

acknowledgments

I want to thank my mother and two grandmothers, for passing down their compassion, generosity and dedicating their lives to social work, humanitarian efforts and education. I thank you for showing me the power of united women in this great country.

My father, for his relentlessness in giving my two sisters and I the strength and confidence to achieve things beyond our own expectations.

My sisters and brother in law for never settling, constantly educating themselves and others around them to make this world a better place.

To Wentworth Institute of Technology's Architecture and Interior Design Departments for being an instrumental part of my life that has changed, challenged, and allowed me to grow.

To 2020, for challenging me in unpredicted and introspective ways.



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Chapter One Relevant Terms and Vocabulary

Gentrification - the renovation of houses and stores in deteriorated urban neighborhoods by upper- or middle-income families, individuals or institutions, raising property values but often displacing low-income families and small businesses

Redlining - a discriminatory practice by which banks, insurance companies, etc., refuse or limit loans, mortgages, insurance, etc., within specific geographic areas, especially inner-city neighborhoods

Black Lives Matter - a political and social movement originating among African Americans, emphasizing basic human rights and racial equality for Black people and campaigning against various forms of racism

Capitalism - an economic system in which investment in and ownership of the means of production, distribution, and exchange of wealth is made and maintained chiefly by private individuals or corporations, especially as contrasted to cooperatively or state-owned means of wealth

Blockbusting - the profiteering real-estate practice of buying homes from white majority homeowners below market value, based on the implied threat of future devaluation during minority integration of previously segregated neighborhoods

Philadelphia Badlands - a section of North Philadelphia and Lower Northeast are known for drug-related violence and homelessness, Neighborhoods include Fishtown, Fairhill, Glenwood, Stanton, Kensington

Social Housing - it's loosely defined criteria makes it hard to define but overall an accommodation provided by a governing entity for renting purposes

Affordable Housing - (often subjective) commonly considered to be housing in which the mortgage or rent payments, plus housing related taxes, insurance, and utilities, do not exceed 30% of gross annual income

Government Housing - (interchangeable with term : affordable housing) housing owned and managed by the federal or state government, which is rented out to tenants through the Department of Housing and Urban Development

Subsidized Housing - Subsidized housing is owned and operated by private owners who receive subsidies in exchange for renting to low- and moderate-income people. Owners may be individual landlords or forprofit or nonprofit corporations

Public Housing - housing provided for people with low incomes, subsidized by public funds, usually in a complex or multiple buildings

Ecology - the relations of organisms to one another and to their physical surroundings

Colonization - the action of appropriating a place or domain for one's own use

Michael Brown - an 18 year old black man fatally shot by 28 year old white Ferguson police officer in Missouri on August 9,2014, igniting unrest in the state and will be remembered as a catalyst for the Black Lives Matter movement

George Floyd - 46 year old black man suffocated to death in Minneapolis, Minnesota while being arrested for allegedly using a counterfeit bill, his death triggered worldwide protests against police brutality, police racism, and lack of police accountability

Breonna Taylor - 26 year old black woman who was fatally shot in her Louisville, Kentucky apartment by two white police officers leading to numerous protests against systemic racism and police brutality



Figure 2. Michael Brown



Figure 3. George Floyd



Figure 4. Breonna Taylor

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Chapter One Introduction

Celebrating Diverse Urban Ecologies: Progressing Social Housing's Infrastructure to Destabilize Racial Oppression

"Re-shaping cities is a necessary part of the solution to systemic racism." - Eliot Tretter (Shadows of a Sunbelt City)

Abstract

This thesis aims to expand urban ecologies prioritizing elements of a Social Housing complex to construct cross cultural, racial cn, multi-generational engagements within a urban setting. Celebrating diversification through reintegrating underutilized networks in gentrifying Philadelphia neighborhoods. Creating universal nodes of connection to alleviate contentious communities within a broken and racially oppressive system.

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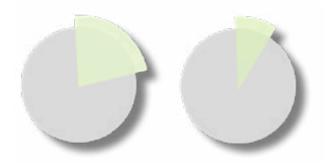
Argument

Cities are networks of individuals living side gentrified communities in the United States by side subconsciously inter-depending on one another. Urban Ecologies refers to how all people relate to one another and their larger surrounding urban context. Public space is seen as a defining measurement entirely. From the time period of 1900of the social health or attitude of cities. Public amenities, such as government funded housing is central to the health of an urban ecology as only 36 affordable 20%. Statistically speaking, gentrification is and available homes exist for every 100. Countries outside of the United States such as Austria, Japan, Denmark, and the United Kingdom see social housing complexes as a fundamental right of a Looking at Philadelphia, statistics prove healthy living environment regardless of race or class. Through researching these examples, necessary architectural elements simplify the success of multicultural and multigenerational living and exploit the need for inclusive complexes in the United States. Design elements and positive contributions of these complexes such as intentional axis' providing outreach to the rest of the city, visual connection to neighbors, private sense of place within a larger context, and access to non motorized transportation routes propagate democratic thinking within the scope of an architect's reach.

These design elements are achievable and can be used to combat the tension of

where it has become increasingly common for people of a higher socio-economic class to infiltrate that of a lower neighborhood in attempts to create a new cultural identity 2000 the rate of gentrification for the largest 50 United States cities measured 8.6%. Since then the rate has increased to most prevalent in cities such as Portland, Washington D.C., Minneapolis, Atlanta, and Oakland. These issues of prioritization cannot be divorced from the topic of race. that neighborhoods that fall victim to gentrification are largely of existing black and hispanic communities. Architects look to answer the question; How can city provide amenities such as government housing to renew our neighborhoods

Rates Increased for 39 of 50 Cities



2000 - 2020 20%

1900 - 2000 8.6%

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Chapter One Introduction

Rate of Gentrification by City (2010)



Figure 5. Gentrification Rates of the Largest 50 Cities.

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making them more tangible for people of different races in order to strengthen the urban ecology?

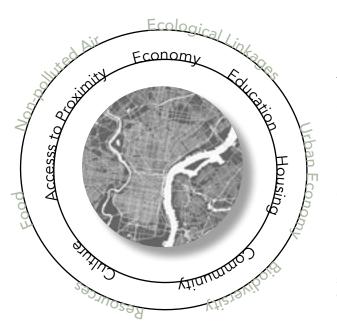
Jane Jacobs relates cities to ecologies, claiming the more diverse the gene pool, the more successful the city. She says, " Ecologies and cities have a lot in common in that they need great diversity to sustain themselves". Urban settings differ from suburbs in that the potential to unlock multicultural relationships are in close proximity at all times. The chances of stepping outside your door and interacting with someone of a different culture, race, or economic status is high in an urban setting. This thesis looks to celebrate and design opportunities of heterogeneous habitations, debunking the idea of a homogeneous and oppressive society.

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Proposal

This thesis looks to explore the prioritization can be explored through the lense of of a social housing complex that reintegrates underutilized alleys and streets in Fishtown, Pennsylvania, reconnecting a city that has succumbed to growing amounts and a means of access to Philadelphia's of gentrification, community contention, and racial inequality in the housing sector. Restructuring core social housing complexes combined with accessible urban streetscapes can be re-imagined to alleviate stress and provide opportunities of healthy social interaction. A healthy and inclusive surrounding environment Community Development Corporation can work to combat racism, advancing psychological thinking that will strengthen Administration in hopes to mitigate the diverse ecology of cities.

Scale is an important aspect of this project. Systemic racism in the housing industry



Scope

entire city blocks to individual streetscapes to singular buildings. This thesis looks to provide a small housing complex proximity Center City. Philadelphia Badlands are full of underutilized streetscapes that present an opportunity of transformation to serve the public. Philadelphia realizes the importance of a successful urban ecology, which is why they have implemented change through the New Kensington and the City of Philadelphia Housing gentrification and keep community connections. These organizations have funded projects revolving around quality government housing, implementation of community garden, and connective public greenways. This thesis looks to continue their work in hopes to create a city with a strong, healthy urban ecology.

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Figure 6. Human Ecology & Urban Ecology. The Center Map is of Philadelphia where the immediate ring surrounding it signifies the elements of a healthy urban ecology. Looking to a larger scale, the outermost ring represents successful elements of Human Ecology as a planet.

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Chapter 1 Introduction

2020, A Year For Change

Societal crises are continuing to surface as quarantine, lockdowns, and increasing Covid-19 cases become the harsh reality ascending into 2021. The polarization of our political systems have become overwhelmingly controversial, fueling indigestible amounts of national contention including but not limited to tumultuous racial riots, a global pandemic, humanitarian threat of climate change, the debate on women's reproductive rights, and the rise of depression, anxiety, and suicide rates as social media becomes an increasing presence in our everyday life.

Although some of these political, economic, and societal issues are not new, racial injustice and police brutality are a popular point of conversation at this time. Cases such as Michael Brown, George Flyod and Breonna Taylor have ignited an international uproar shedding light on the oppression and cruel ramification of capitalism in the United States.

