#### MSc 3 Independent Group

Design and Research

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Research Plan

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Interiors Building Cities

# **Collective Intimacy**

Back to a utopian oasis in collective housing

Research

In case you feel confused, this is an architecture project based on research which in total took one year. The process was never linear, but the narrative has to be.

For the first sic months I studied the essential values of collective housing in post war period, how they prompted to solve housing crisis and how they embraced the collectivism in Europe and China. It turned out that most of them did not maintain the original function as a collective housing for working class. However, the concept of collective living continued to influence urban life. In response, the design approach for renovating the 1952 Workers' New Village in Shenyang, China aimed to demonstrate the potential for reviving this old form for communal living. Minimal intervention and adjustments to thresholds resulted in the creation of a series of spaces ranging from private to public, catering to the demands of the free market and post-urbanization.

This file conclues the whole research outcome for research part, from p1 to p2.

Koko Xinyue WU

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# I. Alienation & Intimacy\_Literature Review

#### 1. Introduction

At first, the research focuses on literature about *alienation* and *intimacy*, within huge overhelming metropolis, which may help me understand the essence of relations between modernized people.

On one hand, I go through some modern articles and works to see how modern urban spaces affect senses of city dwellers, i.e. "mental life" as George Simmel calls it. Here are two main papers: [The Metropolis abd Mental Life] and [Obsolescence. An Architectural History].

On the other hand, I explored various historical interpretations of intimacy to understand how people want to be connected. The position and role of a city resident in the social structure is not only independent, but also atomized. Intimacy is not just a feeling of closeness and connection in an interpersonal relationship, but also a social status regardless of time or physical space.

But such expansion of the boundaries of intimacy is not due to the fact that the modern relationship between people has become closer, on the contrary, people have become more alienated.

#### 2. The Alienated Life in Metropolis

The core article for this part is < *The Metropolis abd Mental Life* > from George Simmel. This article explains how metropolis effect a natural person into a purely intellectualistic person by money economy. With examples of other articlels, artworks, architecture and urban renewal, I develop a further interpretation about why people feel alientaed in modern big cities.

#### < The Metropolis abd Mental Life >

Simmels argues that the modern metropolitan is featured with money economy, which requires domination of intellect. The whole city is just an acquisite machine based on the rationally calculated matter of fact, thus "fixing everyone of its part in a mathematical formula." It turns a natural person into an intellectualistic urban dweller, who is purely rational and only follow general rules

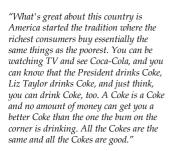
"The modern city, is supplied almost exclusively by production for the market, that is, for entirely unknown purchasers who never appear in the actual field of vision of the producers themselves. Thereby, the interests of each party acquire a relentless matter-of-factness, and its rationally calculated economic egoism need not fear any divergence from its set path because of the imponderability."

George presumes that the framework and the constant stimuli in the environment makes such a person blase. He thinks that "the essence of the blase attitude is an indifference to distinctions.... as money replaces qualitative manifoldness with quantitive value." Ironically, people adore a pursuit of being different in form rather than in essence. Accordingly, large scale suburban areas were redeveloped as satellite towns, "either modelled after the American suburbia, or after the housing estates in the British context." Buildings, and even whole cities, are developed as living machines.

Another article studys how Kontula, a suburban estate at the margins of Helsinki, "reflected failed urbanity". And how the hierarchical relations between urban spaces, the sense of the peripherality of one's life world and the ambivalence of pride are involved in this "shithole".

I think this machine-like consistency does not lead to intimacy, but like Andy Warhol's repetitive elements, there is a potentially disturbing aspect of mass rereproduction. The value of these objects does not lie in their scarcity or uniqueness, but in their reliable consistency. Consistency, especially for the immigrant, and for the one who fails to integrate himself, is a most desirable state of affairs. Differences trigger the possibility of harm, similarity avoids the sting and insult of rejection and rejection. One dollar note is no more attractive than another, and the act of drinking a Coke puts the miner among the ranks of company presidents and film stars. It is this democratic, all-embracing impulse that makes Pop Art popular art.







"Andy Warhol: I think everybody should be a machine. I think everybody should like everybody. Gene Swenson: Is that what Pop Art is all about?

AW: Yes. It's liking things. GS: And liking things is like being a machine?

