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COEN 19

## **HOMEWORK TOPIC: Communities & Home**

When I think of how I personally define a home, my first thoughts buzz around the house that I grew up in and many memories that were made whilst living in that space. However, in the last three years, my definition of 'home' has slowly changed because of the independence college has given me. Initially a home was a physical space where I felt safe. In a home, you allow yourself to be vulnerable and experience a 'truer' reality without your environment detracting from your thoughts. I no longer consider my home where I lived for 18 years in the East Bay my home. My 'home' isn't just my small room in the 4 bedroom / 8-person house. My home is where i'm the most comfortable. Where my experiences consist of the memories I can hold onto.

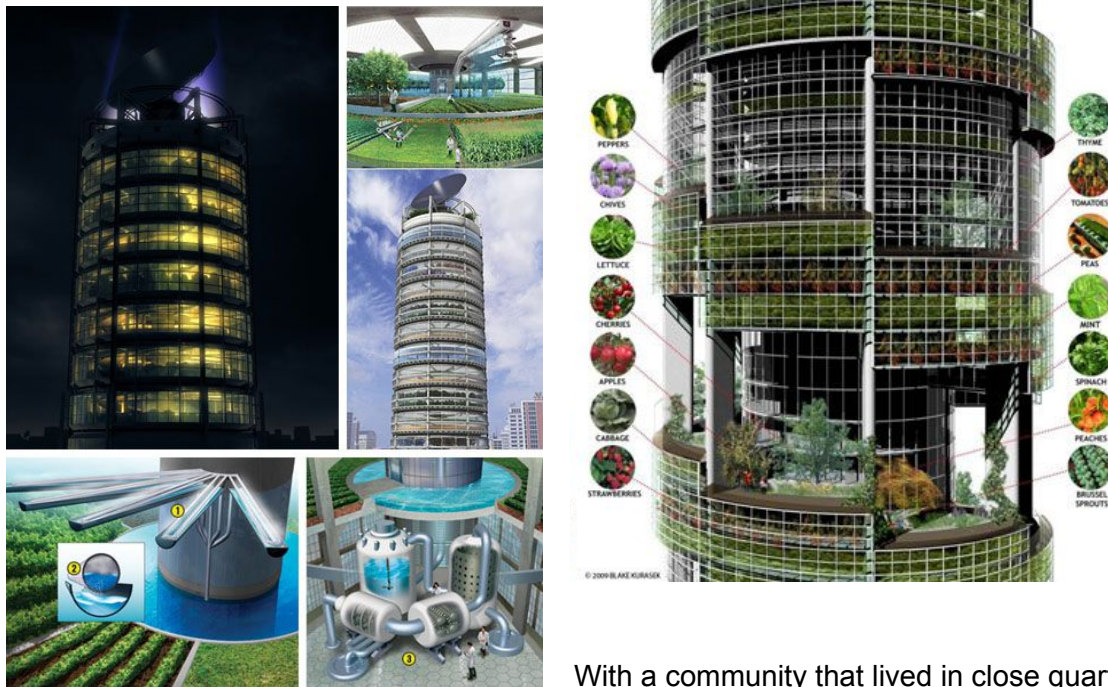
In order for a community to be sustainable it must first make efforts to integrate various sources of food, water, and energy into the major urban areas. The main responsibility of a computer's operating system is to figure out how to allocate limited resources to persistent processes. Using this same idea, if we wanted to determine how to provide the limited resources (energy, food, water) to effectively provide resources to every person, consolidating our source would help tremendously.

I imagine that an interesting design could be a tall structure that used solar panels on all their blinds, and had one main source of water. If a funnel collected water and pumped it accessible down the middle of the highrise, each unit on each level could access the water without contaminating it too. Moreover, having a sustainable large community may seem impossible when we consider our traditional means for obtaining and distributing resources.

By relying less on external factors and more on improving internal ones, the system can support itself easier. Families living in wealthy neighborhoods have become increasingly isolated from each other because floor space is valued more than community. There is a terrific book about this American tragedy called: ***Bowling Alone***. Since people have grown to value how other people view their online image more than their physical, people become dependent on representing themselves as best as possible through an pseudo-avatar representation. In order to save sustainable communities and create healthier ways for individuals to interact, we must first implement change within our personal homes. If the place where someone returns to

is fostering negative pressures externally, then how will the individual ever be able to feel safe, or live the human condition in a viable way.

My first change would be in the physical architecture that we live in. There is no need to have such huge houses and separate ourselves from people. To be sustainable, it makes more sense to bring people together and helping one another by working off each individual's strengths, instead of isolating those who are unable to help the greater community.



With a community that lived in close quarters, each family would only have to be responsible for a small amount of crops and still serve the entire community. Families who wanted larger living spaces would have to be responsible for the providing a relative amount of crops. This way, larger living quarters would mean producing more food for the community. Additionally, the entire middle cylinder could serve as a water reservoir and irrigation system for the plants on the building. These homes could serve as vertical farming villages and would be sustainable for as long as people continued to live in them.

Additionally I think with such a large amount of open land mass, we could be covering open space with solar panels to help provide world wide energy without depleting a finite resource. Elon Musk is working to provide off-grid power that can



be generated from solar panels, stored in "Powerwalls" (home battery), to power everything from the lights, to the heat, to your car.

### **1. Vertical Farming**

<http://www.newyorker.com/magazine/2017/01/09/the-vertical-farm>

Frazier, Ian. "The Vertical Farm." The New Yorker. The New Yorker, 09 June 2017. Web. 13 June 2017.

<http://bit.ly/2qwMhpl>

Peters, Adele. "Has This Silicon Valley Startup Finally Nailed The Indoor Farming Model?" Fast Company. Fast Company, 25 May 2017. Web. 13 June 2017.

### **3. Tesla Energy:**

[https://www.tesla.com/sites/default/files/pdfs/en\\_US/Tesla\\_KIUC-Case%20Study-2017.pdf](https://www.tesla.com/sites/default/files/pdfs/en_US/Tesla_KIUC-Case%20Study-2017.pdf)

2017, Tesla, Inc.'S Wholly Owned Subsidiary, Solarcity Corporation, Performs Powerpack Installation Projects. Hi Ct-29770, Ca Cslb 888104,, and Ma Hic 168572/el-1136Mr. View Our Full List Of Contractor Licenses [www.solarcity.com/company/con](http://www.solarcity.com/company/con). HAWAIIAN ISLAND POWERED BY SOLAR ENERGY AFTER DARK (n.d.): n. pag. Tesla Energy. Web.

### **Solar Heating:**

[https://www.ecowho.com/articles/26/Solar\\_Water\\_heating\\_how\\_it\\_works\\_and\\_the\\_options\\_available.html](https://www.ecowho.com/articles/26/Solar_Water_heating_how_it_works_and_the_options_available.html)

### **Bowling Alone:**

<http://bowlingalone.com>

Putnam, Robert. *Bowling Alone: The Collapse and Revival of American Community*.