The design of housing is influenced by complex social, political and economic conditions. Housing architects must work within multiple layers of constraint, many of which are highly dynamic, changing over the course of a project. Understanding the external forces that act on the design and production of housing, will shed light on the challenge architects face when trying to create more sustainable, principled and beautiful housing. This course is organized by scale, moving from the dwelling to the building to the site; we will finish the semester by integrating the concepts and principles across scales.

The objectives of this seminar are: 1) to give designers the skills to predict and adapt to changing housing conditions; and 2) to guide students to develop the intuition needed to respond to unpredicted changes and to be able to discuss them intelligently.

Assignments

1. Engage: You are expected to participate in class discussions, field trips (within CU and to Chicago) and provide peer critique after presentations.

2. Respond: You will critically react– in writing– to a theory presented in the readings and illustrate the response with examples of existing housing projects.

3. Theorize: You will write a coherent, original housing theory.

4. Present: In teams of two, you will research the unique constraints on housing in a specific location, and present your analysis to the class.

5. Design: The final “exam” is a timed, conceptual design of a housing project.

Readings

The required course text is *Housing Design, A Manual*, by Leupen and Mooij. Additional required readings will be posted as pdfs online, or on reserve at Ricker.