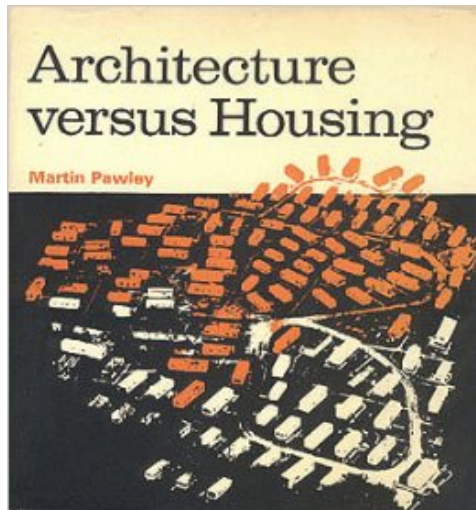


Columbia University
Graduate School of Architecture, Planning and Preservation
A4003: Core Studio 3, Fall 2014
Susanne Schindler Studio

Architecture versus Housing,
or: Regquantifying the contribution of design.



Martin Pawley, *Architecture versus Housing*, 1971: Cover.

In the United States, architecture is typically considered as distinct from and incompatible with housing: the former is a cultural endeavor, reserved for museums, institutions, or private residences, the second a socio-economic service to be provided at least possible cost to the public sector, while generating ample returns for private developers.

For below-market housing, design is seen as an add-on, a luxury, evaluated on the basis of short-term cost, not a fundamental contribution to the long-term economics of the building and its residents. This mode of thinking results in typologies being replicated again and again, the most prominent being the double-loaded corridor, resulting from an notion of efficiency based solely on a net-to-gross square-foot formula.

In the course of this studio, we will identify and then tackle the economic assumptions that shape multi-family housing production in New York City today, questioning the cultural assumptions that have been inscribed in these rules. These include the above-mentioned net-to-gross formula, but also prevalent dichotomies such as "subsidized" versus "market-rate," "private" versus "public," "residential" versus "commercial," "owning" versus "renting."

In developing proposals, we will consistently consider the economic models and associated architectural possibilities in tandem. A special focus will be on studying alternate models of ownership. For instance, questioning the notion of sharing can generate not only novel architectural forms but new ways of defining profit, and may contribute to reframing housing as architecture, or vice versa.