Architecture, urban design and urban planning play a crucial role in how we view and move throughout our cities. It has the ability to foster community connections or serve as barriers to further push the United States the path of oppression and segregation. Ted Talk Speaker, Founder

of Hood Design Studio, and University of California Berkeley Speaker writes, "We've only had 50 plus years where we've actually lived together in an integrated way. We have close to 300 plus years of living separately". Architecture can inform the way we see each other, and dictate non-verbal ways of communication through space design.

Philadelphia serves as a precedent of divided political unrest. In a 2020 Presidential debate between Democrat Joe Biden and Republican Donald Trump, Mr. President prolifically stated, "...bad things happen in Philadelphia..." where poverty and violence evidently distract from the city's unimaginable beauty and instrumentally culturally rich history. More than one fourth of Philadelphia's population live below the poverty line, averaging about \$19,700 a

"The public spaces in cities are what connects us all, the higher quality and quantity of these public spaces make a more unified, stronger city." - Jane Jacobs

year for an adult with two children. The city is plagued with the title of holding the second highest poverty rate comparing the twenty six most populated cities in the United States.

This presents challenges in choosing an architectural site amongst the daunting chaos of instability and racial prejudice. Barack Obama, one of the best speakers of our time, states, "Change will not come if we wait for some other person or some other time. We are the ones we've been waiting for. We are the change that we seek". If 2020 has taught me anything, it is that more challenges present greater opportunity and growth for necessary restructuring and reconnecting of our past ways of thinking. Imperative rehabilitation amongst the urban fabric of one of the most historically significant cities, home to the Liberty Bell, Betsy Ross House, and the infamous Rocky Balboa Statue. Some of the best Medical Institutions reside in Philadelphia, including the University of Pennsylvania Hospital, Jefferson Health - Thomas Jefferson University Hospitals, and Children's Hospital of Philadelphia. The city of Brotherly Love is full of soulful, passionate, and tirelessly hard-working people. It's people deserve to be treated with fairness and equal opportunities.

The potential role of architecture as a catalyst for racial change is expressed through many interdisciplinary sectors. Social Housing, a term lacking an overarching dictionary meaning, presents itself with misunderstandings of who and how people occupy these "government subsidized" complexes. The idea is deceivingly simple, to provide housing for those who cannot financially afford it themselves. However, the complexity of the housing crisis in the United States is vast and infinite in the multitude of deeply researched avenues to create quality government housing that is uplifting and enjoyable for its occupants. Social Housing in the United States carries a heavy reputation, one affiliated with poverty and depression. This thesis looks to reimagine this image in order to provide a cultural hub where the exchange of ideas and active community contribution is prioritized in an urban setting. The lack of economic incentive to better social housing options come from our profit-driven capitalistic society. The plethora of literature and relative authors such as Samuel Stein, author of "Capital City", argue that the United States lack of prioritization of affordable housing and the deliberate oppression of minority groups through practices such as redlining

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Chapter One Introduction



Figure 7. Philadelphia Slum Housing (placeholder image) add text

and blockbusting feed the all too prevalent housing injustice debates that have been going on for decades. Race, a social construct of the human mind which has been normalized by our societies oppressive laws and standards enforced by political and economic institutions, is an integral conflict in the discussion of social housing. Studies show that the majority of people living in some form of government funded housing are not white.

The scope of research on the topics of systemic racism in housing, targeted gentrification, and lack of adequate government housing is a popular area of focus for theorists, architects, psychologists, and urban designers. For good reason, it looks to help one of our nation's biggest humanitarian problems of homelessness. American Capitalism has led to this country's abundance of economic prosperity and political power, but

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our obsession for profit distracted us from Acculpa peribusam, cum nonemo ommolup addressing humanitarian crises such as tumquid minullautes am qui susapic iducius equal opportunity in housing? In Vienna, Austria the right to housing is resolutely thesis is rooted in Authors dating back to the late 1960's well into the current times. From Jane Jacobs to more contemporary writings by who are the biggest people writing about United States social housing.

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prioritized by it's political institutions. Uptia vellam intumqui conse que optius It's immense history allows us to gather et quis dit exeritatem el erchil ium dolorio perspectives. The literature behind this etusam quatectaquia nam, volorem corrovit essimus ipsum alis aspiet dollorest faccus molorit exero volorit volupta siti nihit etur moloribus derferferum volori repudaere nimusam lam que con conseque commolupta sunt lit ma voluptaessi beate



Figure 8. International Social Housing Collage

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Personal Narrative

system that has been designed specifically for my social and economic success. Race into the fabric of our society, including our economic and political institutions. It touches everything we as humans do and urban ecology.

subject of race from the perspective of a demanded. white woman, but I look to educate myself and take the responsibility of a designer to understand that my professional choices in life can affect people of all different races, classes and cultures.

I have not experienced maltreatment or abuse in the housing industry, but I am passionate to be a part of a movement that looks towards inclusivity in this sector. Slavery, and race's symbiotic relationship to civilization is of vital importance when comparing the technicality of our social construct. Our built environment is a technical practice which can support or begin to dismantle racism in our country. This thesis in part is a way for me to learn about topics that I have not previously taken the time to educate myself on. I look to be a part of a better system for myself, and the network of people around me.

Target Audience

Growing up a white privileged woman, the This thesis looks to educate those who, like myself, knew little about the injustices of government housing and gentrification in continues to be a highly controversial topic an urban setting. For those who love the in the United States. It is deeply woven crossovers between politics, architecture, and race; looking for new and innovative ways to explore this well studied and well researched topic. This thesis also looks to affects every aspect of the health of an continue to challenge the ideas brought up during this monumental time in history, where politics are radically polarized and It is interesting to base a project on the movements of racial change is being

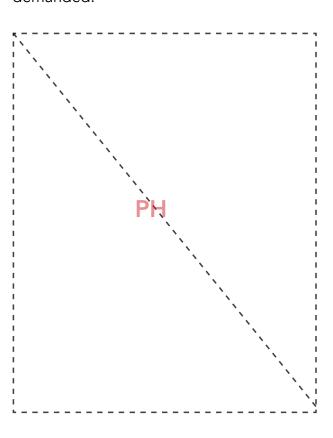


Figure 9. Image Personal Tie

Thesis Book Breakdown

Chapter 1 : Introduction

This section informs the scope of the project, design proposal, and includes background information as to why it is necessary to reprioritize government housing in the City of Philadelphia. Statistical evidence of gentrification and displacement are shown and explained throughout this chapter in the argument and the abstract early on. It also defines terms and vocabulary talked about in the writing, allowing the reader to fully follow along.

Chapter 2: Literature Review

The literature review serves as evidence of research and also looks to make connections throughout authors, academics, and victims of displacement. Using an array of primary, secondary, and debatable sources strengthen the argument of this thesis. This review teases out the debate within gentrification and urban renewal, from professionals. Parallels in theories of urban landscape and private space within a public housing complex are explored in depth as well.

Chapter 3: Design Research

This chapter looks to analyze specific precedents and present multiple design tests implemented specifically in a philadelphia site.

Chapter 4: Outcomes

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Chapter 5 : Critical Reflection

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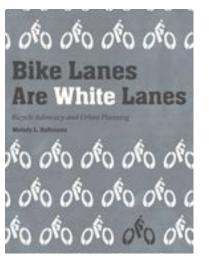
Chapter Two

Chapter 2 : Literature Review

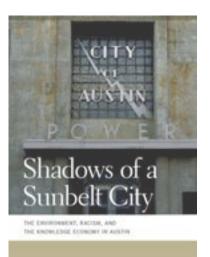
Introduction

Architecture informing racial construct continues to be a highly controversial topic in the United States. The available literature on this topic is extensive. This literature review has explored early 1900's authors like William Du Bois to 1960's author Jane Jacobs stretching to current bodies of work from Robin DiAngelo, Ijeoma Oluo, and Michelle Alexander. These sources are grounded in topics outside the immediate realm of architecture, but have been made relevant through the forum of social housing. A pool of debatable first hand accounts have been added to this literature review for the intention of perspective and validity. A special focus on the first hand accounts of displacement and victims of the injustices of systemic racism have been used to draw common themes together. This thesis began with the exploration of Jane Jacobs and her celebrated framework for a successful Urban Ecology. Using that as a baseline, modern authors of varying topics such as Eliot Tretter, Melody L. Hoffman, and Samuel Stein have been layered onto this initial starting point to offer "fresh eyes" in designing the components of a great city. The sources vary from secondary first hand accounts to primary academic studies and statistical analyses, academic sources being the majority. The breath of individuals and collaborators, both common pedestrians and academics have been used to strengthen the perspectives and have drawn strong conclusions for future designs.

