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THE ART OF INEQUALITY

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- “The US Department of Housing and Urban Development defines housing as affordable when rent or mortgage payments as well as utilities are not higher than 30% of a household’s pre-tax-income. ””Only 37% of Americans lived in affordable housing in 2010.” “A household earning minimum wage should work 2.5 full-time jobs to afford an average two-bedroom rental” (Moore & Schindler, 22).

- In the early 1970’s, federal policy regarding public housing shifted form new construction to a voucher system allowing eligible households to rent from private landlords. The aim was not only to work against the concentration of poverty in public housing developments, but to support market-driven initiatives and end the federal government’s direct role in housing development” (Moore & Schindler, 24).

- “household is the central social unit of measurement. The US Census defines “household” architecturally: “a household consists of all the people who occupy a housing unit”. This is directly linked to a more circumscribed definition of “family”. “There are two major categories of households, family and nonfamily.” These social constructs are central to our understanding of what is “decent” (Moore & Schindler, 25).

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Reinhold Martin, Jacob Moore, Susan Schindler, *The Art of Inequality: Architecture, Housing, and Real Estate,* (New York: The Temple Hoyne Buell Center for Study of American Architecture, 2015).