

## MODERN HOUSING, PAST, PRESENT & FUTURE

A4598

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Tuesdays, 11-1; 408 Avery Hall

Housing has been a prime site for experiments throughout the history of modern architecture. The principal locales, forms and aspirations have changed, of course. Today's modernism no longer promotes a single standard; architects realize that innovation does not preclude comfort, familiarity or delight. "Modern housing" confronts questions of inequalities (within and between nations, classes, groups and genders) as well as new materials and technologies. Recent housing relates to "dwelling" in engaging both a universal human need and a diverse panoply of forms, desires, habits, emotions and social conditions. Site plans as well as floor plans are critical, together with a range of services within and beyond a specific site. Design prowess even extends into new realms like financing, political support and popular media.

This seminar will explore some of the key themes and examples of 20<sup>th</sup>- and 21<sup>st</sup>-century modern housing around the world. The first half of the class will survey and compare a broad range of early examples from the iconic social-democratic housing estates of Europe in the 1920s and progressive American enclaves of that era to more recent prefab prototypes, apartments and self-built *barrios* in Caracas, *favelas* in Rio and *dharavi* in Mumbai, new suburbs in China, "green" apartment buildings in Malaysia, as well as projects for refugees, the homeless, and what has come to be called "affordable housing" in various settings. We'll explore multiple scales from the individual body, the room and the wall to larger composites of housing complexes, production systems, social services, environmental factors and economic challenges.

The history of design choices helps us think about architecture and policies in the present. Students in the GSAPP Housing Studio will work with students from other programs and other departments across the university. Participation in discussions is 30% of the grade. Students will choose topics for the second half of the semester and present their initial findings in class, which is 40% of the grade and the final paper 30%. Required & other readings for group discussion will be available on Canvas and on Seminar Shelf # **403** in the Avery Library Reserve Reading Room.

**\*\* CLASS SIZE IS LIMITED. Please submit a short) statement about your interests before Tuesday Sept. 5 to gw8@columbia.edu.**

## **Week 1 (Sept. 5): What Is ‘Modern Housing’?**

The term “Modern Housing” used to mean canonical European villas and social-democratic workers’ dwellings of the 1920s: unadorned white walls, free plans, steel and glass. While those remain foundational in architecture, we’ll also explore varied forms and social/cultural aspirations in recent decades.

Look over the seminar shelf’s books on modern housing, such as:

Eric Firley and Caroline Stahl, *The Urban Housing Handbook* (NY, 2010)

Wolfgang Forster, *Housing in the 20<sup>th</sup> and 21<sup>st</sup> Centuries* (Munich, 2006)

Ulrike Wietzorrek, *Housing: Thresholds, Transitions and Transparencies* (Basel, 2015)

Hilary French, *New Urban Housing* (New Haven, 2010)

Albert Ferre and Tihamer Salij, *Total Housing* (Barcelona, 2010)

Maria Alessandra Segantini, ed., *Contemporary Housing* (Milan, 2008)

Peggy Tully, ed., *Modern American Housing* (New York, 2013)

Josep Luis Mateo, ed., *Global Housing Projects* (Barcelona, 2008)

Adam Mornement, *Infill: New Houses for Urban Sites* (London, 2009)

Graham Towers, *At Home in the City. . . Urban Housing* (Rotterdam, 2005)

Ulduz Maschaykh, *The Changing Image of Affordable Housing: Design, Gentrification and Community in Canada and Europe* (London, 2015)

Kenny Cupers, “The Social Project: The Complex Legacy of Public Housing in Postwar France,” *Places* (April 2014)

## **Week 2 (Sept. 13): Meanings of Home, Housing, and Domesticity**

Be prepared to discuss **meanings** of these words in *various languages*.

