

Housing design: back to the future

In the years since the Great Recession, housing production in this country has rebounded to near pre-crash levels, yet in many regions, we now have what is referred to as a "housing crisis", with an ever-increasing part of our population unable to afford appropriate housing. It is remarkable how little new housing meets our actual needs - much of it is too big, most of it is located in the wrong places, and almost all of it is too expensive. Housing is being produced for a fairly narrow band of the middle class, ignoring those of different needs, abilities, life stages, classes, and economic resources. At the same time there is a growing realization that looking back to housing types that were once widespread, but are now rarely built under current practices - the "missing middle" - may provide some of the answers for meeting our sustainability, urbanistic, demographic, economic and social needs.

This course will examine both the current and future forces that determine the nature of our housing. There will be an emphasis upon developing analytical skills and learning specific techniques to apply in developing housing proposals that are both realistic and visionary. These skills will be utilized in a series of projects, working with Eugene and Springfield planners and residents, to analyze typical sites for redevelopment, at a variety of scales. The intent of this course is to bring together in one place the basic information and principles needed to effect change in housing design, structured in such a way as to make it directly helpful as it is applied in the design process.

This is a general subject area class open to all students who have completed ARCH 384 or ARCH 682, but it also functions as the (required) preparation class required for all students registered in my 4/585 comprehensive housing studio.

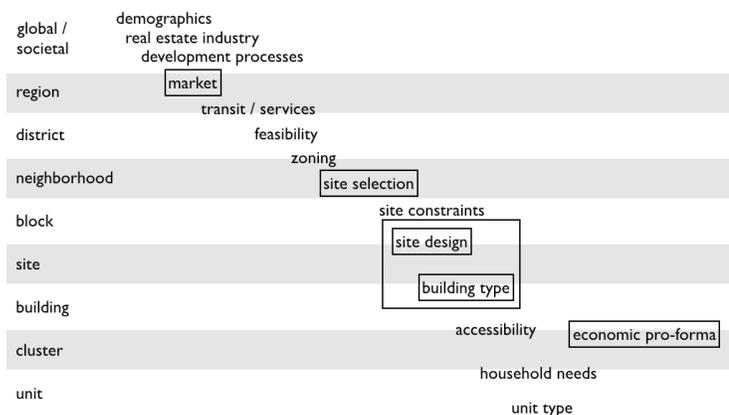


Copenhagen



Portland

Course content



Texts:

Required:

Course format

This course will meet twice a week, with presentations by the instructor and visitors, and in-class pin-ups of student projects.

Course requirements

Students will form teams of three (each led by a student enrolled in the following 4/585 studio) and complete a series of incremental pre-design projects (shown in boxes in the chart), building upon the material presented in lecture and readings; the sequence of these projects follows a protocol that can be used in conceiving and evaluating a housing project proposal. Taken together at the end of the term, these projects will form a housing project proposal and feasibility study which will then be used to begin the design process winter term.

Housing Design: a Manual. B. Leupen & H. Mooij
 Additional readings on course Canvas site