Faculty: Charles Eldred, Douglas Gauthier, Mario Gooden, Laura Kurgan, Robert Marino, Ada Tolla, Giuseppe Lignano, Hilary Sample, Suzanne Schindler

Hilary Sample, Coordinator Housing Studio; hms2155@columbia.edu Teaching Assistant: Wade Cotton, twc2115@columbia.edu

# **DIFFERENT STATES OF HOUSING**



East Harlem Housing Competition Entry (1963)



Another Chance for Housing, Museum of Modern Art (1973)

### **Studio Description**

This year's studio will focus on the many different states of housing that we, as architects, typically encounter in practice. The studio is organized through two principal means: research and analysis, and an architectural proposal. It operates as a laboratory in which to explore new possibilities for urban living along the Harlem River waterfront in the Bronx. Throughout the term, each student will examine the significance of public housing—both past and present—as exists in New York City and abroad, and through team projects, speculate on the rich potential for contemporary urban housing types.

The first part of the studio is structured around developing a body of research and an understanding of housing in New York City. Each studio will be introduced to housing typologies through two specific assignments. The first will focus on site and infrastructures using a cross section of the City, from Manhattan to the Bronx, and the second will examine housing units, building programs and systems through a precedent study. The final project will consist of designing high-density mixed-use housing and public space with community amenities. Each assignment builds upon the previous, starting with the urban scale, gradually zooming into the human scale of the unit, and finally aggregating all systems into a design project that brings together the different states of housing in a proposal for the main studio site. Though the brief puts forth the perimeter block housing type for the given site, no type of housing is off-limits for exploration.

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## Studio Statement

## Typology Versus the City

Students will examine distinct urban typologies of housing both public and private and their relationships to healthy urban infrastructures. Housing by its very nature is a generic building type. Some may argue that working within a particular typology produces boring buildings. However, it is precisely through understanding of a type, and its multiple typologies that allows one to understand what has motivated the peculiarities of a particular building. The specificities of a particular context, such as New York City, the focus of this studio, produce weird and unexpected moments that alter the original type's form.

How does the city intervene in the design of a building? What constraints or alterations are reflected in the design of a project, and in its ultimate form? In Aldo Rossi's The Architecture of the City, he describes "American architecture is above all 'the architecture of the city': primary elements, monuments, parts. Specifically, New York is a city of monuments such as I did not believe could exist."<sup>1</sup> If there are monuments, they too fit within types. How then does a type differ from a monument? Does urban context make the difference between a type and a monument? We will examine the distinction between pure expressions of type, and cases in which a type is altered by the city to produce architecture.

The studio emphasizes understanding the history of New York City's multiple housing types, and how they continue to develop across the city, but primarily how is type in turn impacted by the city? Through research and drawings, the studio will investigate Greater Harlem and the South Bronx, two neighborhoods that have rich architectural, social and cultural histories, and how they developed particularly over the past fifty years. For instance, Harlem's 'Main Street' along 125<sup>th</sup> Street, reflects a changing landscape of ownership, occupation, public, and private space.<sup>2</sup> Similarly, the Bronx's High Bridge as an urban connector raises new possibilities for development and types. But are these changes and developments productive? Do they produce the kind of neighborhoods that are culturally, socially, and economically beneficial? Rather than accepting the rules, can the studio provide the setting for a re-examination of their performance?

Over the course of the term, the studio will examine a site in the South Bronx. It is bounded on all four sides by infrastructural throughways: to the north, the Madison Avenue Bridge; east, Exterior Street and the Major Deegan Expressway; south, the Metro North elevated tracks; and west, the Harlem River. These boundaries—the water's edge, the elevated rail, the overpass, and the bridge—not only create physical barriers, but also confront the site with their variety of scales. Each team will be challenged to design a housing proposal that takes a position with respect to the 'street,' the infrastructure, the specific architectural typologies at play, and the shape and elevation of the site. Among the greatest challenges for this specific site is the location of the "front door," the question of the

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>1</sup> Aldo Rossi, The Architecture of the City (MIT Press, 1982), pg. 15.

 <sup>&</sup>lt;sup>2</sup> Sharon Zukin, *The Naked City: The Death and Life of Authentic Urban Places* (New York: Oxford University Press, 2010).

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project's image and impact on the skyline, and the project as part in relation to a whole. Even if the architecture can perform sustainably and healthfully, what is its impact upon the context?