AW: Yes, because you do the same thing every time. You do it over and over again. GS: And you approve of that?

AW: Yes."



Unité d'Habitation, Marseilles, Le Corbusier, 1947–52.

The practice of modern architecture and urban renewal seems to be the true reproduction of Andy Warhol's works of art. Later, the movement of this period can be called the critique of obliterating intimacy, but in the movement at that time, artists, architects and urban planners hope that people can live in a beautiful life machine. After the loss of intimacy, people started protest movements.

After the loss of intimacy, people started protest movements. In urban renewal, memory has become a concept that can be repeatedly explored, as if personal identity can be anchored in the past. An urban space with a common memory, even if it is young and only has a lifespan of thirty years, is expected to be preserved.

However, on an urban scale, adaptive reuse largely meant gentrification. The alienation of the urban residents started from the bottom of the pyramid. At that time, a series of efficient and machine-like concrete boxes designed by architects only responded to the orderly development of society, rather than the inner feelings of residents.

#### < Obsolescence. An Architectural History >

But this kind of activity is not about returning to the original rural state. According to George, it can be horrible to be so automized in such a big group. Indifference is an attidute to preserve themselves. Why urban people are indifferen? It's not a haughty attitude, but a kind of self-reservation within a certain framework. George thinks that, reserve is a privilege for people of the metropolis. The mental attitude is to avoid the possible hatred and conflicts. Our minds turn the definite feelings of everyone we meet into indifference.

"The modern city, is supplied almost exclusively by production for the market, that is, for entirely unknown purchasers who never appear in the actual field of vision of the producers themselves. Thereby, the interests of each party acquire a relentless matter-of-factness, and its rationally calculated economic egoism need not fear any divergence from its set path because of the imponderability."





Demonstrators, including writer Jane Jacobs (third from right, Detroit Cornice and Slate Building with glasses) and architect Philip Johnson (far right), protest rehabilitation, Detroit, William Kessler, 1974. Pennsylvania Station's demolition, New York, 1962. Photo by Walter Daran/Hulton Archive/Getty Images

Thus, the alienation derived from indifference is not the pure loneliness. This sense of alienation is exquisitely captured by Edward Hopper and presented in his paintings.

Hopper's urban landscapes depict the unique product of a 19th-century collision between the traditional building-block forms of European urbanism and the gargantuan upscaling that was forced upon Western cities by the explosion of heavy industry — especially railroads — and the long mass migrations that took place from the country to cities (including, in America, migrations from the Old World to the New).

"What's great about this country is America started the tradition where the richest consumers buy essentially the same things as the poorest. You can be watching TV and see Coca-Cola, and you can know that the President drinks Coke, Liz Taylor drinks Coke, and just think, you can drink Coke, too. A Coke is a Coke and no amount of money can get you a better Coke than the one the bum on the corner is drinking. All the Cokes are the same and all the Cokes are good."







## 3. Intimacy



The Lovers II by René Magritte, 1938, via MoMA, New York

#### Georges Teyssot

A Typology of everyday constellation\_

With the hidden comes the possibility for the intimate, a termderived from the Latin intimus, the superlative of interior, which describes what is hidden from the Other's gaze. Intimate is a stronger notion than private. Privacy was (and still is)mainly ruled and circumscribed by law. It is founded on prohibition and advice:" It is frobidden to look or to peep, and please, be discreet."

APA(American Psychological Association) Dictionary of Psychology\_ an <u>interpersonal</u> state of extreme <u>emotional closeness</u> such that <u>each party's personal</u> <u>space can be entered by any of the other parties without causing discomfort</u> to that person.

#### Peter Zumthor

Architectural Environments-Surrounding Objects\_

It all has to do with <u>proximity and distance</u>.....I mean something more bodily than scales and dimensions. It refers to the various aspects-<u>size</u>, <u>dimension</u>, <u>scale</u>, the building's mass by contrast with my own.

#### Penelope Katherine Revie

Projection, Architecture of Intimacy\_

The boundary between the individual and architecture is explored through the idea of intimacy. Intimacy becomes the goal of a relationship that is intrinsic to the body. Through intimacy this provides security and comfort for the individual. The individual is projected upon architecture to create an intimate environment.