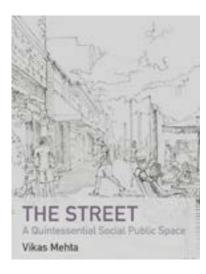
THE DEATH
AND LIFE
OF GREAT
AMERICAN
CITIES
JANE JACOBS

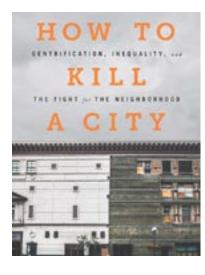


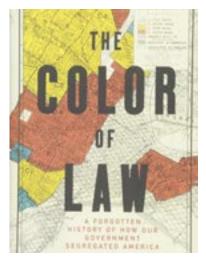














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Figure 10. Body of Literature Explored for this Review

Chapter Two

Impact of Displacement

The physical devastation of colonised countries has been studied and documented throughout history. Studies now look to connect parallels between colonisation and modern day forms of gentrification and oppression in the housing sector, such as redling and blockingbusting. Radical connections claim displacement as a form of violence, severing the connection between people and places where ethnic groups, women groups, and vulnerable working class people have been systematically lacking opportunity of expansion and economic success. Peter L. Laurence's, Ph.D in Architecture and Masters in Architectural History and Theory from the University of

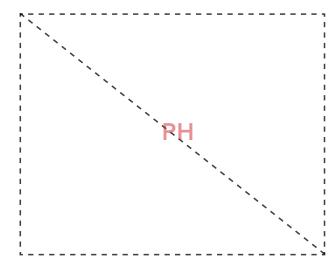


Figure 11. Pyschological Effects of Displacement add text

Pennsylvania, academic writings allow him to accurately understand and dissect the ramifications of oppressing and displacing minority communities in cities. Laurence roots many of his own ideas to Jane Jacob's iconic book "The Death and Life of Great American Cities" sharing thoughts in inclusive city planning which alone cannot cure systemic racism but help forge social relationships. Both authors look to public space as the unifying element of a healthy urban ecology. Jane Jacobs explores the psychological ties of people and sense of place, writing "public spaces in cities are what connects us all, the higher quality and quantity of these public spaces make a more unified, stronger city" referring to public space as the "essence of city life". Laurence prioritizes the importance of instilling a sense of pride in "slum areas" into the minds of people who have been unfairly driven there through redlining and blacklisting neighborhoods. He presents possible design solutions in restructuring our communities to prioritize access to proximity to underdeveloped neighborhoods, where he has concluded people of color are offered unfair disadvantages by city planning. Jane Jacob's original idea of "people become their environments" deals with an issue

beyond the physical barriers of space, instead touches on the psychological realm of this topic.

parallels between Gentrification Colonisation have been made before. In The article, "Moving beyond Marcuse" authors Adam Elliott-cooper, Phil Hubbard, and Loretta Lees make the argument exposing the violence of un-homing, a negative outcome of gentrification, by severing the connection between community and culture. Sharing the common idea with Jane Jacobs, these authors claim that displacement is a part of a greater systemic issue. Although Elliott-cooper, Hubbard and Lees do not use specific data in their article, they speak to the challenges of distinguishing voluntary vs forced displacement in an urban setting. The complexity of gentrification poses many counterarguments about our capitalistic society and the success of prof-driven real estate as a means of "bettering" our neglected communities. This writing suggests reprioritize of government housing as a possible design solution but is not ignorant to the multi-leveled complexity of the topic. The dictionary definition of Gentrification does not shed light on the



Figure 12. Gentrification in Philadelphia Neighborhood.

severity of its immediate effects on mental health where emotional and psychological ramifications of colonisation have been less openly documented. The debate on urban renewal is extensive. Is gentrification a form of progression or destruction? The range and depth of the topic has been explored since Ruth Glass coined the term in 1964.

In the book, "Justice and the American Metropolis", authors Clarissa Rile Hayward and Todd Swanstrom discuss the invisibility of gentrification. A difficult to see, and even more difficult to assign responsibility for residential segregation. Explaining the process of municipalities establishing a specific price of a neighborhood making it out of reach to a targeted group of individuals, the book advocates for economic shifts towards socialism and neoliberalism

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Chapter Two Literature Review

barriers to wellness psychological effects of gentrification

- Heightened risk for poor health because lack of access to high quality nutrition, medical care, child care, stable housing, public greenspace, and hospitals
- lack of support, opportunities, experience, and
- young people are under stress feeling unsafe and mistrusting police, leading to anxiety and avoidance of public places
- stress caused by lack of transportation to jobs, hospitals, family members, connection to the rest of the city
- displacement related to changes in access to green space, air pollution, and walkability all factors necessary for wellness
 - **New Kensington Community Development Corporation (NKCDC)** and the City of Philadelphia, NKCDC's efforts to mitigate gentrification.
 - cultural appropriation can be seen as the theft and hollowing out of culture, place, and people into commodities
 - as a new form of colonialism to some

financial health

lowest employment rates in the last 50 years

Increased credit card score for those who stayed in the area

- 44% of workers ages 18-64 are in lowwage jobs
- **38 million** Americans remain in poverty

extremely low income renters are more likely to be seniors or people with disabilities

only 36 affordable and available homes exist for every 100 extremely low income renter households

> pushed out of communities because housing becomes too expensive for families to stay there

severance of people and place, seen

Old Fishtowners being pushed out to Suburban

displacement

Figure 13. Venn Diagram of Gentrification and Displacement

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in order to combat the thickened injustice of the system. However, researchers such as Francis Pearman of Stanford University writes extensively outlining the counterargument of gentrification. He writes, "the demolition of public housing may lead displaced households to take up residence in safer residential communities with more educational opportunities, or it might displace households to virtually identical neighborhoods but those in which these households have fewer social ties". Mentioning an increase of children's academic achievement, environmental conditions, and residential stability that come with a gentrified neighborhood. The social realization and overall prioritization of mental health in our 21st century now document and study the effects of displaced communities. Conclusively, John R. Logan and Benjamin Bellman's argument in "Before the Philadelphia Negro" elaborate on the framework presented by authors like Jane Jacobs and Adam Elliott-Cooper. Drawing connections to Reinhold Martins argument of silence as oppression, by examining the city of Philadelphia with new data sources such as grid-cell data in GIS from the years of 1850-2010, the accuracy of the research shows that African Americans congregate to specific areas in Philadelphia, unevenly distributed among whites and generally

"hidden" away in alleys and short streets adjacent to larger predominantly white streets. This data confirms that segregation is still prevalent in cities today and has existed since the 1850's, where we see Du Bois's ideas proven by effectiveness of spatial data, new methodologies prove more accurate readings of our cities demographics. The landscape of gentrification can look like new high rise apartments juxtaposed to older residential communities, as well as lively bakeries, bars, and exercise studios. Although we know gentrification and displacement exists, further documentation and data needs to be brought forth to prove the negative impacts of displacement in order



Figure 14. The Landscape of Gentrification in Philadelpia.

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Literature Review

to denormalize the injustices happening in the housing market.

researchers explore ways of documenting displacement through statistical analysis, new tests focus on the psychological impacts. Authors Nrupen A. Bhavsar, Manish Kumar and Laura Richman help define gentrification for epidemiologic research. Data collected from over 36 sources have led to a cumulative research suggesting the psychosocial, environmental, physical, and mental health problems of gentrification. Potential bias arises from the six studies that were self-reported health outcomes that were not specifically diagnosed by a doctor or psychologist. This study showed that the greater exposure to active green spaces, walkability, and clean air all contributed to less mental health challenges. This solidifies Eliot Tretter's assessment of "High Quality Life" elements in developing Austin, Texas.

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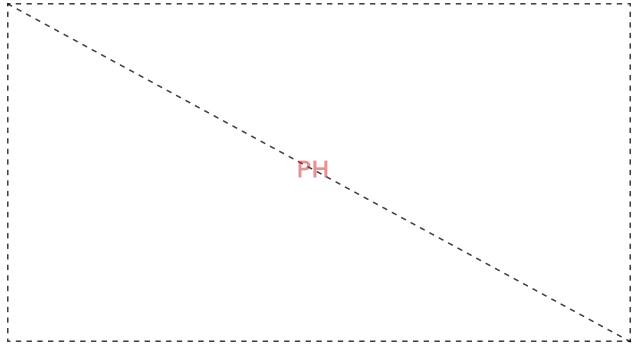


Figure 15. Photo of Chicago

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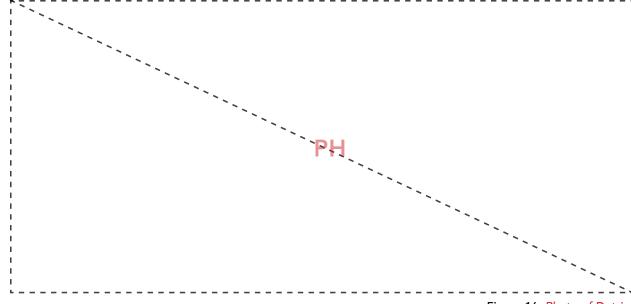


Figure 16. Photo of Detriot

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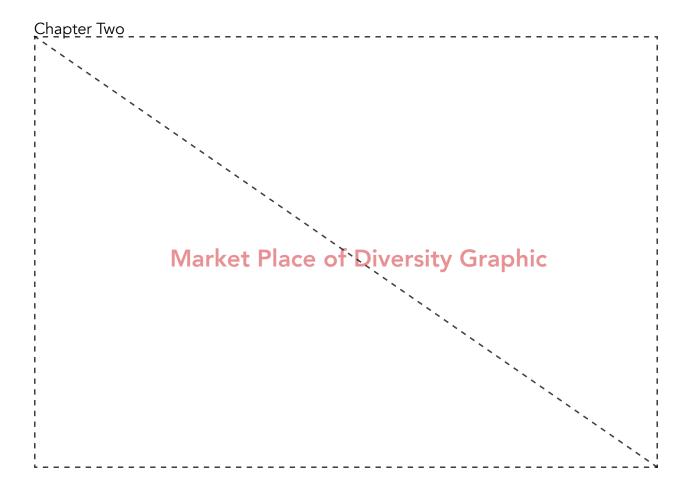