Barbara Miller Lane, ed., *Housing and Dwelling: Perspectives on Modern Domestic Architecture* (New York & London, 2007), esp. pp. 50-81 [**on reserve**]

Mary Douglas, “The Idea of Home: A Kind of Space,” in Arien Mack, ed., *The Home: A Place in the World* (New York, 1993), 265-81

Recommended:

Christian Topalov, et.al., *L’aventure des mots de la ville à travers le temps, les langues, les sociétés* (Paris, 2010)

Kristen Ring, et.al., *Urban Living* (Berlin, 2015)

Pavlos Levas, *Dwelling and Architecture from Heidegger to Koolhaas* (Berlin, 2009)

David Benjamin, ed., *The Home: Words, Interpretations, Meanings. . .* (1995)

DASH (Delft Architectural Studies on Housing) Publications, e.g. *Building Together: The Architecture of Collective Private Commissions* (2015); etc.,

Jan Duyvendak, *The Politics of Home: Belonging and Nostalgia* (New York, 2011)

### **Week 3 & 4 (Sept. 20 & 27): Looking Backwards and Ahead**

\*\* Prepare 5-minute presentations on a *historical* (pre-1980) “modern housing” project and its site (in cultural, material and environmental terms).

A few additional sources, most on the seminar shelf with other books:

- Hilary French, *Key Urban Housing in the Twentieth Century* (New York, 2008)  
Elie Haddad and David Rifkind, eds., *A Critical History of Modern Architecture, 1860-2010* (Munich, 2011)  
David Mackay, *Multiple Family Housing: From Aggregation to Integration* (NY, 1977)  
Claudia Qjiriny et al., eds., *Ernst May: 1896-1970* (Munich, 2011)  
Tom Avermaele, *Another Modernism: The Post-War Architecture and Urbanism of Candilis-Josic-Woods* (Rotterdam, 2005)  
Philipp Meuser, *Towards a Typology of Soviet Mass Housing: Pre-Fabrication in the USSR, 1955-1991* (Berlin, 2015)  
Kimberly Elman Zarecor, *Manufacturing a Socialist Modernity: Housing in Czechoslovakia, 1945-1960* (Pittsburgh: Univer. of Pittsburgh Press, 2011)  
Luis Carranza & Fernando Lara, *Modern Architecture in Latin America* (Aust 2015)  
Robert McCarter, *Hermann Hertzberger* (Rotterdam, 2015)  
Nicholas Bloom and Matthew Lasner, *Affordable Housing in New York* (Pr, 2016)  
Matthew Lasner, *High Life: Condo Living in the Suburban Century* (N.Haven, 2012)  
Antonio Folkers, *Modern Architecture in Africa* (Amsterdam, 2010)  
Stephen Hammett and Dean Forbes, eds., *Planning Asian Cities* (London, 2011)

### **Week 5 (Oct. 4): Modern Standards, Innovations and Adaptations**

- Florian Urban, *Tower and Slab: Histories of Global Mass Housing* (New York and London, 2012), esp. pp. 1-17 [E Books]  
Barry Bergdoll and Peter Christensen, eds., *Home Delivery: Fabricating the Modern Dwelling* (New York, 2008), esp. pp. 009-037

Recommended:

- Lucy Bullivant, ed., *Home Front: New Developments in Housing A.D.* vol 73, (July/August 2003)  
Annette Becker, et.al. eds., *Network Living: Architecture for All Generations* (New York and München, 2013)  
Salvador Perez Arroyo, et.al. *Emerging Technologies & Housing Prototypes* (M, 2008)  
Ellen Lupton, *The Bathroom, the Kitchen and the Aesthetics of Waste* (NY, 1996)  
Graham Towers, *Shelter is Not Enough: Transforming Multi-Storey Housing* (B, 2000)  
Nicholas Bloom, et.al., eds., *Public Housing Myths* (Ithaca, 2015)

## **Week 6 (Oct. 11). American, European & Latin American Reforms**

Suzanne Schindler, “What Is Affordable Housing?” *Bauwelt* 10 (2010): 13-17  
Hilary French, *Key Urban Housing in the Twentieth Century* (New York, 2008), skim  
Wolfgang Förster and William Menking, *Das Wiener Model/The Vienna Model: Housing for the Twenty-First City* (Vienna, 2016), skim [on shelf]