### Connecting Housing and Health in Harlem and the Bronx

The form of the modern and contemporary city, especially as exemplified through urban housing models, has had the greatest impact on general public health. Health remains as one of the most important issues confronting public housing in the American city. This is especially the case in New York City, where recent developments have had a profound impact on citizens' health, and, reciprocally, citizens' health has had a profound impact on the form of the city. Today, New York City is leading the United States with its policies and programs for housing and health, making instrumental and visible changes to the city's social and built form through interventions such as bike lanes and new parks. And yet, the urban population continues to struggle with chronic health problems, from an obesity epidemic in the Bronx to childhood asthma in East Harlem. The studio will study local and national policies, including New York City's Active Design Guidelines, PlaNYC, and the Affordable Health Care Act, in order to understand how shifting policies relate to urbanism.<sup>3</sup> Designing housing requires a critical rethinking of the relationship between individual and public health, the environment, development, and urban form.

For the past three years, the studio has examined sites in East Harlem. Past studios focused on the prominence of the East Harlem site, its proximity to Harlem's "Main Street," urban infrastructure, and the Greenway park system. They emphasized understanding the history of New York City's housing, its varied typologies, and the development of the city grid, but also guestioned the zoning code. Prior studio sites included City-owned property and sites designated for development under Mayor Bloomberg's New Housing Marketplace Plan, a public/ private planning initiative that aimed to create and/ or preserve 165,000 affordable housing units in NYC by 2014. The New York City Department of Housing Preservation and Development (HPD) is the largest municipal developer of affordable housing in the nation and will be a valuable partner of the studio.<sup>4</sup> This year's studio builds upon and expands previous research by shifting the site across the Harlem River. The relationship between the previous vears' East Harlem River sites and this year's will test new urban conditions through visual and physical in searching for new types of housing.

In May 2014, Mayor de Blasio announced his plan for affordable housing in New York City, which builds upon the previous administrations goals of increasing affordable housing units to provide a more equitable and healthy city. Health, as a subject that is up for study within in this studio, is one that can take on multiple meanings, the first being literally physical health, but this term health can have value and be attributed to other conditions like economics, policy, ideas of sustainability, to the social in relation to housing. This studio will challenge each student to think about the aspect of urban health within all assignments but primarily be a theme of the final housing project.

The studio will encourage public and professional discourse surrounding affordable housing and architecture today.

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>3</sup> Policies developed in NYC are proving to be ground breaking and have been adopted by other cities around the country. http://mayorschallenge.bloomberg.org/ <sup>4</sup> http://www.nyc.gov/html/hpd/html/about/message.shtml

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# **DIFFERENT STATES OF HOUSING**

**Pedagogical Statement** 



Ponte City, Johannesburg, South Africa

Housing Towers, Rio das Pedras, Rio de Janeiro, Brazil

Housing, as a design studio, is the last semester within the required series of core studios. It serves as a transition between the core and the advanced studios. While the studio is structured to present knowledge about fundamentals of architecture as it applies to designing housing projects, the studio aims to inspire a shift in thinking about architecture in relation to the world-at-large. There is perhaps nowhere better to study housing than at Columbia GSAPP with its nearly forty year history of offering urban housing studios. So while this term, the studio will focus on a select site within the Bronx, the studio should continually think beyond the familiar reaching globally and never be out of touch with advanced studios. Particularly of interested are the Studio X locations confront some of the world's most intense urban housing are subjects that undergo critical questioning when thinking about the future. While the core studios are structured sequentially, housing because of its unique placement within the core is also situated to absorb and be influenced by research in the advanced studios, while at the same serving to produce serious thinkers and designers about design through the problem of housing types.

--Hilary Sample, Associate Professor, photos taken during studio trips

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# **Global Housing Typologies**

The initial list of 15 is presented here with one typical plan and one other drawing for each project.

- 1. Cité de Refuge, Le Corbusier (Paris, France, 1933)
- 2. Hansaviertel Apartment Hous, e, Alvar Aalto (Berlin, Germany, 1955)
- 3. Guild House, Venturi Scott Brown (Philadelphia, 1961)
- 4. Linked Hybrid, Steven Holl (Beijing, China, 2009)
- 5. Gifu Kitagata, Kazuyo Sejima (Gifu, Japan)
- 6. Saishunkan Seiyaku Womens' Dormitory, Kazuyo Sejima (Kumamoto, Japan)
- 7. Kanchanjunga, Charles Correa (Bombay, India)
- 8. Kasbah, Piet Blom (Hengelo, NL)
- 9. Madrid Social Housing, Morphosis (Madrid, Spain)
- 10. Habitat '67, Moshe Safdie (Montreal, Canada)
- 11. Unité d'Habitation, Le Corbusier (Marseille, France)
- 12. Mirador, MVRDV (Madrid, Spain)
- 13. Yerba Buena Lofts, Stanley Saitowitz (San Franciso, CA)