Figure 17. Market Place of Diversity Graphic

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Ecological Diversity

Cities are ecosystems. When Jane Jacobs spoke about the ecology of cities, she stated "the difference between natural and city ecologies is the integration of ethics". The question of humanity's profound role and effect on urban environments has been one hundreds of theorists have tried to address. Authors such as Eliot M. Tretter, "Shadows of a sunbelt City: The environment, Racism, and the knowledge Economy in Austin" have tried to make sense of the effects of rapid urbanisation. This urban geographer with an expertise in the Political Economy of Contemporary Urbanization, questions the accuracy of labeling Austin, Texas as a success story of inclusivity and anti-racism while Mary E. Triece examines the rapid urbanisation in Cleveland, Ohio. Both authors articulate

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the need for opportunities of growth, development, and expansion of city services. Triece specifically discusses the need for a "Marketplace of Diversity" in an urban setting going off of the neoliberalism belief in individual potential and societal progress enabling a post acknowledgment/celebration of difference. Jane Jacobs continues to urge the importance of instilling a sense of pride in "slum areas" into the minds of people who have been unfairly driven there through redlining and blacklisting neighborhoods presenting a critical design question: How can intentional city planners facilitate a sense of community and pride through physical space in areas that are seen as crime ridden, impoverished, and altogether unenjoyable to inhabit?

Ethical Ecologies

Silence is used as a form of oppression in the same way dismantling opportunity and accessibility to the city is a form of systemic racism. According to recent studies done by The Center for Promise under America's Promise Alliance under Linda Sprague Martinez, children of color make up the largest percentage of youth in cities. It is valuable to gather information from minority youth perspectives in order to understand how to provide opportunities

youth. This research was partnered with Nuestro Futuro Saludable and drew conclusions centered around youth avoiding public places because of the stress and anxiety of police interactions, lack of high quality nutrition options, and feeling unwelcome in predominantly white areas. The lack of accessibility to these basic needs immediately put them at a disadvantage in an urban setting. Similarly, Melody L. Hoffmann, author of Bike Lanes are White Lanes: Bicycle Advocacy and Urban Planning expands on this idea using non-motorized routes of transportation in urban settings as convenient ways to get from point A to B, but as an opportunity to foster community engagement. Melody Hoffmann argues that traditional bike lanes in urban settings are designed for the white male stereotype, excluding those of color and the disabled from naturally integrating onto bike trails. Both Hoffman and Martinez agree that the lack of accessibility through transportation is a form of systemic racism and oppression, addressing this issue through design presents itself an opportunity to connect people in an urban setting. This ties into the conversation presented by Francis Pearman about a child's academic achievement suffering in low socioeconomic neighborhoods.

and support systems for underprivileged

add footnotes

Chapter Two Literature Review

Natural Ecologies

ecologies refer Natural to living organisms and their relation to the physical environment and the nonphysical factors and processes. Having access to a successful natural ecology, strengthens the urban ecology and allows people their right to clean water, food, air and greenspace. Charles Waldheim explores the relationships between Urban Development and Landscape Urbanism in the essay titled On Landscape, Ecology and other Modifiers of Urbanism. Waldheim emphasizes the importance of time and careful integration of future possibilities through the field of Landscape Urbanism, stating that the current method of study does not focus on the severity of how rapid urbanization negatively impacts our physical environment and overall effect on the planet. Balancing cultural relevance and environmental survival can be more thoroughly explored in the lens of fostering deep connections through space.

Landscape Urbanism can and should be guides for urban development, utilizing methods such as topography as an organizer of space, systems of layering urban ecologies, and relation to hydrology as indicators of successful city design. Waldheim's body of ideas and presentation of references/examples earn him credibility

and compose an overall conclusive and considerate argument. Adriaan Geuze, Frits Palmboom, and Mohsen Mostafavi join the conversation in agreeing that conjoined ecologies and urbanism can provide methods of realignment for our cities, emcumbassing a plethora of perspectives that can address current and future possibilities. Not only do natural ecologies take necessary environmental factors into consideration, small scale integration of these ecologies can give communities Jane Jacob's idea of "sense of pride" and responsibility within an urban context. Waldheim argues that urban design struggles to keep up with rapid urbanization, calling for new strategies in order to cope. All four authors agree that landscape urbanism is an underdeveloped and separate field that can be the medium of urban, economic and social order if investigated and understood properly.

"Landscape urbanism can be a strategy giving voice to restorative and resistive social and cultural formation of territories"

add footnotes



Adriaan Geuze elaborates on landscape urbanism as a catalyst Figure 18. Radical Landscape Urbanism in Philadelphia for social change in his essay, "Second Nature". He suggests Context specific design solutions such as "layering urban ecologies, taking into consideration historical, physical, economic value and cultural significance, relationship between land and water". Exploring the ideas of greenery used as a method to define edges of neighborhoods, topography as an organizer of space, and landscape as structural element to guide urbanism. Environmental gentrification deals with the dilemma of "just green enough", a term used to describe initiatives to make green spaces smaller and less beautiful in low-income communities in

order to combat environmental gentrification. This approach is

seen as unjust and undeserving for the members of low-income

add footnotes

Χ

Chapter Two Literature Review



Figure 19. Adriaan Gueze project for West 8 showing waters edge

communities. Quality urban greenways provide social, health, connective green spaces at the and environmental benefits to their residents.

> This idea is explored by Alessandro Rigolon, Samuel J. Keith, Brandon Harris, Lauren E. Mullenbach, Lincoln R. Larson, and Jaclyn Rushing. This team of professionals are all a part of the higher education world, them being doctoral students or assistant professors of various backgrounds at major universities such as University of Georgia, University of Utah, and University of Arizona. They wrote the article, "More than 'Just Green Enough': Helping Park Professionals Achieve Equitable Greening and Limit Environmental Gentrification" to address the injustice of unfair distribution of quality greenspace in low income areas. Ideas from Waldheim and Geuze directly align with their way of thinking, concluding that it is essential for low income communities to have quality green spaces and public spaces to feel safe and enjoyable in.

> > add footnotes

City Ecologies

The role of affordable housing in the United States cannot be dissociated from the conversation of gentrification and displacement in the literature world. Controversy arises based on perspective. This important aspect of city planning is seldom taken into consideration when urban planners and architects work to please real estate developers and clients with agendas of their own. Samuel Stein tackles and critiques our society's lack of affordable housing prioritization in "Capital City". Arguing that the growing obsession with real estate profit has resulted in the lack of knowledge and care for the social ramifications of the explosive transformation of urbanization.

Injustices surrounding the tangibility of providing adequate housing for extremely low income families in the United States reveal the struggles of people in the most vulnerable positions. Social Housing in Europe does not have the stigmatization that plaques the United States. Housing is seen as an opportunity without judgement in European countries such as Ireland, Austria, Denmark, England, France, and Germany. The prioritization of disabled people, homeless people, and families with small children showcases the empathy

add footnotes

of governing policies in some European and Eastern Countries.

A new approach to the design of government housing is discussed by Architect Paul Karakusevic, who has designed social housing developments for the better part of his career. An advocate in dismantling the "one size fits all" strategy for UK's public housing, he stresses the importance in quality design and materiality for successful social housing models. This includes but is not limited to extra outdoor amenity space, access to natural light and ventilation, greenspace, and good quality building material. Kings Crescent Estate is a well-known project in



Figure 20. Interior View of Kings Cresant Estate.

add text

Chapter Two



Figure 21. Visual Connection between facades of Social Housing Complex at King's Cresant Estate by Karakusevic Architects.

add layer of detail to image

London. It's landscaped courtyards, dynamic playspaces and civic infrastructure welcome it as an inclusive space for all. The Nightingale Estate was also completed in London, it includes the delivery of 400 mixed-tenure homes. "The aim of our master plan is to transform the currently inward looking estate into a well-connected and permeable urban neighbourhood by enhancing connections between the existing disparate neighbourhoods within the estate." - Karakusevic Carson Architects. These elements of successful European social housing examples present solutions to the housing problems brought about by Jane Jacobs, John R. Logan, Adam Eliot-Cooper and point out the differences between the United States versus European priorities discussed by Samuel Stein in "Capital City". Melissa Fernandez, Christine Whitehead and

subject in the book, "Social Housing in Europe". This cohesive book written by highly educated specialists in housing, finance, economics, research consultants, and urban developers paints a picture of the necessity of social housing in urban settings in order to discourage homelessness, poverty and crime from infiltrating cities.