### Recommended:

Alex F. Schwartz, *Modern Housing Policy in the United States* (New York, 2010)  
Gwendolyn Wright, *USA*, esp. 209-222, 167-80, 249-50 [EBooks]  
\_\_\_\_\_, *Building the Dream: A Social History of Housing in America* (Cambridge, 1983)  
“Public Housing in the Americas,” *Journal of Urban History* 33 (March 2007)  
John F. Bauman, et.al., eds., *From the Tenements to the Taylor Homes. . . Urban Housing Policy in 20<sup>th</sup> Century America* (University Park, PA., 2000)  
Teresa Caldeira, “Peripheral Urbanism: Autoconstruction, Transversal Logics and Politics in the Cities of the Global South,” *Environment and Planning D: Society and Space* (2016): 1-18  
Vicente del Rio and William Siembieda, eds., *Beyond Brasilia: Contemporary Urbanism in Brazil* (Gainesville, 2009), esp. 266-90  
Peter Land, *The Experimental Housing Project (PREVI), Lima* (Bogata, 2015)  
Alejandro Aravena, *Incremental Housing and Participatory Design* (Berlin, 2012)

## **Week 7 (Oct. 18): Modern Housing in Asia**

Peter Rowe, Ann Forsyth, Har Ye Kan, *China's Urban Communities* (Basel, 2016), pp. TK  
Mingye Li and Jean-Claude Driant, “Affordable Housing Policies in Urban China,” in *Affordable Housing in the Urban Global South*, pp. 204-18  
Ken Tadashi Oshima, “Balancing the Cramped with the Communal: Recent Japanese Housing,” *Harvard Design Magazine* (W 2012): 142-189

### Recommended:

Joyce Yanyun Man, ed., *China's Housing Reform and Outcomes* (Cambridge, 2011)  
Lü Junhu, Peter Rowe, *Modern Urban Housing in China, 1840-2000* (Munich, 2001)  
Stefan Al, ed., *Villages in the City [in South China]* (Honolulu, 2014)  
Claudia Hildner, *Future Living: Collective Housing in Japan* (Basel, 2014) [EBooks]  
Philip Judido, *The Japanese House Reinvented* (New York, 2015)  
In-ha Chöng, *Architecture and Urbanism in Modern Korea* (Honolulu, 2013)

## **Weeks 7-12 (Oct. 25 – Nov. 29): Student presentations**

Presentations will be based on your research paper topics. (These can connect to present-day designs or policy proposals -- but the history is essential.) Please focus on particular places/projects for more general topic, highlighting specific examples. We'll try for 4 presentations per session & a summary discussion.

Please give other students (and me!) some background reading beforehand. Make the work specific to a given national or urban culture, past or present. A brief handout with basic information, site plans, etc. is much appreciated. I'll also give you downloads of some of excellent papers by previous students.

### **POSSIBLE TOPICS:**

Designing “Supportive Housing” -- and Full-Service Facilities  
Beyond the Nuclear Family: From “Multi-Family” to “Multi-Unit” Dwellings  
The Evolution and Future of Affordable Housing Policies  
How Particular Cities Affect Housing Policy (Vienna, SF, Shanghai, etc.)  
Live-Work Spaces for Various Kinds of Jobs  
Housing Options for Students and Young People  
Supportive Services in Designs for Housing the Formerly Homeless  
Pragmatic Adaptations to Preserve Utopian High-Rise Public Housing  
Designing Site Plans and Integrating with the World Beyond the Site  
Retrofitting the Suburbs  
High-Rise Housing in Shanghai, Hong Kong, Singapore or Other Asian Cities  
“Informal” Housing Reform in *Barrios, Favelas, Bidonvilles, Dharavi*, etc.  
Manufactured or Prefabricated Housing; New Materials (Plastics, Aluminum..)  
Housing for Immigrants, Past and Present, from Different Cultures  
Adaptive Reuse and Sustainable Design

**Week 8 (Oct. 25):**

**Week 9 (Nov. 1):**

**Week 10 (Nov. 8): Election Day Holiday**

**Week 11 (Nov. 15):**

**Week 12 (Nov. 22):**

**Week 13 (Nov. 29): Summary and discussion of 21<sup>st</sup>-Century Housing**

Klaus Dormer, et.al., *Housing for Everyone* (M.,2014), pp. 20-36, 162-85

Papers are due **Friday Dec. 15 at noon**. They should be 10-15 pp. long, plus illustrations, footnotes and a bibliography. The earlier discussions should show in your clarifying an argument and possible suggestions for the future.