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- 14. Le Nemausus, Atelier Jean Nouvel (Nimes, FR)
- 15. Hansaviertal Tower, Van den Broek en Bakerma (Berlin, DE)
- 16. Nakagin Capsule Tower, Kisho Kurokawa (Tokyo, Japan)
- 17. Robin Hood Garden Apartments, Alison and Peter Smithson (London, England)
- 18. Jacques Forte (Postal Worker Housing), Philippe Gazeau (Paris, France)
- 19. KNMS and Java Eiland, Diener and Diener, Architects (, Amsterdam, Netherlands)
- 20. Schots 1+2, S333 Architecture + Urbanism (Groningen, Netherlands)
- 21. Silodom Complex, MVRDV (Amsterdam, Netherlands)
- 22. Borneo, MAP Architects with Josep Lluis Mateo (Amsterdam, Netherlands)
- 23. Hook at Holland, J.J.P. Oud
- 24. Bouca Housing Complex, Alvaro Siza (Porto, Portugal)
- 25. Nexus World Housing, Steven Holl (Fukuoka, Japan)
- 26. Funabashi Apartments, Ryue Nishizawa (Chiba, Japan)
- 27. Eda Housing, Chiba Manabu Architects (Yokohama (Kanagawa), Japan)
- 28. Langham Court, Goody Clancy & Associates (Boston, MA)
- 29. Peabody Terrace, Sert, Jackson and Gourley (Cambridge, MA)
- 30. Lafayette Park Apartments Ludwig Mies Van Der Rohe (Detroit, MI)
- 31. Marina City, Betrand Goldberg Associates (Chicago, IL)
- 32. VM Houses, BIG and JDS
- 33. Quinta da Malagueira Housing, Alvaro Siza
- 34. Housing on Lutzowplatz, O.M. Ungers
- 35. Crawford Manor, Paul Rudolph (New Haven, CT)

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# **NYC Housing Projects**

- 1. Harlem River Houses, 1937
- 2. Williamsburg Houses, Public Works Administration
- 3. First Houses, New York City Housing Authority
- 4. Trump World Tower, Costas Kondylis & Associates
- 5. Barbizon Hotel, Palmer H. Ogden and Partners
- 6. Strivers Row, Bruce Price
- 7. Astor Row
- 8. East River Houses, Perry Coke Smith
- 9. Colonnade and Pavillion Apartments, Ludwig Mies Van Der Rohe
- 10. The Apthorp, 2207 Broadway, Clinton and Russell
- 11. Marcus Garvey Park Village, Urban Development Corporation
- 12. Sherry Netherland Hotel, Schultze& Weaver
- 13. Hoteldes Artistes, George Mort Pollard, Architect
- 14. TwinParks Northwest Site 4, Prentice& Chan
- 15. OlympicTower, Skidmore, Owings and Merrill
- 16. Silver Towers/University Village, I.M. Pei

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- 17. Brownsville Apartments, Frederick G. Frost
- 18. Stuyvesant Town / Riverton Houses, Irwin Clavan
- 19. Waterside, Davis & Brody Associates
- 20. Seward Park Cooperative, Herman Jessor
- 21. Beekman Tower, Frank Gehry
- 22. Via Verde, Grimshaw
- 23. 459 West 18th Street, Della Valle Berheimer
- 24. Manhattan Expressway, Paul Rudolph
- 25. The Dunbar Apartments

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## SITE EAST HARLEM / THE BRONX



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#### ACCESSIBILITY

ADA Guidelines: http://www.ada.gov/ **CONTEMPORARY HOUSING** http://www.archdaily.com/173436/via-verde-grimshaw-architects-dattner-architects/ http://www.archdaily.com/109832/a-big-new-york-debut/ http://www.archdaily.com/34302/linked-hybrid-steven-holl-architects/ http://www.archdaily.com/6268/56-leonard-street-new-york-herzog-de-meuron/ http://urbanomnibus.net/2011/03/from-the-archives-harlems-ps90/ **DOCUMENTARIES / FILMS** 

