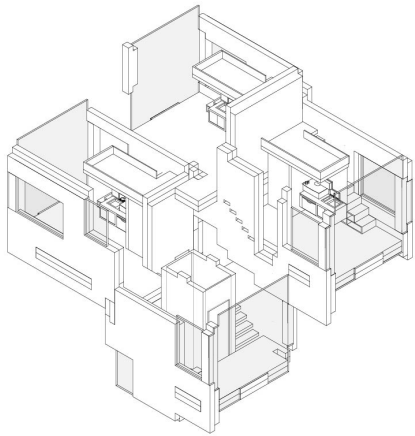


Columbia University  
Graduate School of Architecture, Planning and Preservation  
A4003: Core Studio 3, Fall 2013  
Robert Marino Studio

**prefabricate** |prē'fabrĭkāt|

verb [ trans. ] [usu. as adj. ] ( **prefabricated** )

manufacture sections of (esp. a building or piece of furniture) to enable quick or easy assembly on site :  
*prefabricated homes.*



*Student Project, Panel  
Slotted System, Technical University of  
Munich, Winter, 2012-2013*

The semester's work will confront the emerging question of factory production and its relation to the creation of urban housing.

#### *The Module vs. the Unit*

Prefabrication immediately forces the designer into a confrontation with one of the most aesthetically powerful theoretical topics in the creation of housing. This is the result of the organization of housing into two mutually exclusive systems, one derived from the exigencies of factory production, called the module, and one derived from the habits and necessities of living in an urban area, called the unit. This will be the pedagogical focal point for the semester.

The module will be investigated as a result of a careful calculation as to what can be efficiently made in a factory setting, what can be transported, and what can be erected quickly. Material choice and the techniques of assembly will play a major role in this investigation. The module is also subject to architectural control through digital means and there will be a direct correlation between three dimensional drawing techniques and the virtual assembly of modules in three space. At least one field trip will be made to a facility which confronts the factory problems of modular fabrication. One field trip will be made to Arup & Partners to learn about SHoP Architects' prefab project B2, understood as the most progressive prefabricated tall building project under construction.

The unit is the traditional architectural encapsulation of private life in the city. We say we live in our unit, and simultaneously understand that it will be adjacent to many other such units, with all the advantages and disadvantages implicit in this arrangement. The three dimensional bulk that is the result of these arrangements has another profound effect, to create urban space and to enter into the realm of urban design. To be an urban dweller at once means an accommodation of the necessities of both unit life and the urban life of the street.