#### Kent C. Bloomer and Charles W. Moore

Body, Memory and Architecture\_

The boundary between the individual and architecture is explored through the idea of intimacy. Intimacy becomes the goal of a relationship that is intrinsic to the body. Through intimacy this provides security and comfort for the individual. The individual is projected upon architecture to create an intimate environment.

#### Gaston Bachelard

The Poetics of Space\_

The boundary between the individual and architecture is explored through the idea of intimacy. Intimacy becomes the goal of a relationship that is intrinsic to the body. Through intimacy this provides security and comfort for the individual. The individual is projected upon architecture to create an intimate environment.

#### **Public Intimacy**

#### Kathryn Brown

'A Space for the Imagination: Women Readers in the Nineteenth-Century City'\_

it is the particular nature of what it means to be 'in public' in the modern city that affords the <u>individual anonymity</u>, and thus the possibility of something akin to public privacy.

#### Ann Hamilton

I think that one of the things here is that it's very intimate, and yet its very kind of large and anonymous. So this kind of quality of solitude and being in a congregation or a group of people. I think the feeling of that is actually very comforting, and something that we need.

#### Intimate Metropolis\_

The intimate metropolis is thus a place in which boundaries between public and private, individual and multitude have been blurred.

#### Schocken Architects

Intimate Anonymity prescribes the intimate and <u>simultaneous sharing of public space by anonymous people</u>. In order to achieve this, urban public space should not be seen as an end in itself. It must be a part of a network of urban spaces that allow random movement of people through.

#### Iane Iacobs

Sidewalks[...] are public. They bring together people who do not know each other in an intimate, private social fashion and in most cases do not care to know each other in that fashion.

scale
proximity materiality
closeness memory
geometry
module

Key words of Intimacy

collective
open
individual
big anonymity
anti-zoning
diversity

Key words of Public Intimacy

#### **Collective Intimacy in Industrial Decline Cities**

In the current context, it seems that everyone is a modern person, taking urbanization for granted or passionately criticizing it, but there are still some people knowing nothing about the course of the world, they are just trapped in the torrent of the times. For them, intimacy is between urban indifference and villagers' chat.

The focus area is northeast area of China, where the proportion of state-owned enterprises is the highest in the country. As Simmel argues that the relations between villagers and urban dwellers are totally different. How the society is shaped has great impact on self perception and social relations. For urban dwellers who went through prosperity by industrialization and decline by industrial updation, they fail the transition from collectivist memories to contemporary urban alienation. Decline is an invetible outcome for many productive cities with a single industrial structure. These cities expand during modernization and shrink due to economic, demographic, political, and spatial shifts.

When the tide recedes and there is nothing remained, there are only two options left: either go to the metropolis and become alienated or marginalized people or stay in the national system.





# II. Collective Housing Theoretical References

#### 1. Collective housing—why, what, how

During research process (p1), the study of term "collective housing" is based on personal interest of reviving a Chinese collective housing in the 1950s. Based on observations of wider social housing practice globally as well, several questions are raised for narrowing down research scope. The independent group supports me with free exploration for personal study interest and provides a sound framework, particularly from subjective observations to a more professional and academic aspect.

The exploration of collective housing begins with an examination of intimate co-living state and an awareness of its decline. Personally, I believe that the intimacy beyond traditional confines of family life is an essential and valuable social status. During the research, universal questions on the issue of cohabitation in a broad sense transcend nostalgia memory: For architectural forms generated in response to specific cultural and political reasons, what happens when the original intentions are gone? Is it necessary to preserve this form as a monument, or do we forget everything and move on? Is it possible to restore the intention by renewing the architectural form?

Formally speaking, collective housing consists of standard and repetitive living units and shared spaces. Rather than a unified ideology or a specific structure, it's more like a collection of different projects and experiments reflecting how we want to live and work together. Even under dynamic social context and shifting cultural intentions, the need for cohabitation is always present, whether to resist the industrial revolution or

Workers' Village Shenyang, China, 1952

an atomized society. Despite the inconsistencies in ideological trends across places, collective housing spread beyond political and cultural barriers and resonated with ideals of a more socialist life. When China began the process of industrialization and modernization in the 1950s, collective housing models based on European and Soviet experience were adopted and adapted to suit local conditions and living habits. Shenyang worker' village is one of the examples of Chinese after-war mass housing practices, which seeks to providing free housing as part of social welfare system and finally works as a socialist framework. Therefore, the research methodology should fully consider the long-term development history and show how these characteristics work in specific cases.