Kathleen Scanlon offer their view on the

Possible solutions to these social and political problems have been proposed in the United States. An example of this can be found in Fishtown, Philadelphia, a gentrified neighborhood where cultural tensions between community members are strong. Complexes such as Awesometown have become a normalized way of integrating market priced and government subsidized housing in order to bridge gaps between community members. The New Kensington Community Development Corporation in Philadelphia teamed up with a public/private collaborator Postgreen Homes to build the first of multiple 14 unit affordable housing options for the "up and coming" area. Awesomeness Townhouses provide four units to be half the price of the remaining ten units in the complex. This example of inclusivity questions whether housing can be seen as a connecting factor in order to combat the

negative effects of gentrification. Similar examples of these complexes are being studied in Vienna, Austria as well. Andreas Rumpfhuber, Michael Klein, and Georg Kolmayr connect with Mary E. Triece's ideas about establishing a "marketplace of diversity" in housing complexes in order to facilitate communal engagement. Both sources believe social housing is meant to manage scarcity and serves as an example of a neoliberal economic system that is considered successful and thriving.

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Ecologies and Cities

Cities are socially motivated. They are designed to oppress certain groups of people so other communities have the ability to thrive. Integrating a marketplace for diversity in our cities offer people the opportunity to thrive collectively.

How can we offer accessible pathways to success for those who are forced into oppression?

Triece, Mary E. (pg. 615-622)

Ecologies and Cities

Moving to a slum can "downgrade" a person [People become their environment because they are so influenced by their surroundings] Public space is the essence of urban

Can architecture create movement through public spaces to foster connections between different social nodes in an urban setting?

Laurence, Peter L. (pg. 30-37)

Environmental Gentrification

Connection

Community Gardens can be seen as a stamp of cultural identity. In this study conducted in Philadelphia, Pennsylvania, community gardens are studied as a social and cultural aspect of the neighborhood.

How can we give community leaders responsibilities in urban green space to represent neighborhoods of all colors?

Pearsall, Hamil, Sheila Gachuz, Marcel Rodriguez Sosa, Birgit Schmook, Hans Wal, and Maria Amalia Gracia. (pg. 7-10)

International Social Housing

Dismantling the "one size fits all" strategy for public housing, the importance in quality design and materiality for successful social housing models is prevalent in Europe. This includes but is not limited to extra outdoor amenity space, access to natural light and ventilation, greenspace, and good quality building material.

What attributes can be added to social housing to offer munities individual appreciation and care during the design process?

Karakusevic, Paul. (pg.12-63)

Physical Segregation Of Communities

Connection

Bike Lanes are designed for upwardly mobile white people that generally ride for enjoyment rather than necessity. Non-motorized forms of transportation

How do we find intersections in non-motorized routes of transportation that allow riders out of necessity and rides out of leisure to co-exist?

Hoffmann, Melody L. (pg. 20-62)

Displacement as a Form of Violence

Stripping people of their identity greatly ruptures the effects of how someone can contribute to a society. Great cities provide opportunities for all.

How can gentrification become an opportunity to house people of cross cultures and facilitate multi-generation/ inclusive housing for all members of the community?

Elliott-Cooper, Adam, Phil Hubbard, and Loretta Lees. (pg.493-499)

International Social Housing

The prioritization of disabled people, homeless people, and families with small children showcases the empathy of governing policies in some European Countries

Can urban renewal be positive for all members of the community if provided the opportunity to live in quality housing owned by government associations instead of individual people or organizations?

Arrigoitia, Melissa Fernandez, Christine Whitehead, and Kathleen Scanlon. (pg. 53-82)

International Social Housing (Vienna)

Connection

Vienna's social housing is seen as luxurious and desirable for all people, not just those who need the financial help to afford it. Sharing the same clients in the housing market keeps the quality of social housing to high standards.

How can the complexity of social housing be represented through creatively working within a system that does not embrace neoliberal democratic housing beliefs?

Rumpfhuber, Andreas, Michael Klein, and George Kolmayr. (pg. 89-93)

Displacement as a Form of Violence

Connection

Rapid urbanization can be a catalyst for gentrification. Especially in cities that have a central University or School at its core. Re-shaping our cities includes understanding the prominent role of our educational institution and the effects of rapid urban development.

What role do Universities/Colleges play in the fight against

Tretter, Eliot. (pg.53-76)

Urban Renewal in Fishtown, PA

Connection
Philadelphia is making an effort to bridge the gaps between wealthy new residents of Fishtown and older lower income residents. Viewing both these communities as contributing and important members of society shows the progressive and encouraging initiatives of the city.

How can the older and younger residents live in a gentrifying area without causing tension?

Kupersmith, Samantha. (pg.10-12)

Barriers to Wellness - Low Income Communities

Credit scores serve as an indicative tool of loaner liability and can be seen as a measurement of one's individual financial health. Gentrification is often talked about in terms of residential displacement and the injustices of forcing long-time members of the community to relocate because of the financial pressures of higher socioeconomic people moving into a community.

Ding Lei, and Hwang Jackelyn. (pg.16-22)

International Social Housing (Vienna)

Connection

The urgency of the Austrian government to provide adequate and enjoyable housing for those who cannot afford it. Courtyards, access to sunlight, walking trails, and natural ventilation are all aspects of these social housing complexes provided.

What are some other design aspect of successful European Social Housing models?

Sudas, Ilknur. (pg.14-34)

Barriers to Wellness - Low Income Communities

Connection

Heightened risk for poor health because of lack of access to high quality nutrition, medical care, child care, stable housing, public spaces, hospitals, and public transportation. Young people feel unsafe, mistrust and fear police, and avoid public places.

How can architecture inform spatial distribution of power?

Martinez, Linda Sprague. (pg.18)

Domestic Social Housing

ConnectionGentrification causes tension between the old and new community members, making it difficult to accept the changing socioeconomic class of the neighborhood. Affordable houses options that utilize a mix of market value town homes and government funded town homes can foster community engagement.

Can visual connection to neighbors create positive or negative reactions in an urban setting?

Romero, Melissa, (pg.7-9)

Ecologies and Cities

Connection

African Americans congregate in specific areas in Philadelphia, unevenly distributed among whites and generally "hidden" away in alleys and short streets adjacent to larger predominantly white streets.

How can alley ways and side streets largely inhabited by African American communities begin to be desegregated and re-imagined as a design which fosters face to face

interaction between cross cultures?

Logan, John R., and Benjamin Bellman. (pg.40)

Displacement as a Form of Violence

Studies show that greater exposure to green spaces, walk ability, and clean air all contribute to less mental health challenges in an environment. Gentrification and displacement cause psychosocial and physical separation between groups of people.

How can urban planners design in ways that mitigate the unseen challenges of gentrification?

Bhavsar, Nrupen A., Manish Kumar, and Laura Richman. (pg.14-24)

Systemic Racism

Built Environment

Primary

Secondary

Debatable

X

Chapter Two

Bibliography



Chapter Three

Fishtown, Philadelphia

Fishtown is known for its funky restaurant, bar scene, countless breweries and nightlife which attracts the younger generation. Located in the Philadelphia Badlands, which is a section of North Philadelphia and Lower Northeast are known for drug-related violence and homelessness. Landscape is characterized by vacant brick warehouses, and tightly packed strips of row houses. Puerto Ricans, African Americans, and Dominican Americans make up the majority of the residents there. More than 1/4 of Philadelphians live below the poverty line, which is about \$19,700 a year for an adult and two children at home. 22.9% of people living in New Kensington are below the poverty line. The area is being gentrified by the city currently, especially Fishtown where a lot of youth has moved into. N Ford St connects you directly to Center City Philadelphia passing parks, schools, community centers, breweries, etc. Turning this site into a non-motorized bike and pedestrian route would be extremely beneficial in connecting this community to the rest of the city.

Talk about William Julius Wilson (1987 Book The Truly Disadvantaged) argued that socioeconomic decline of inner city neighborhood during 1970's and 1980's

was a consequence of post industrialization during down demand for low skilled labor in urban neighborhoods. Connect to Fishtown* and the Great Depression, discuss landcape of what Fishtown looks like.

