the evolving work landscape.

Architects and urban planners

As New York navigates the postadaptability are crucial in reshaping the One of the most conspicuous city's skyline and fostering a resilient,

3. Scope of Services

The architecture firm shall propose a design prototype that can serve as an example for multiple different locations in NYC high-rise buildings, with minimal editing based on existing structural limitations and use. The prototype design shall be created for the following location:

One Vanderbilt. 45 E 42nd St. New York, NY 10017

Current available spaces can be found in Diagram 1.

- The design must promote hygienic conditions and be prepared for unexpected disease outbreaks.
- Consider recent social and political conflicts that have arisen due to COVID-19 and aim to encourage positive interactions with others.

Sky Floors Floor 73 - 9,871 sq.ft. Floor 72 - 10,790 sq.ft.

Penthouse Floors

Floor	68	-	22,944	sq.ft.
Floor	66	-	23,779	sq.ft.
Floor	65	-	24,202	sq.ft.
Floor	64	-	24,615	sq.ft.
Floor	63	-	25,056	sq.ft.
Floor	62	-	26,363	sq.ft.
Floor	61	-	25,923	sq.ft.
Floor	60	-	26,363	sq.ft.

Tower Floors

Floor	55	-	26,770	sq.ft.
Floor	54	_	27,185	sq.ft.
Floor	51	_	28,448	sq.ft.
Floor	50	-	28,874	sq.ft.

Executive Floors Floor 33 - 33,477 sq.ft. Floor 26 - 35,567 sq.ft. Floor 25 - 35,290 sq.ft.

Podium Floors Floor P15 - 22,531 sq.ft. Floor P11 - 23,998 sq.ft.

Diagram 1. One Vanderbilt building vacancy information

4. Notes

Detailed scope of service, design guidelines, timeline, proposal response and evaluation, and submittal require-ments will be provided shortly, along with information about the selection process and agreement award.

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In the early 20th century, the landscape of architecture underwent a transformative shift with the advent of modernism. A confluence of human endeavors in colonialism and industrialism, along with technological advancements, brought new values and ideologies to the realm of architecture. This paradigm extended to a global scale. The facilitation of technology and knowledge exchange played a pivotal role, enabling Western-style modern architecture to exert a profound and far-reaching influence on architectural pratices worldwide.

KNOWLEDGE MIGRATION AND EXCHANGE

HOLOCENE

During the Holocene epoch, architectural knowledge remained localized within communityes, primarily transmillted through oral traditions. The tranditional architecture of indigenous communities was deeply embedded in local cultures, environments, and avail-able resources. The limited tools and skills during this period led to the development of susstainable and nature-friendly architectural practices. The necessity for collaboration not only fostered a sense of unity but also brought the community together in the construction and preservation of their architectural heritage.

KNOWLEDGE ACQUISITION AND **ADAPTATION IN RESPONSE TO THE CIRCUMSTANCES**

Date completed: Site: Size: Client:

Gando, Burkina Faso 520 sqm Community of Gando/ Kere Foundation e.V. Francis Kere Residents of Gando

2001

A significant aspect of Francis Kere's inaugural project, the Gando Primary School in Burkina Faso, lies in the dissemination of knowledge. Having undergone architectural studies in Germany, Kere familiarized himself with Western architectural styles and construction methodologies. However, the challenge arose when attempting to replicate these practices in Gando, where a deficiency in tools, skills, and resources posed a signif-icant obstacle. In response, Kere ingeniously eschewed the conventional approach of importing external resources and instead devised a system that integrated local resources and labor. This strategic adaptation facilitated a seamless and efficient assimilation within the community. Beyond the completion of the project, this approach cultivated a skilled labor force, consequently generating employment opportunities for the local populace.

UTILIZATION OF Local Labor

CASE STUDY EXAMPLE

At Studio Remedy, we are driven by a commitment to create thoughtful, sustainable, and equitable design solutions that address both housing and environmental scarcity. We believe that architecture is not just about buildings; it's about improving lives, promoting fairness, and healing our planet.

In today's housing market, there is a growing imbalance. Median and low-income families face increasing challenges as access to affordable and livable housing becomes more limited, often exacerbated by issues such as gentrification. At Studio Remedy, we are focused on remedying this crisis. Our designs aim to alleviate the negative impacts of rising housing costs by creating innovative, affordable housing solutions that prioritize accessibility and inclusivity. We are dedicated to developing spaces that empower communities, provide dignity, and offer long-term solutions for families who are often left behind by traditional housing markets.

