ARCH-529 | SPRING 2022 | WED | 9AM - 11AM | HARRIS 115A / ONLINE
Instructor: Sascha Delz

COLLECTIVE ~~URBAN~~ HOUSING
INNOVATIVE PROGRAMS, **PRAGMATIC** PRECEDENTS, AND **VISIONARY** ~~RECENT~~ CASE STUDIES

COURSE SYLLABUS

Image: ©Adolfo Arranz / Sources: The City Darkness - Life in Kowloon Walled City by Greg Girard and Ian Lambot
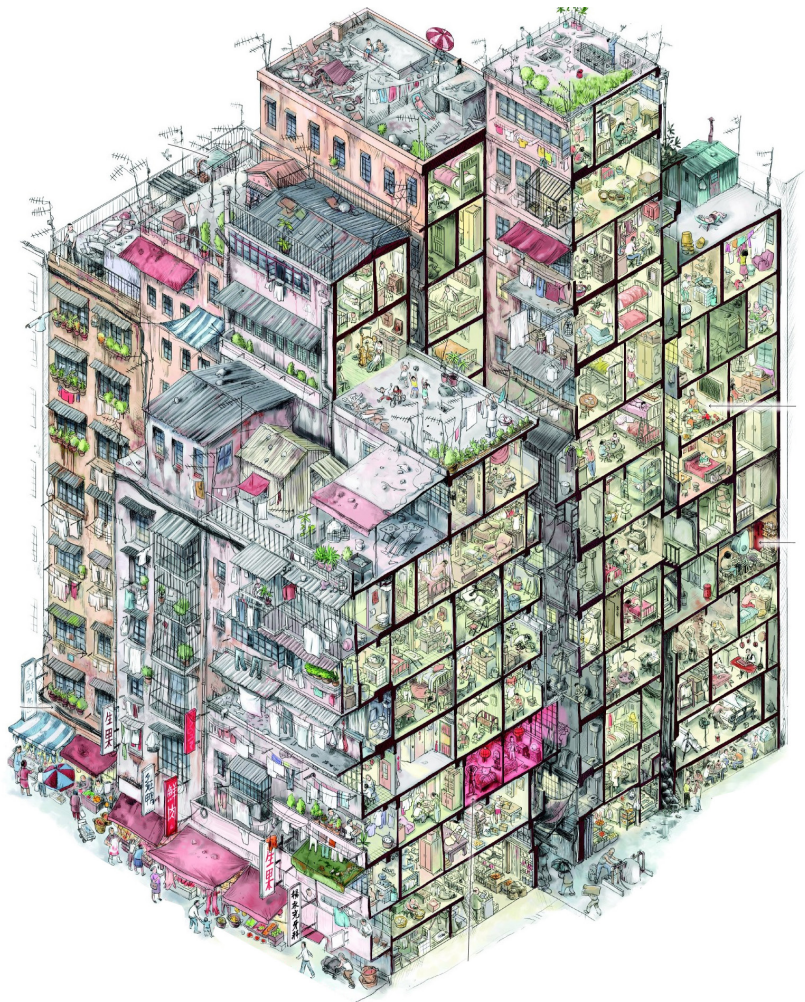
SCOPE OF THE COURSE

In search of adequate and affordable housing models, this seminar addresses the challenge of equitable housing provision from the perspective of collective action and collective housing. We will look at pragmatic solutions and utopian visions, investigate innovative approaches at the architectural and organizational level, and speculate on how one could transform existing frameworks of housing production towards more inclusive systems.

Against the backdrop of prevalent housing crises in Los Angeles, the United States and around the world, this seminar will discuss collective housing as an essential component for both social and environmental equity for people from all social and income backgrounds. While on an organizational level, collective housing models offer great potentials to deliver social and spatial justice through more affordable, adequate and equitable financial and ownership structures, collective housing schemes also offer a variety of possibilities to contribute to a more sustainable built environemnt through densification and a more efficient use of resources. Transforming existing forms of housing and housing policies towards more sustainable and inclusive architectural propositions and housing systems are considered a core task for a more equitable future.

Along these lines, ARCH-529 will be transformed as well. In its new iteration as 'Collective Urban Housing – Innovative Programs, Pragmatic Precedents and Visionary Recent Case Studies', the seminar will introduce relevant models and examples of collective housing, discuss complementary texts and theories, and, through a series of research and writing exercises, start to create a collection of collective housing that can be shared beyond the seminar and ultimately show socially and environmentally sustainable ideas and solutions for future dwelling scenarios.

