

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, ideas and forms have changed, of course. Today's modernists certainly recognize that innovation does not preclude comfort, delight and familiarity. We no longer promote a single standard. Housing is dwelling, at once a universal human need and a diverse panoply of forms, desires and social conditions. Site plans are critical, as well as a range of services within and beyond a specific site. Design prowess has also extended into new realms like financing, political support and popular media.

This seminar will explore key themes and examples of 20th- and 21st-century modern housing around the world. The first half of the class will survey and compare a broad range of early examples from iconic social-democratic housing estates of Europe in the 1920s and progressive American enclaves of that era to more recent prefab prototypes in Sweden, apartments in Rio and barrios in Caracas, dharavi in Mumbai, new suburbs in China, "green" apartment buildings in Malaysia, affordable housing in the US, the mix of market-rate with social housing in Amsterdam. We'll also 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.

Design choices are one component of the class. Students in the GSAPP Housing Studio will work with students from other programs and other departments across the university. Research is a parallel theme. Students will choose topics for the second half of the semester and present their initial work, culminating in papers and/or design projects due on **Wednesday Dec 3** at noon. Required weekly readings for group discussion will be available on Seminar Shelf # 359 in the Avery Library Reserve Reading Room.

Week 1 (Sept. 2) : 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 that remains an essential foundation in architecture and ambitions, we’ll also explore some more recent iconic forms and the social/cultural aspirations of the term today.

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

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

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

Hilary French, *New Urban Housing* (New Haven, 2006)

Alber Ferre and Tihamer Salij, *Total Housing: Alternatives to Urban Sprawl* (Barcelona, 2010)

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

Josep Luis Mateo, ed., *Global Housing Projects: 25 Buildings since 1980* (Barcelona and New York, 2008)

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

Graham Towers, *At Home in the City: An Introduction to Urban Housing* (Rotterdam, 2005)

Christian Schittich, ed., *High Density Housing* (Basel and Boston, 2004)

Week 2 (Sept. 9): Meanings of Home, Housing, and Domesticity

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

“The Question of Home,” *New Formations: A Journal of Culture/Theory/Politics* (Summer 1992)

Recommended:

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

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

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

Bridget Franklin, *Housing Transformations: Shaping the Space of Twenty-First Century Living* (London and New York, 2006)

Charles Correa, *Housing and Urbanisation* (New York and London, 2000)

Week 3 (Sept. 16): Looking Backwards and Ahead

** Prepare 5-minute presentations on one historical example of a “modern housing” project and its site, seen in cultural, material and environmental terms

A few possible sources, most on the seminar shelf:

Hilary French, *Key Urban Housing in the Twentieth Century* (New York, 2008)

William Blumfield and Blair Ruble, eds., *Russian Housing in the Modern Age* (New York, 1993), esp. 85-170

Anatole Kopp, *Town and Revolution: Soviet Architecture & City Planning* (Lon. 1970)

Jacques Lucan, *Eau et gaz à tous les étages: 100 ans de logement* (Paris, 1992)

Kimberly Elman Zarecor, *Manufacturing a Socialist Modernity: Housing in Czechoslovakia, 1945-1960* (Pittsburgh: Univer. of Pittsburgh Press, 2011)

Antonio Follers, *Modern Architecture in Africa* (Amsterdam, 2010)

Norma Evenson, *The Indian Metropolis: A View to the West* (New Haven, 1989)

Stephen Hammett and Dean Forbes, eds., *Planning Asian Cities* (London, 2011)

Lu Junhua, Peter Rowe and Zhang Jie, *Modern Urban Housing in China, 1840-2000* (New York, 2001)

Week 4 (Sept. 23): Continue Presentations

Week 5 (Sept. 30): Modern Standards, Technologies and Ways Of Living

Lucy Bullivant, ed., *Home Front: New Developments in Housing A.D.* vol 73, (July/August 2003), introduction and at least one article

Florian Urban, *Tower and Slab: Histories of Global Mass Housing* (New York And London, 2012), esp. pp. 1-17 [E Books]

Salvador Perez, Arroyo, Rossana Atena and Igor Kevbel, *Emerging Technologies and Housing Prototypes* (Madrid and Amsterdam, 2008, **pp. TK**)

Recommended:

Alina Congreve, *Sustainability in New Housing Development* (London, 2011, TK

Ellen Lupton, *The Bathroom, the Kitchen and the Aesthetics of Waste: A Process of Elimination* (NY, 1996)