In response to environmental scarcity, Studio Remedy is committed to pushing the boundaries of sustainability in architecture. Our research into renewable materials, such as transparent photovoltaic glass, enables us to incorporate both aesthetic and environmental considerations into every design. By integrating cutting-edge technologies with sustainable practices, we strive to create buildings that minimize environmental impact while enhancing the quality of life for their occupants.

Additionally, we are deeply committed to improving the working environment within the architecture field. The architectural profession has long been plagued by disproportionate compensation and undervaluation of its intellectual contributions compared to other industries. At Studio Remedy, we actively challenge these issues, ensuring that our team is provided with fair compensation, respect, and a healthy work-life balance. We believe in fostering an environment where architects are empowered to thrive professionally and creatively, free from burnout and exploitation. By promoting better working conditions and challenging traditional power structures within the field, we are working to reshape the future of the architecture profession for the benefit of both our workers and the communities we serve.

At Studio Remedy, our purpose goes beyond design. We are architects with a mission—to create lasting, positive change through architecture that addresses scarcity, promotes sustainability, and fosters social justice.

The least affordable housing Market Source: Demographia (2023)

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Related Article Powers of Practice by Aaron Cayer

IH IH ARCHITECTURE Inc

Architectural Service Proposal

Prepared for:

Shady Lane Shady Lane Development LLC Prepared by:

Ivie Hong IH Architecture Inc

Letter of Interest

eration.

On behalf of IH Architecture, I am pleased to submit the enclosed proposal for the design of your planned 20-story condominium tower in Tribeca. We are honored to be considered for this project and grateful for the opportunity to participate in the invited competition.

IH Architecture is a New York-based practice established in 2015 with a focus on thoughtful, context-driven design. Our team combines deep experience in multifamily residential architecture with a studio culture that prioritizes collaboration, technical rigor, and responsiveness.

Our recent projects-including the award-winning design of a ground-up residential building in a New York landmark district, and two adaptive reuse conversions in Brooklyn-demonstrate our ability to deliver high-quality, sustainable work within the demanding parameters of urban development. We understand and value Shady Lane's goals for efficiency, market appeal, and timely delivery, and are confident in our ability to meet those expectations through a proactive, team-based approach.

Please let us know if you have any quesstions, suggestions or changes to the proposal.

We appreciate your consideration and welcome the opportunity to further discuss our qualifications and ideas.

Your Turly,

IH Architecture Inc

Please find enclosed our detailed proposal for your kind consid-

We believe this project represents a unique opportunity to contribute meaningful architecture to the Tribeca neighborhood and to support your company's first entry into the condominium market with distinction and success.

info@iharchitecture.com | 012.345.6789 | iharchitecture.com

Company Credential

IH Architecture is a New York-based architecture firm founded in 2015 by GSAPP graduate Ivie Hong, following four years as a project architect with Yale Architecture PLLC. The firm was established with a clear mission: to create thoughtful, innovative architecture that responds to context, elevates the human experience, and meets the practical demands of urban development.

Since its founding, IH Architecture has grown into a tight-knit team of six full-time professionals—two of whom are licensed architects and three of whom previously worked alongside the principal at Yale Architecture PLLC. The studio also benefits from the organizational support of a part-time office manager, allowing the team to stay focused on design excellence and client service.

The firm's early work focused on small-scale apartment renovations and residential interiors. In 2022, Axis completed two adaptive reuse projects in Brooklyn, converting ten-story office buildings into vibrant rental communities—each involving complex regulatory coordination, structural intervention, and modernized building systems. That same year, the firm completed a ground-up six-story rental apartment building in a New York City landmark district, which received an Honors Award from AIA New York for its sensitive yet contemporary approach to infill development.

Principal Ivie Hong brings to the firm deep experience in highrise residential design, having served as project architect on several condominium towers in Boston, New Haven, and Chicago during their tenure at Yale Architecture PLLC. That knowledge base—combined with the studio's proven design and delivery record in New York—positions IH Architecture as a nimble, highly capable partner for Shady Lane Development LLC's first condominium tower.

From zoning analysis and schematic concepts to full contract documents and construction administration, IH Architecture offers full-service architectural delivery. The firm's collaborative structure ensures direct principal involvement, efficient communication, and a responsive, engaged design process. Our studio has also built strong working relationships with local consultants, engineers, and contractors—ensuring seamless coordination across all phases of development.

IH Architecture is licensed to practice in the state of New York and carries full professional liability insurance.

Firm's Profile

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Principal	lvie Hong
Project Manager	Samantha Li
Senior Designer	Carlos Ramire
Technical Lead	Priya Desai
Project Architect	Emily Tran
Junnior Designer	Jonah Wright
Office Manager	Megan Ford

Before founding IH Architect, Ivie Hong served as Project Architect at Yale Architecture PLLC, where you led design and documentation for several condominium buildings in Boston, New Haven, and Chicago. This experience laid the foundation for your firm's fluency in mid- and high-rise multifamily design, navigating zoning complexities, and managing multidisciplinary teams.