LEARNING OBJECTIVES

As housing is one of the main tasks of the architectural profession, developing ideas and knowledge on sustainable, affordable and adequate housing is a core feature of architectural education that has to be addressed at levels beyond the mere act of design – such as critical analysis and research. Since from a macro perspective, affordable and collective forms of housing are considered an essential part of providing socially just and environmentally sustainable housing for all citizens, the course will focus on introducing participants to respective past and present precedents – both in theory and in practice – and discuss possible alternatives that might provide solutions to the current challenges of housing delivery through the typical private and public actors. Supporting these efforts, the course will engage the participants to develop their abilities in critical architectural and spatial analysis, research and writing. Along the topic of collective housing, the course will thus introduce tools and approaches how to conduct research that integrates spatial and social aspects with empirical, qualitative and quantitative data. Ultimately, course participants will:
- Expand their knowledge on collective and bottom-up housing examples and models
- Establish and refine their abilities of critical spatial and architectural analysis
- Cultivate their writing and research skills
- Contribute to housing research by adding to an ongoing data base of collective housing

COURSE STRUCTURE AND ASSIGNMENTS

The course is structured along three topical sections and a concluding phase. Each section consists of a topical input, a research and writing exercise, a reading and debate session, and a presentation of both the respective reading and writing assignments. The concluding phase mainly consists of developing and supporting the final papers.
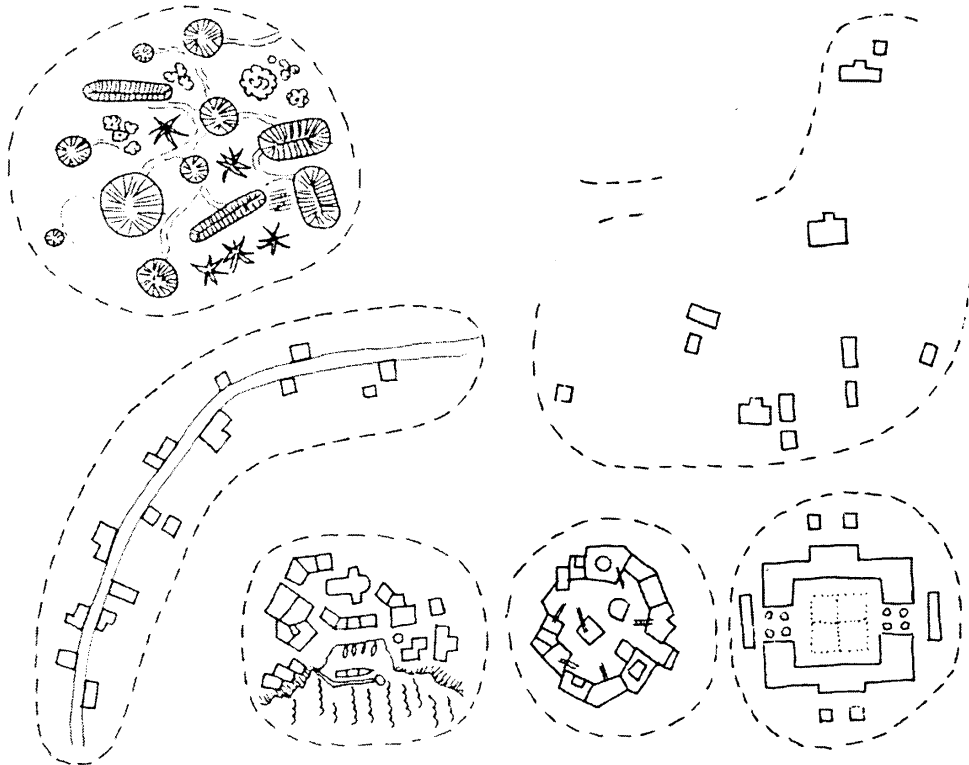
GRADING

EX 01: 10%
EX 02: 10%
EX 03: 10%
EX 04 [Final Paper]: 35%
Presentation: 15%
Participation: 20%

Image: Bolo'bolo / © P.M. 1983

COMMUNICATION

Communication and collaboration are essential aspects for design and research professionals working on any project. Therefore, I would like you to feel comfortable asking questions and giving feedback on this course at any time. If you have questions or comments, please contact me preferably via Slack or email.

VIRTUAL TEACHING ENVIRONMENT

Please check if you can access all the following virtual platforms before the first class, so we can start in a timely manner. If there are any technical issues or challenges, please let me know if I can help or arrange alternative ways of communicating.