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"After years of dizzying change, Fishtown is now at a crossroads: How does a place keep its soul while moving into the future? An evolved neighborhood – lifers and artists and hipsters and millennials and families – looks forward, its sights on developing, diversifying and preserving." -

Philadelphia Magazine



Figure 23. Fishtown, Philadelphia

add text

Total Population: 16,307

White - 85.8%

Black - 13%

Hispanic - 5.5%

Asian - 3.6%

Mixed - 1.4%



Figure 24. Racial Breakdown of Fishtown, Philadelphia

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Chapter Three CLEAN UP GRAPHICS*

Design as Research

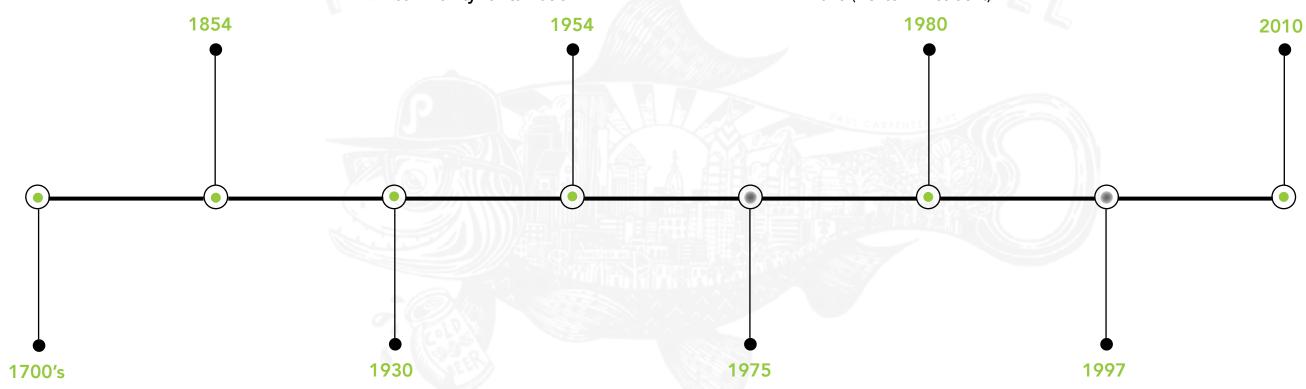
History of Fishtown, Philadelphia

Kensington and Fishtown officially became part of Philadelphia

New Kensington Community Development Corporation founded by Neighborhood Advisory Committee. Initiatives to rehabilitate vacant buildings, setting up housing programs and assisting in energy usage. Strengthen the physical, social, and economic fabric of the community by being a catalyst for sustainable development and community revitalization.

Drugs started coming in, and that whole area under the El really started to deteriorate. It seemed like there was always something burning down. The riverfront was becoming kind of desolate. And the 1980s is when the crack cocaine started, and that was a scourge on the Earth. So that whole neighborhood just went under. - Milano (Fishtown Resident)

Fishtown becomes incredibly desirable to the **younger generation.** Wealthy individuals and developers begin to flood the area causing an increase in home prices. **Gentrification** full fledge by 2012.



Adopted Fishtown Name: Originated from the shad fishing industry that began there, as well as shipbuilding and repair industries. More than ½ Fishtown's residents had jobs relating to marine fare. The textile industry came to Fishtown with the same force as shipbuilding.

As a result of the Great Depression, most of the industries disappeared in Fishtown leading to **high unemployment and population loss**. Combined with vacant properties caused increase in crime, violence, and squatting.

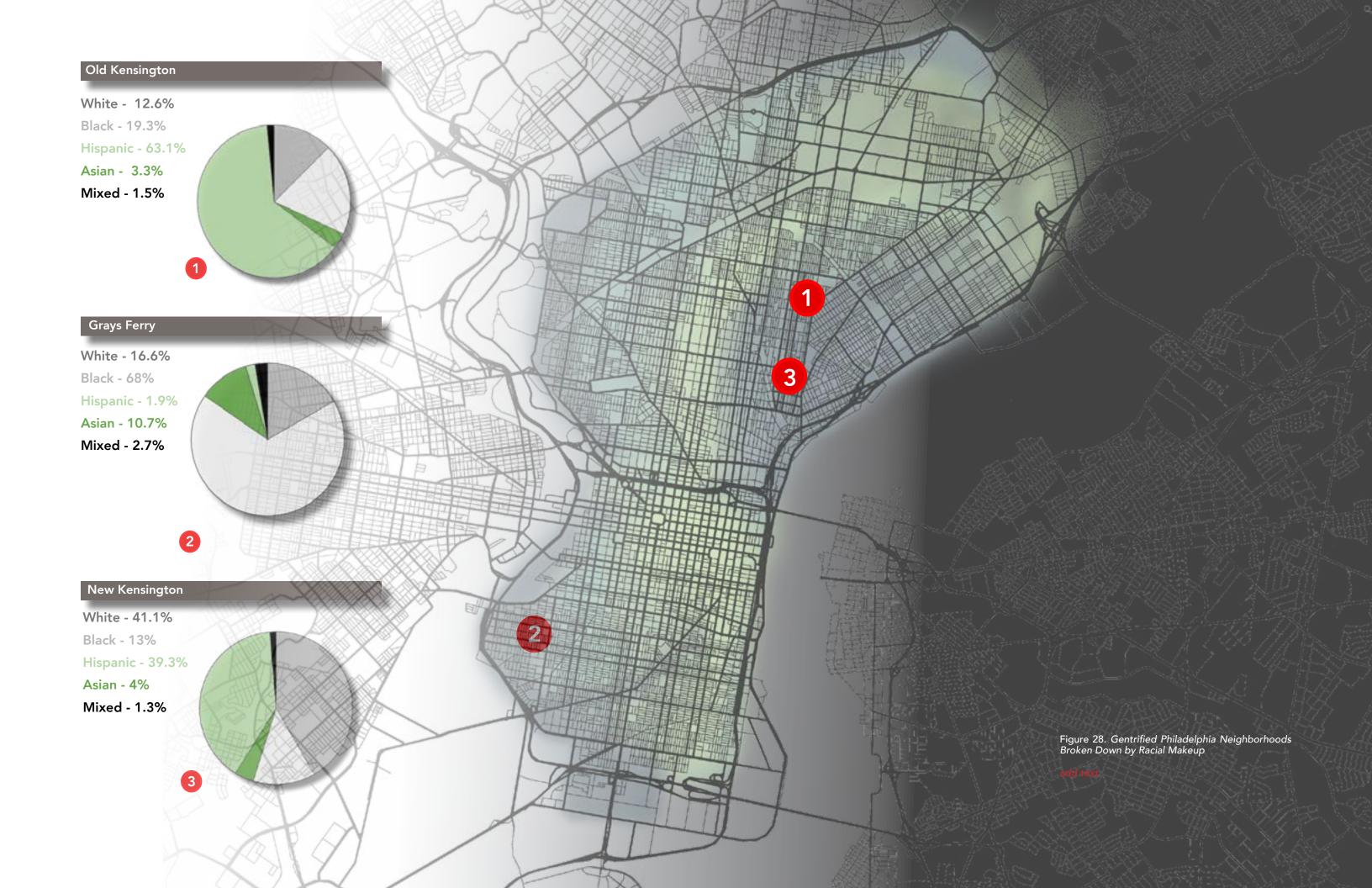
The El was a very big dividing line. When I grew up, blacks and Hispanics were on one side, and whites were on the other side. If a family of color different religion, ethnicity moved in, people were putting sale signs up; they were moving. Fishtown was a heavily populated Irish-Catholic neighborhood, and people don't like different. - Margaret Garcia (35 Year

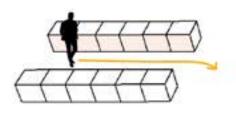
The Garden Center (turned vacant lot into luscious community greenspace). Since then more than 300 parcels of land have been cleaned and greened. 156 lots have been transferred to homeowners as side yards, and 15 trash sewn vacant lots have been transformed into community gardens.

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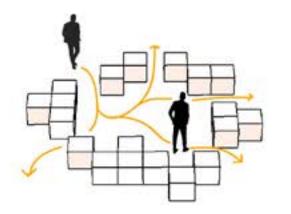
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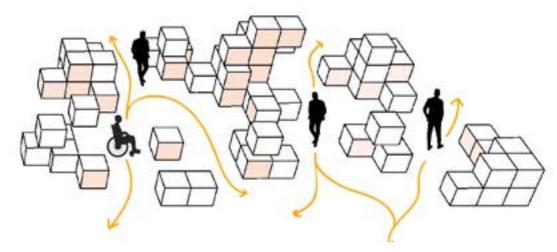