Licensed Architect; Yale Architecture alum; expert in zoning, DOB filing, and CD sets

ez M.Arch, Cornell; Specializes in residential planning, BIM modeling, and envelope detailing

Licensed Architect; LEED AP; coordinates consultants and sustainability strategy

Detail-oriented, manages submittals/RFIs, supports CA phase

Assists with 3D visualization, renderings, and competition presentation materials

Supports team coordination, scheduling, and financial tracking

Fee & Services Summary

IH Architecture proposes a comprehensive fixed fee of \$3,640,000, which includes complete architectural services as well as the retention and coordination of all key consultants.

This total represents approximately 7% of the projected \$52,000,000 in hard construction costs and reflects a bundled, single-contract delivery model that streamlines communication and ensures accountability throughout the project.

Fee Breakdown

Service

Architectural Services	\$2,600,00
Structural Engineering	\$300,000
MEP/FP Engineering	\$330,000
Civil Engineering	\$95,000
Geotechnical Engineering	\$60,000
Facade Consultant	\$85,000
Energy/Sustainability Consultant	\$85,000
Zoning & Code Consultant	\$85,000

Total

\$3,640,000

Fee

Note: We have pregualified these consultants based on successful collaborations on similar multifamily projects across New York City. All subconsultants will be retained and managed directly by IH Architecture.

Fee Payment Schedule

The total fee will be billed monthly in proportion to progress, based on the following projected phase allocation:

Schematic Design:	15%
Design Development:	25%
Construction Documents:	35%
Bidding / Negotiation:	5%
Construction Administration:	20%

Additional Services & Hourly Rates

Services beyond the standard scope will be billed hourly and only initiated with prior written client approval.

Principal Archi Senior Project Junior Designe Administrative

Examples of additional services may include:

- deliverables

Construction Administration

IH Architecture will remain engaged through the full duration of construction, providing:

These services are included in the base fee and will ensure close alignment between the design intent and built outcome.

Project Milestones (Estimated)

Phase

Schematic Des Design Develo Construction [Permitting & B Construction (

IH Architecture is prepared to support a fast-track delivery strategy, including the development of early release permit and foundation packages to help keep construction aligned with the lease commitment from Target.

itect:	\$250/hour
Architect:	\$175/hour
er / Staff:	\$125/hour
e Support:	\$75/hour

- Major design changes after design development approval - 3D visualizations or marketing collateral beyond standard

- LEED, WELL, or Passive House documentation

- Zoning challenges, BSA filings, or LPC approvals (if required)

- Biweekly site visits by the principal or senior project architect - Review and tracking of submittals, RFIs, and field coordination - Review and certification of monthly contractor pay applications - Final inspections, punch lists, and project closeout support

Duration

sign	4 weeks
opment	8 weeks
Documents	12-14 weeks
Bidding	8-12 weeks
Estimated)	24 months

Insurance

IH Architecture maintains comprehensive professional and commercial insurance coverage in accordance with industry standards and client requirements. This includes:

Professional Liability (Errors & Omissions): \$2,000,000 per claim / \$2,000,000 aggregate Commercial General Liability: \$1,000,000 per occurrence / \$2,000,000 aggregate Workers' Compensation & Employer's Liability: Statutory limits Automobile Liability: \$1,000,000 combined single limit

Certificates of insurance naming Shady Lane Development LLC as an additional insured will be provided upon contract execution. While architects are not typically bonded, our consultant team and the general contractor will be required to carry performance and payment bonds. If requested, we are open to coordinating with Shady Lane's legal team to align insurance provisions with lender or investor requirements.

Copyright Notice

All drawings, designs, renderings, models, specifications, and other documents prepared by IH Architecture in connection with this proposal or the subsequent project shall remain the intellectual property of the architect and are protected under U.S. copyright law. IH Architecture retains all rights, including the right of reproduction. Upon execution of a formal agreement and full payment of all fees, Shady Lane Development LLC will be granted a non-exclusive license to use the instruments of service solely for the construction, use, and maintenance of the project. This license does not extend to future projects or unauthorized reproductions or modifications without the written consent of the architect.

We are honored to be invited to this competition and look forward to the opportunity to bring Shady Lane Development's vision to life with a dynamic, sustainable, and market-attractive condominium tower.

Respectfully submitted, Ivie Hong Principal | IH Architect ivie@iharchitect.com 213 999 8864 www.iharchitect.com

THANK YOU