Graham Towers, *Shelter is Not Enough: Transforming Multi-Storey Housing* (Bristol, 2000)

Georges Teyssot, “Habis/Habitus/Habitat” in *Present and Futures: Architectures In Cities* (Barcelona, 1996), pp. 114-27

Barry Bergdoll and Peter Christensen, eds., *Home Delivery: Fabricating the Modern Dwelling* (New York, 2008)

Scott Berkun, *The Myths of Innovation* (Sebastopol, CA, 2010) [EBooks]

Week 6 (Oct. 7). American and Latin American Housing Reforms

- Gwendolyn Wright, *USA: Modern Architectures in History* (London and Chicago, 2008), esp. 209-222, 167-80, 249-50 [EBooks]
- Roberto Segre, "Antillan Architecture of the First Modernity, 1930-1945," in Carols Brillembourg, ed., *Latin American Architecture, 1929-6): Contemporary Reflections* (New York: Monacelli Press, 2004), pp. 116-135
- Vicente del Rio and William Siembieda, eds., *Beyond Brasilia: Contemporary Urbanism in Brazil* (Gainesville: University Press of Florida, 2009), esp. "Upgrading City Squatter Settlements into City Neighborhoods," pp. 266-90

Recommended:

- Alex F. Schwartz, *Modern Housing Policy in the United States* (New York, 2010)
- Gwendolyn Wright, *Building the Dream: A Social History of Housing in America* (Cambridge, 1983)
- Richard Plunz, ed., *Housing Form and Public Policy in the United States* (New York 1980)
- "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 20th Century America* (University Park, PA., 2000)
- Lawrence J . Vale, *From the Puritans to the Projects: Public Housing and Public Neighbors* (Cambridge, 2000)
- "Architectures of Latin America," *Harvard Design Magazine* 34 (2011)
- Richard Williams, *Brazil: Modern Architectures in History* (London, 2009)
- Future Anterior* 6 (Winter 2009) on Historic Preservation in the Americas

Week 7 (Oct. 14). Affordable Housing and the Search for Design Justice

- Julie Eizenberg/KEA, *Architecture Isn't Just for Special Occasions* (New York, 2006)
- William Morrish, et.al., *Growing Urban Habitats: Seeking a New Housing Development Model* (SF, 2009), esp. 425 (Konyk), 106-11 (Rag Flats), 136-41, 178-83
- Gwendolyn Wright, "Design and Affordable American Housing," *Cityscape* (July 2014)
- "Affordable New York," *Bauwelt* (March 2012)

Recommended:

- HUD and NJIT, "Affordable Housing Design Advisor" website.
- Affordable Housing Development and Design* (New York, 2007)
- Rosie Tighe & Elizabeth Mueller, eds, *The Affordable Housing Reader* (NY, 2013)
- Sam Davis, *The Architecture of Affordable Housing* (Berkeley, 1995)

Weeks 8-12 (Oct. 21 - Nov. 25): Student presentations

We'll choose topics for the next 5 weeks based on what you would like to pursue for research and short presentations, leading up to a research paper (&/or a design or policy proposal as well, if you'd like). You may choose to focus on a particular project or a more general topic, highlighting several specific examples. Think about both historical and contemporary frameworks.

Please give other students (and me!) some basic background reading beforehand. A brief handout with basic information, site plans, etc. is much appreciated. I'll also give you downloads of some of the excellent papers students have done for this seminar during the last several years.

POSSIBLE TOPICS:

Social, Economic and Environmental Sustainability
From "Multi-Family" to "Multi-Unit" Dwellings for Transient Cohorts
Promoting Modern Housing in the Popular Media
"Supportive Housing" -- and Full-Service Facilities
Housing the Homeless or Housing Reform in Barrios, Bidonvilles, etc.
Housing Needs Based on Physical Conditions, Age, Ethnic/Racial Groups, etc.
The Preservation and Adaptation of Public Housing
Live-Work Spaces for Various Kinds of Jobs
Reformatting the Suburbs
Particular Government Programs in a particular country
High-Rise Housing in Shanghai, Hong Kong, Mumbai or another Asian City
Manufactured, Prefabricated, or Transportable Disaster-Relief Housing
Innovative Housing Finance for Innovative Design

Week 7 (Oct. 14):

Week 8 (Oct. 21):

Week 9 (Oct. 28):

Week 10 (Nov. 4): Holiday

Week 11 (Nov. 11):

Week 12 (Nov. 18):

Week 13 (Nov. 25): Summary and discussion of 21st-Century Housing