#### 2. Methodology—case study, archival research

For the research, I study a collection of different projects and experiments from central Europe, Scandinavia and USSR (archival research). A study model is built up, including essential information: historical background, social movement, community organization, architectural form (plan, section) and quantitative data (outdoor space, usable floor space, public collective and private space).

#### Models

## Scandinavia

The term 'collective housing' can be defined as 'housing with more communal spaces or collectively organized facilities than in conventional housing (Dick Urban Vestbro, 2000). It contains five basic models in terms of the location of shared facilities and the identities of residents.

**Model I.** collective housing unit with a central kitchen and other shared facilities, connected by indoor staircase.

I.1\_ employed staff, reduce housework
I.2\_ Swedish cohousing, self-work model,
communal services by residents

Model II. Danish cohousing. Housing with common space and shared facilities

**Model III.** service block or integrated service center

**Model IV.** for special categories such as the elderly, students, women with no children and other dysfunctional residents

**Model V.** commune, non relative residents live and eat together as a large one-family unit.

# Central Europe

Collective living involves an ongoing balancing of private and collective interests, private and community use or possession, and individual living culture in public spaces.

**Modell.** Large housing complexes of the Utopian Socialists.

Model II. Men's & Women's hostels + Boarding houses

Modell. Central-Kitchen Model

**Model IV.** Garden Cities and courtyard apartment buildings

Model V. Community settlements

Model VI. Cooperative living

## Resources

Vestbro, D. U. (1992). From central kitchen to community cooperation: development of collective housing in Sweden. Open House International, 17(2), 30-38.

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Migotto, A., & Korbi, M. (2019). between rationalization and political project: The Existenzminimum from Klein and Teige to today. Urban Planning, 4(3), 299-314.

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#### List of case studies

	Collective housing	Region	Descriptions & Relevance	Individual Units	Shared Elements
1825	New Harmony Community	UK	an ideal living model combining education, leisure, and consumption	for families	a central kitchen, dining halls; shared bedrooms for children; educational facilities such as a library, meeting rooms, and a school; other facilities- gymnasiums, an inn, and a hospital ward.
1829	The Phalanstery	FR	the dissolution of family, different units for children, working people and the elderly; mixed societal classes.	N.A 1620 people	apartments with various sizes and prices; collectively organized spaces; rues-galeries, a walkable roof; interior courtyards, workshops; central kitchen and dining rooms,
1849	Cite Napoleon	FR	a community for the working class in every district, for a philanthropic and controlling aim	rents for different units- 200 families	from 100 francs for a room to 300 francs for larger units; free services: toilets, a crèche, free doctor, a laundry and a drying room; strict rules: inspectors and a gate curfew.
1849	Familistere residential	Guise FR	support families with shared spaces and facilities	for families; 500 units for 2000 people	a social palace; a central kitchen and dining room; collective bathrooms, laundary, schools, nurseries, and a library, a swimming pool, a theater and various shops.
1903	Homesgarth House	Letch- worth UK	part of Letchworth Garden City	for 24 families; 48 apartments	a central kitchen, dining hall, recreation rooms, a nursery, a collective colonnade, a central courtyard
1918	Karl-Marx-Hof	Vienna AU	to provide the starving people with shelter and food after war	1382 apartments with own toilets, 5000 residents	shared faciloities in central courtyards: baths, a launderette with 62 washing stations, 2 kindergartens, a maternity counseling service, a library; clinics, a tuberculosis care center, a pharmacy; a post office, a restaurant, coffee houses, shops, and assembly halls.
1930	Narkomfin (Kommunalka)		A complete collectivization dissolution of the family units	23 apart- ments , 15 living cells, 8 family apartments	hall kitchens, recreation rooms, cafeteria, library, gym, laundary, rooftop terrace
1951	Workers' Village	Shenyanş PRC	gto provide standardized rooms for employees working at state-woned factories	7000 units	1 standardized unit: 4 rooms with 2 kitchens and 2 toilets. Central courtyards, schools, kindergarten, proper food stores, restaurants, photo shop, rice stores, post offices and banks.