Blackboard: We will use Blackboard for posting general class information and respective documents – such as the syllabus, exercises, readings, and support material. All exercises have to be uploaded to Blackboard within the respective deadlines.

Zoom: Zoom will be our main virtual video and audio communication platform if an in-person meeting is not possible. Please use the scheduled Zoom meetings that are posted on Blackboard.

Slack: The ARCH-529 Slack channel will be the main tool for written communication. It enables to communicate more directly, continuously and informally than through Blackboard and email – both as a group and for private one-on-one exchange. Please use Slack instead for email whenever you can.

COURSE POLICIES

Attendance: Attending the course is compulsory, meeting hours are every Wednesday from 09:00AM to 10:50AM. When missing the course, please contact me immediately to discuss your situation, determine the status of your absence, and – if possible – setup a potential alternative time or date to meet. Personal illness, family emergency, pre-approved academic reason, or religious observance may be excusable Unexcused absences from more than three classes will result in the lowering of your final grade one full letter grade. False representation of your attendance is grounds to be considered for a violation of ethics before the University.

Absence: USC recognizes the diversity of our community and the potential for conflicts involving academic activities and personal religious observation and provides a guide to such observances for reference and thus suggests that any concerns about lack of attendance or inability to participate fully in the course activity be fully aired at the start of the term. As a general principle, students should be excused from class for these events if properly documented and if provisions can be made to accommodate the absence and make up the lost work. Constraints on participation that conflict with adequate participation in the course and cannot be resolved to the satisfaction of the faculty and the student need to be identified prior to the drop/add date for registration. After the drop/add date the University and the School of Architecture shall be the sole arbiter of what constitutes appropriate attendance and participation in a given course. Please contact me at delz@usc.edu by the end of the second week of class if you anticipate conflicts with religious holidays including missing lectures, inability to finish homework assignments on-time, or other items that may hinder your work in this class.

<u>Submissions</u>: Please name every of your submission files properly and include: date, document name, your name. Upload both a Word/Pages and a PDF file for every submission.

<u>Security:</u> To avoid security breaches and inappropriate intrusions, it is imperative that you do not share or pass on links and access codes of the various virtual rooms and platforms to anybody outside your class.

<u>Documentation:</u> Creating a record of your process is critical. Maintain a binder and/or a digital archive in which reference materials such as handouts, downloads from Blackboard and research materials are kept in an orderly manner.

<u>Conduct</u>: Maintain a healthy, collective working environment during the seminar and beyond. For the University's code of conduct see: https://sjacs.usc.edu/students/scampus/

STATEMENT ON ACADEMIC CONDUCT

Plagiarism – presenting someone else's ideas as your own, either verbatim or recast in your own words – is a serious academic offense with serious consequences. Please familiarize yourself with the discussion of plagiarism in SCampus in Part B, Section 11, "Behavior Violating University Standards" https://policy.usc.edu/scampus-part-b/ . Other forms of academic dishonesty are equally unacceptable. See additional information in SCampus and university policies on scientific misconduct, http://policy.usc.edu/scientific-misconduct .

SUPPORT SYSTEMS

<u>Student Counseling Services (SCS) – (213) 740-7711:</u> Free and confidential mental health treatment for students, including short-term psychotherapy, group counseling, stress fitness workshops, and crisis intervention (24/7). https://engemannshc.usc.edu/counseling/

<u>National Suicide Prevention Lifeline – 1-800-273-8255:</u> Provides free and confidential emotional support to people in suicidal crisis or emotional distress 24 hours a day, 7 days a week. http://www.suicidepreventionlifeline.org

<u>Relationship and Sexual Violence Prevention Services (RSVP) – (213) 740-4900:</u> Free and confidential therapy services, workshops, and training for situations related to gender-based harm (24/7). https://engemannshc.usc.edu/rsvp/

<u>Sexual Assault Resource Center:</u> For more information about how to get help or help a survivor, rights, reporting options, and additional resources, visit the website: http://sarc.usc.edu/

<u>Office of Equity and Diversity (OED)/Title IX Compliance – (213) 740-5086:</u> Works with faculty, staff, visitors, applicants, and students around issues of protected class. https://equity.usc.edu/

<u>Bias Assessment Response and Support:</u> Incidents of bias, hate crimes and microaggressions need to be reported allowing for appropriate investigation and response. https://studentaffairs.usc.edu/bias-assessment-response-support/