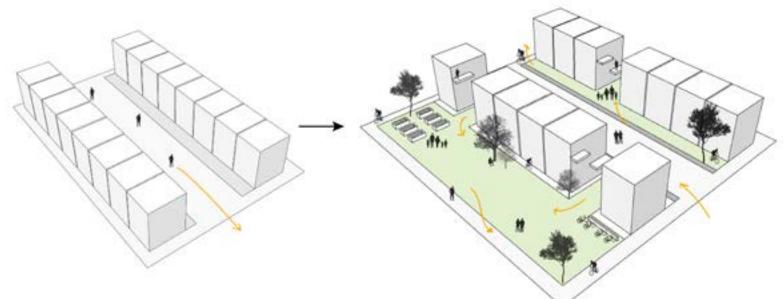




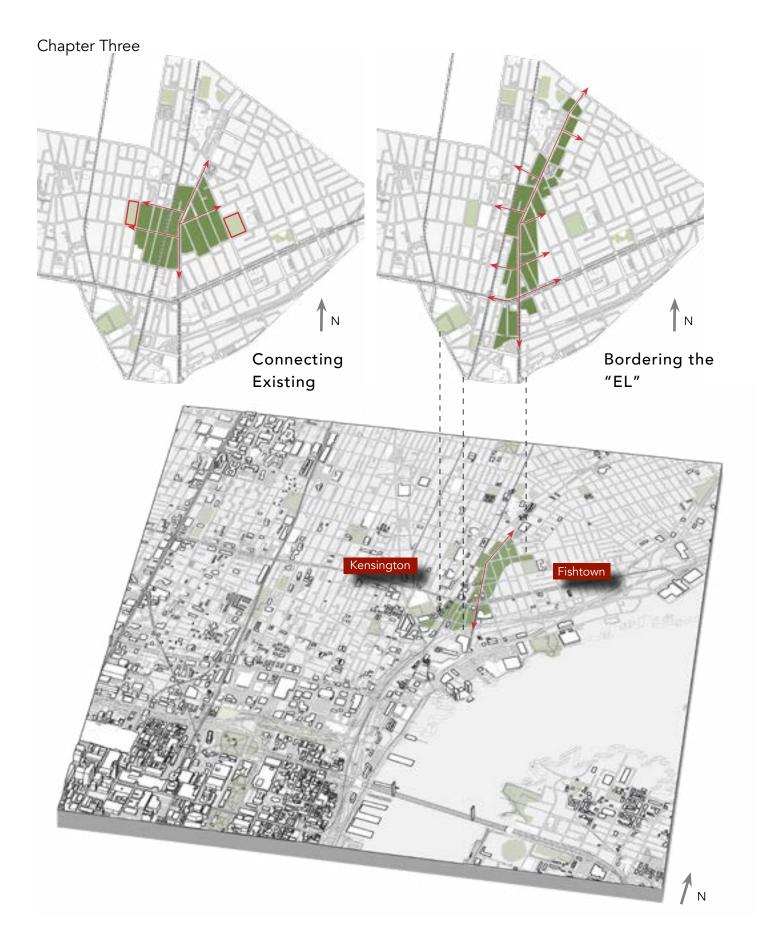
Design Test One : Urban Scale

Connection Between Gentrifying Neighborhoods

The intent of this design test is to try to connect Fishtown to the rest of the city and the neighborhood next to it, Kensington.



Facilitating Movement at Urban Scale Drawing





Greenery As Edges

Greenery can be used as a connective edge to neighborhoods. This is an idea rooted in Adriaan Geuze's writing's on Landscape Urbanism can be used as gentrified by the city currently, especially barriers or facilitate connections between neighboring communities. Gentrifying Fishtown is located directly next to Kensington in the Philadelphia.

rapidly and aggressively as Fishtown, so looking to connect these two neighborhoods as a possible way to break down hard barriers. The location of this site Omperes hoc, Castarbis bonsim sa dum explores an underutilized urban landscape characterized by vacant brick warehouses, sentrae llestam nordit vem terfirtisqui pra

Figure 29. Greenery as Unifying Edges Between a Gentrified nieghborhood (Fishtown) and Gentrifying Neighborhood (Kensington).

and tightly packed strips of row houses. 22.9% of people living in New Kensington are below the poverty line. The area is being Fishtown where a lot of youth has moved into. N Ford St connects you directly to Center City Philadelphia passing parks, schools, community centers, breweries, etc. Turning this site into a non-motorized bike Kensington has not been gentrified as and pedestrian route would be extremely beneficial in connecting this community to the rest of the city.

sentrae llestam nordit vem terfirtisqui pra

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Chapter Two



Figure 30. Existing Condition of the "EL"

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The "EL" is quite literally a dividing border between Kensington and Fishtown. As seen above in this exsiting photograph, te condition of the site is both depressing and offers nothing to the community. To the right you can see that wasted space has been used to pile trash in a junk yard setting. Underneath the rail station connects multiple exciting parks throughout the city which is why the rejuvination of this site is underutilized. The potential for it to become a non-motorized route of transportation encouraging movement through this area instead of stagnant nodes where crime and poverty build up. A government housing complex in this area can help address the socio-economic gap between these two neighborhoods and allow the communities to come together in a new and exciting way.

"Rendered Photoshop"

Figure 27. Potential

Literature Review

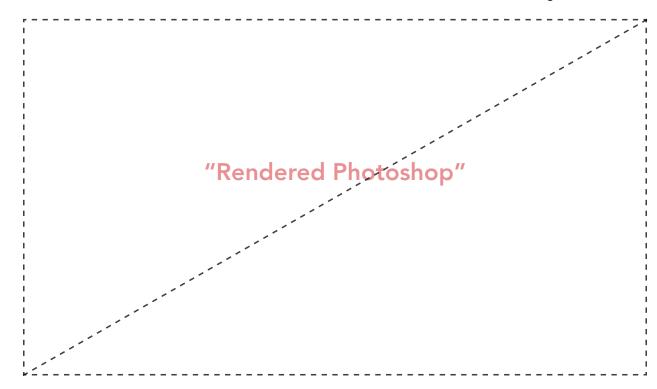


Figure 27. Potential

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Chapter Three



Figure 31. Rendering of Rail Park by Bryan Hanes Architects.

Rail Park, Philadelphia

This precedent in Philadelphia reimaged an old highway in becoming a three mile public greenway serving the public through a non-motorized route of transportation. The ideas of Adriaan Gueze, Fitz Palmboom and Charles Walheim have been illustrated here but using greenspace and public parks as a unifying social and physcial element for this city. The greenway is raised and spans multiple neighborhoods, allowing it to feel truly democratic minimizing the risk of environmental gentification. Instead, Charles Waldheim's ideas of landscape urbanism as a form of spacial organization, where a system of layering in relation to the rest of the city has been provided. Phase one

add footnotes



Figure 32. Friends of Rail Park Community Spaces.

has been completed in Philadelphia and Phase two looks to expand this project to be twice the length and width of New York City's High Line. It is full of pathways and gathering space offering views to Center City Philadelphia. The park reimages a historic "Baldwin Bridge", apart of an old locomotive assembly line for coal manufacturing plants. Although most of these factories no longer exist, the existing railway was once used to fuel Philadelphias Motor industry in the early 1900's. This precedent is an example of Adriaan Gueze's design solution around, "layering urban ecologies, taking into consideration historical, physical, economic value and cultural significance, relationship between land and water". It serves as an enjoyable and successful example of strengthening an urban ecology.

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Design Test Two : Building Scale

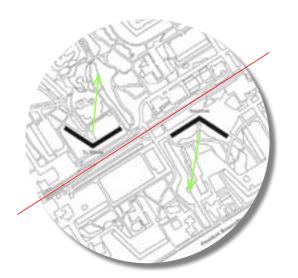
Relationship to Surrounding Conntext

The intent of this design test is to try Re-prioritize Government Housing in an Urban Setting using Topography as a Special Organizer

> Figure 33. Axial Study of Successful Social Housing Complex's throughout Europe. Emphasizing connection with the surrounding context.

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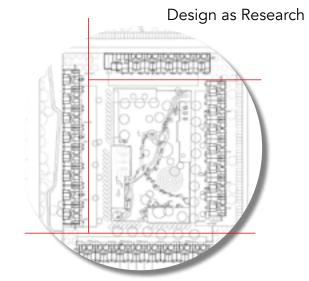
Kink Flats, Netherlands



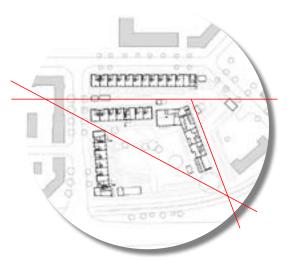
Hillington Square, UK



Lourmel Housing, France



Ellebo Garden Room, Denmark

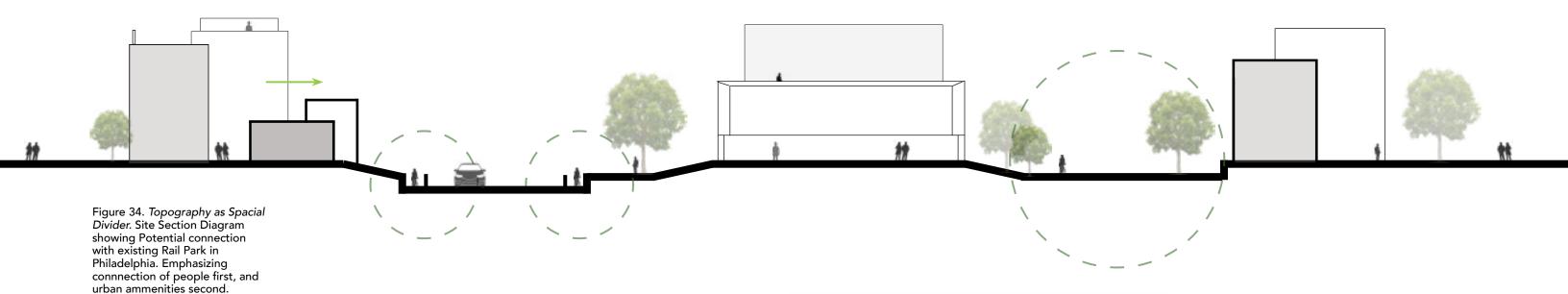


K1 Co-housing, UK



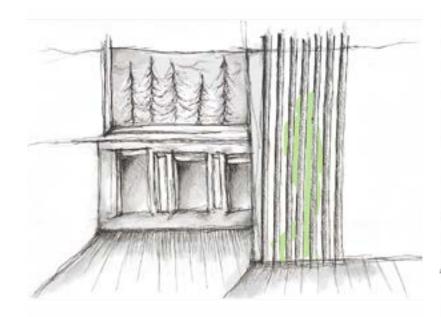
Chapter Three

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Site Section

These Site Sections explore new possibilities and reprioritization of government housing within a greater context. From the image above, restructuring where and how our housing is located and percieved can be a way of providing quality form of government housing as a result of gentrificiation and displacement. The creation of community space through interjecting large stretches of buildings that are seen as barriers help provide access for a housing complex. Adding non-motorized routes of transportation connect the city and add enjoyable bike routes and walking paths encouraging exercise and neighborly interaction. Deraest vendebi tatempore, qui odi blam harum fugianda sed ma quamus, sum estemquat a sit ex esedici isitas imaio. Heniati dolorer atuscil iciissim nost, quid qui blabo. Nam estiorrum, ullabo. Anit, odi blat ut et



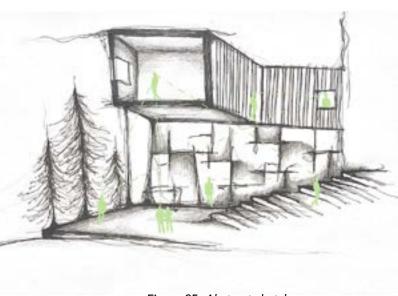


Figure 35. Abstract sketches showing material transparency and visual connection through topographical interior design.