Service house, Copenhagen, 1905 Heimhof Central-kitchen House, Vienna, 1923 Einküchenhaus-Gesellschaft, Berlin, 1909 Central-Kitchen [Die Wohnung], Werkbund, Stuttgart, 1927 [Die wohnung für das existenzminimum], CIAM, Frankfurt, 1929 Social democratic majority Narkomfin, Moscow, 1930 Commune Workers' Village, Shenyang, 1952

Homesgarth House, Letchworth, Great Britain, 1903 Margarethenhöhe Company Housing Settlement, Essen, Germany, 1912 Britz Hufeisen Settlement, Berlin, 1925-30

Karl-Max-Hof, Wien, 1930

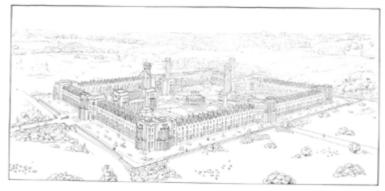
Robert Owen (Wales), Indiana, 1825 Phalanstère, France, 1829 Familistère ,Guise, 1860s

Project Journal\_Koko Xinyue WU

On one hand, collective housing has been seen as *a manifesto of living*, that we can self-arrange the living framework as our wish, most time that contributes to a more socialized and communal way of living. It has been articulated as a utopian practice against the exploitation of labor by industrialization, and against the alienation of individual intelligence by the metropolis. This introduction of collective and even public space breaks through the division between privacy and collectivism, and creates a flexible framework that resist the problems caused by social unrest or technology movement.

By embracing collectivism, it challenges traditional gender roles and the division of domestic labor and providing a self-management chance. This contributes to a more socialized and communal way of living. Residents experience a richer social life, shared resources, and a supportive environment.

#### New Harmony Robert Owen (Wales), Indiana, 1825



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#### Phalanstère Charles Fourier, France, 1829



Design of an ideal Phalanstère. Jules Arnou, "Vue générale d'un phalanstère, ou village sociétaire organisé d'après la théorie de Fourier," 1847. Bibliothèque nationale de Paris, France

#### Familistère Guise, 1860s

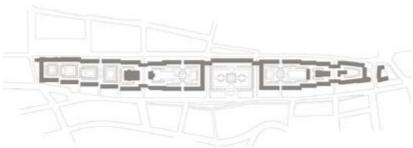




#### Karl-Max-Hof Wien, 1930

Sources: The Red Vienna in the Laundromat Association Red Vienna Collection

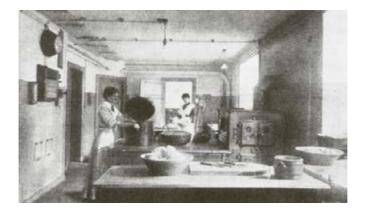








On the other hand, there are many studies and experiments on how to improve *efficiency* by designing plan and spatial configuration carefully. The functional, standardized and efficient layout reduces construction and living costs, this addresses mass housing problems and accommodates a rapidly growing urban population. Another driven factor is the need for common space, even by sacrificing the area of private living unit. The minimization of living and collectivization of domestic labor challenge traditional gender roles and the division of domestic labor and providing a self-management chance.



# Service house Copenhagen, 1905

Sources: Schmid, S., Schmid, S., Eberle, D. & Hugentobler, M. (2019). A History of Collective Living: Models of Shared Living.





Ground floor plan

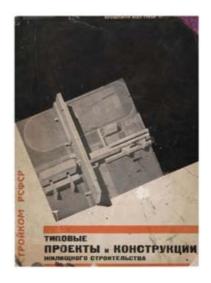
Section

# Comradely Competition for Preliminary Design of Housing for Workers' (OSA) Soviet Union, 1926-30

Sources: Movilla Vega, D. 2020. Housing and Revolution: From the Dom-Kommuna to the Transitional Type of Experimental House (1926–30). Architectural Histories, 8(1): 2, pp. 1–16. DOI: https://doi.org/10.5334/ah.264