<u>The Office of Disability Services and Programs:</u> Provides certification for students with disabilities and helps arrange relevant accommodations. http://dsp.usc.edu

<u>Student Support and Advocacy – (213) 821-4710:</u> Assists students and families in resolving complex issues adversely affecting their success as a student EX: personal, financial, and academic. https://studentaffairs.usc.edu/ssa/

<u>Diversity at USC:</u> Information on events, programs and training, the Diversity Task Force (including representatives for each school), chronology, participation, and various resources for students. https://diversity.usc.edu/

<u>USC Emergency Information:</u> Provides safety and other updates, including ways in which instruction will be continued if an officially declared emergency makes travel to campus infeasible, http://emergency.usc.edu

<u>USC Department of Public Safety – 213-740-4321 (UPC) and 323-442-1000 (HSC):</u> For 24-hour emergency assistance or to report a crime. Provides overall safety to USC community. http://dps.usc.edu

LITERATURE

Cupers, Kenny. The Social Project - On the Complex Legacy of Postwar Housing in France. *Places Journal*, April 2014

Davidovici, Irina. "Co-op City - Utopia and Pragmatism in Zurich's Co-operative Housing." In *Housing the Co-op - A Micro-political Manifesto*, edited by Sascha Delz, Rainer Hehl and Patricia Ventura. Berlin: Ruby Press, 2020.

Hamdi, Nabeel. Housing Without Houses - Participation, Flexibility, Enablement. London: Intermediate Technology Publications, 1991.

LeCavalier, Jesse. Mental Liberty: Robert Owen's Utopian Machine. In *Collectiveze! Essays on the Political Economy of Urban Form Vol. 2,* edited by Marc Angélil and Rainer Hehl. Berlin: Ruby Press, 2013.

Madden, David, and Peter Marcuse. In Defense of Housing - The Politics of Crisis. London & New York: Verso, 2016.

P.M. a proposal. 2018.

Rainey, James. How affordable housing activists are trying to thwart cutthroat real estate capitalism. Los Angeles Times, Oct. 21, 2019

Rolnik, Raquel. Urban Warfare - Housing and Cities in an Age of Finance. London: Verso, 2019.

UN-Habitat. Fact Sheet No.21 – The Right to Adequate Housing. Geneva: United Nations, 2015.

COURSE SCHEDULE

1 – INNOVATIVE PROGRAMS

W01   Jan. 12   **Intro:** Course Introduction

W02   Jan. 19   **Input**: On Collective Challenges
                            EX 01 – Housing is a Personal Matter, Housing is a Collective Effort

W03   Jan. 26   **Reading**: On Collective Challenges

W04   Jan. 31   **Due**: EX 01 / 11pm
         Feb. 02   **Presentation**: Housing is a Personal Matter, Housing is a Collective Effort

2 – PRAGMATIC PRECEDENTS

W05   Feb. 09   **Input**: On Collective Typologies
                            EX 02 – Anything but Housing, Housing is Everything

W06   Feb. 16   **Reading**: On Collective Typologies

W07   Feb. 21   **Due**: EX 02 / 11pm
         Feb. 23   **Presentation**: Anything but Housing, Housing is Everything

3 – VISIONARY CASE STUDIES

W08   Mar. 02   **Input**: On Collective Utopias
                            EX 03 – Housing is Planned, Housing is Improvised

W09   Mar. 09   **Reading**: On Collective Utopias

W10   Mar. 16   **No Class:** Spring Break

W11   Mar. 21   **Due**: EX 03 / 11pm
         Mar. 23   **Presentation**: Housing is Planned, Housing is Improvised

4 – COLLECTIVE HOUSING COLLECTION

W12   Mar. 30   **Discussion**: On collective Housing / Course Recap
                            EX 04 – Housing is Profoundly Local, Housing is Inevitably Global

W13   Apr. 04   **Due**: Abstract / 11pm
         Apr. 06   **Work Session**: Individual Paper Discussion / Abstract

W14   Apr. 11   **Due**: Outline / 11pm
         Apr. 13   **Work Session**: Individual Paper Discussion / Outline & Bibliography

W15   Apr. 20   **Work Session**: Individual Paper Discussion / Draft & Graphics

W16   Apr. 25   **Due**: Final Draft / 11pm
         Apr. 27   **Work Session**: Individual Paper Discussionn / Final Draft

W17   May 05   **No Class:** Study Days / Exams

W18   May 12   **Final Paper:** Upload Final Paper (Blackboard) until May 12, 11:59 pm