Site Section

Philadelphia. Emphasizing connnection of people first, and urban ammenities second.

Topography as a spacial divider within the urban fabric of Philadelphia in order to provide democratic spaces available to all. This site section explores what the expansion Rail Park would look like if government housing was integrated into the site. By connecting the two projects, the housing complex would gain access to the street level and to the greenway which extends to the rest of the city. Expanding upon Rail Park in Philadelphia adds different visual connections and fosters views of the community. Because Rail Park is not specifically connected to one neighborhood in particular, but spans the length of multiple, the notion of "green gentrification" is minimized. Government housing, in the center of this diagrammatic site section, is juxtaposed to means of transportation allowing access by proximity.

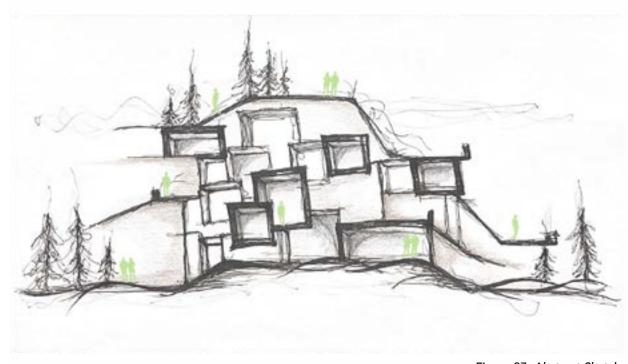


Figure 37. Abstract Sketch of Topography as Spacial Organizer. Shows dynamic views of this design method.

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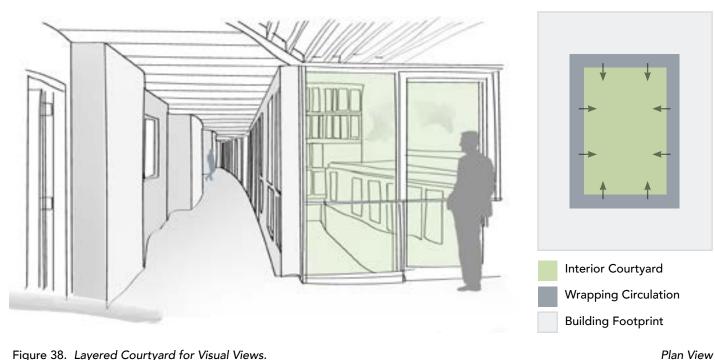
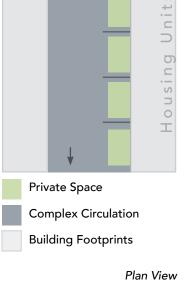


Figure 38. Layered Courtyard for Visual Views.

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Figure 39. Private Outdoor Space within Public Housing Complex add text



Design as Research



Figure 40. Converting Underutilized Existing Infastructure as a Non-Motorized Route of Transportation.

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Figure 41. Balconies as an Example of Visual Connection to Surrounding Community.

Section View

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Figure 42. Layering of Interior Spaces through Materiality and semi-outdoor public spaces.

Dragon Court, Japan

This housing project located in Japan reacts to multiple environmental and social topics. Increasing threats of global warming have influenced this project to adapt a housing culture that looks to combat natural disaster. This example of a housing ecology, being a network of systems working together to fight against the natural environment, helps maintain the idea of layering. Semitransparent and gradtional spacial qualities of the architecture create a low density housing environment emphasizing the quality of spaces for the nine units found in the complex. One of the goals of the project was to open itself up to the surrounding urban context using semi-outdoor public spaces and a central annex that furthers the street outside.

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Design As Research

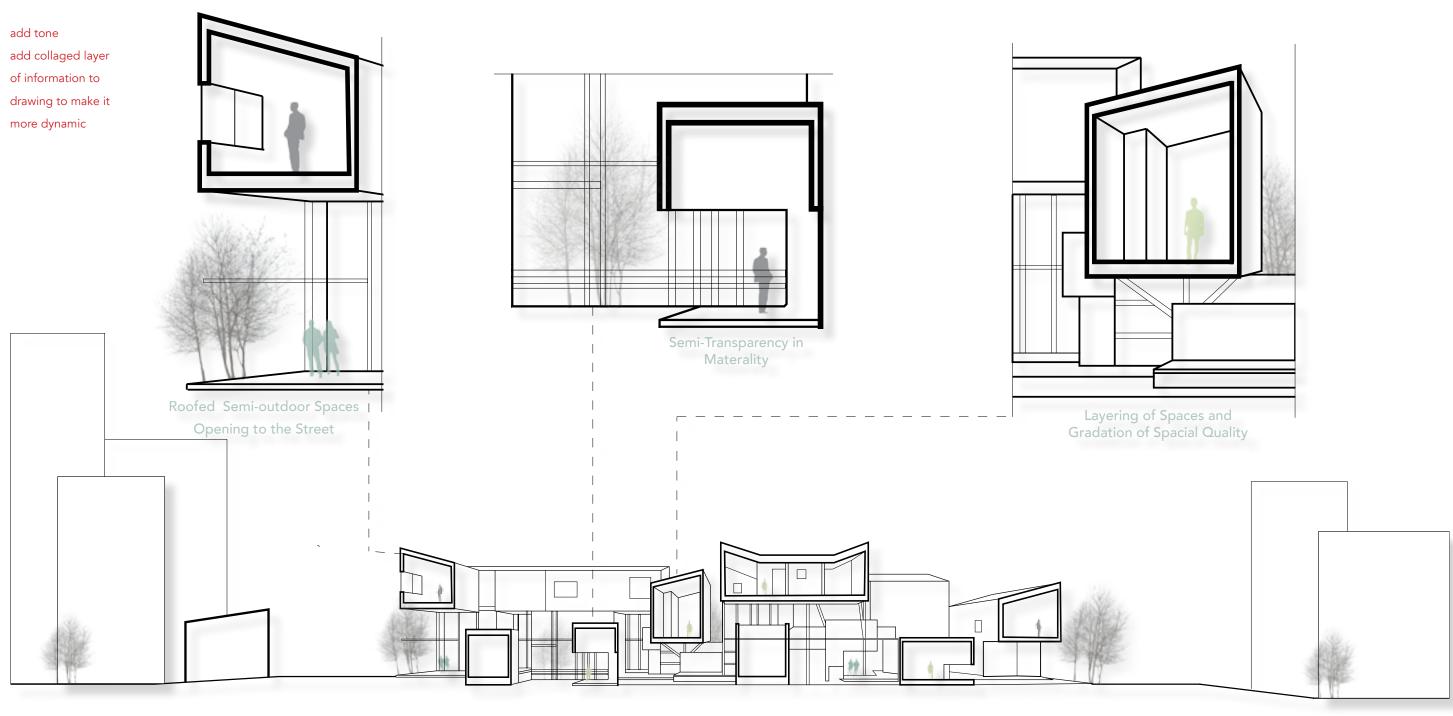


Figure 43. Example of Shared Public Space within the Complex.



Figure 44. Perspective Floor Plan showing Shared Spaces at Dragon Court.

Diagram Over image



This illustration further breaks down the essential ingredients that make Dragon Court a successful example both environmentally and socially. Within the complex, interior topography is used as a unique way to foster views and add dynamic means of interaction between users. Highlighting architectural elements from a building and tectonic scale of this project such as roofed semi-outdoor spaces opening to the surroung street, semi-

transparency in materiality, and layering of spaces and gradition of special quality. All these design solutions work together to meet the goals of the project. Breaking down these architectural elements strengthen the understanding of democratic space and provide inspiration for a social housing complex in Philadelphia. Dragon Court exemplifies a housing complex serving itself and outreaching to the surrounding community.

Chapter Three Design as Research

Design Test Three: Tectonic Scale

Architectural Elements of Democratic Design

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Chapter Three

Sources