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Urbanized Rezoning Harlem (video available in Butler Library) put on reserve, check reviews The Pruitt-Igoe Myth: An Urban History I Remember Harlem, The Studio Museum in Harlem: http://www.studiomuseum.org/event-calendar/event/film-series-i-remember-harlem-2012-09-22 Sarah Morris, Video Clips: http://sarah-morris.info/?/FIImClips/Midtown-/ and http://vimeo.com/user4010809

Marty (1955), Delbert Mann The Warriors (1979), Walter Hill Fort Apache to the Bronx (1981), Daniel Petrie Paris Is Burning (1990), Jennie Livingston Jungle Fever (1991), Spike Lee Summer of Sam (1999), Spike Lee Finding Forrester (2000), Gus Van Zandt My Brooklyn (2014), Kelly Anderson

#### **EXHIBITS**

#### Current

Sites of Reason: A Selection of Recent Acquisitions, MOMA, 2014.06.11 - 2014.09.28

Sylvan Center: Architecture, Art & Landscape at Woodlawn, Wallach Art Gallery, Columbia University, 2014.09.03 - 2014.11.1

Conceptions of Space: Recent Acquisitions in Contemporary Architecture, MOMA, 2014.07.4 - 2014.10.19

Uneven Growth: Tactical Urbanisms for Expanding Megacities. MOMA, 2014.11.22 - 2015.05.10

A Long-Awaited Tribute: Frank Lloyd Wright's Usonian House and Pavilion, Guggenheim, 2012.07.27 - Ongoing

Assembled Realities: Jeff Chien-Hsing Liao's New York, Museum of the City of New York, 2014.10.15 - 2015.02.15

NYC Makers: The MAD Biennial, Museum of Art and Design, 2014.06.01 - 2014.10.12

PeaRoeFoam, Jason Rhoades, David Zwirner Gallery, 2014.09.11 - 2014.10.18

#### Past

Reimagining the Waterfront: Manhattan's East River Esplanade, Museum of the City of New York http://www.mcny.org/exhibitions/current/reimagining-the-waterfront.html

The Harlem Edge: Cultivating Connections, AIA Center for Architecture: http://cfa.aiany.org/index.php?section=exhibitions&expid=227

*Illuminations: Expanding the Walls 2012*, The Studio Museum in Harlem: <u>http://www.studiomuseum.org/exhibition/illuminations-expanding-the-walls-2012</u>

Harlem Walking Tours: In Their Footsteps, The Studio Museum in Harlem: http://www.studiomuseum.org/event-calendar/event/harlem-walking-tours-2012-09-29

Ghosts in the Machine, The New Museum: http://www.newmuseum.org/exhibitions/view/ghosts-in-the-machine

Foreclosed: Rehousing the American Dream, MoMA: http://www.moma.org/visit/calendar/exhibitions/1230

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The Greatest Grid, The Museum of the City of New York: http://www.mcny.org/exhibitions/past/The-Greatest-Grid.html

*The Unfinished Grid: Design Speculations for Manhattan*, The Architectural League of NY: <u>http://archleague.org/2011/11/the-unfinished-grid-design-speculations-for-manhattan/</u> Do Ho Suh, Lehmann Maupin Gallery:

http://www.lehmannmaupin.com/#/artists/do-ho-suh/ Natalie Jeremijenko, Environmental Health Clinic:

http://www.environmentalhealthclinic.net/

Creative Time: http://www.creativetime.org/mission

Making Room, Citizens Housing and Planning Council: http://makingroomnyc.com/ http://urbanomnibus.net/2011/10/making-room/

MAKING ROOM is an initiative of <u>Citizens Housing & Planning Council</u> (CHPC) that brings together: cutting-edge housing research; new design proposals; and pragmatic policy recommendations to advocate for New York City to allow the development of some brand new, legal and safe housing options.

The Vienna Model: Housing for the 21st Century City, Austrian Cultural Forumhttp //www.acfny.org/event/the-vienna-model/

#### HISTORY OF HOUSING AT GSAPP

Joan Ockman. Architecture School: Three Centuries of Educating Architects in North America. (Cambridge: The MIT Press, 2012). James Tice. "Theme and Variation: A Typological Approach to Housing Design, Teaching and Research," *Journal of Architectural Education*, Vol. 46, No. 3 (Feb., 1993), pp. 162-175.

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PUBLIC HOUSING http://www.nydailynews.com/new-york/picture-nycha-tenants-cameras-article-1.1128800 MIXED FINANCE PROGRAM: http://portal.hud.gov/hudportal/HUD?src=/program\_offices/public\_indian\_housing/programs/ph/hope6/mfph