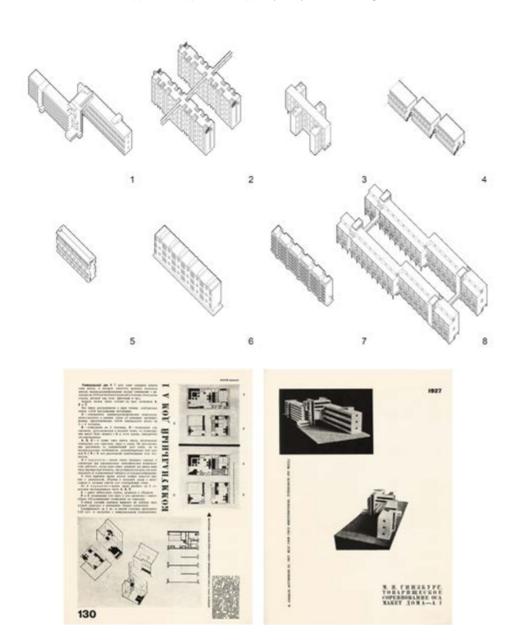
In the USSR, against the backdrop of political change and social instability in the 1920s, the issue of housing for the masses was addressed by the Association of Contemporary Architects (OSA), under the leadership of Moisey Ginzburg. Their mission was not only to provide a solution to the lack of accommodation in the major cities of the country, but to redefine housing as a framework suited to a society transitioning towards a fully socialised life. The response was developed in three stages of design research, over a period of five years. The initial conceptual phase was formally presented by members of the OSA at the 1926 Comradely Competition, and focused on the housing question, with specific designs for communal houses. The second stage revolved around the scientific and methodological research of the Stroykom, developed in parallel with the designs for the new communal living units. The final stage took material form in six specific buildings, known as transitional-type experimental houses. One of these, the Narkomfin, gained worldwide recognition as a modern prototype of Soviet avant-garde housing, and has been widely researched as a result.

Cover of the album published by the Stroykom in 1929, Tipovyye proyekty i konstruktsii zhilishchnogo stroitel'stva, rekomenduyemyye na 1930 g [Types of Projects and Standards for Housing Construction, Recommended for the year 1930].



#### STAGE I\_ 1926 Comradely Competition

Axonometric views of the cluster system and floor plans of the eight proposals submitted : Ginzburg (1), Vegman (2), Vladimirov (3), Ol' (4), Vorotyntseva and Polyak (5), Nikol'skiy (6), Pasternak (7) and Sobolev (8). Graphics by Daniel Movilla Vega.



#### STAGE II\_ The Standardisation Department at Stroykom RSFSR

Axonometric views of the cluster system and floor plans of the eight proposals submitted : Ginzburg (1), Vegman (2), Vladimirov (3), Ol' (4), Vorotyntseva and Polyak (5), Nikol'skiy (6), Pasternak (7) and Sobolev (8). Graphics by Daniel Movilla Vega.

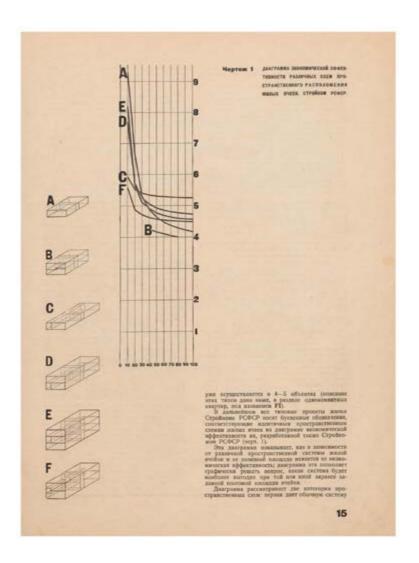
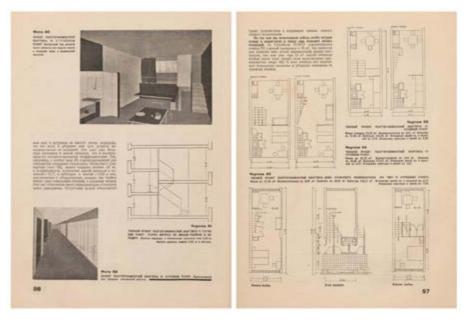
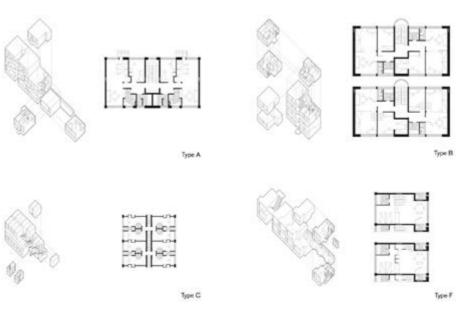


Diagram of economic efficiency presented by the Standardisation Department at Stroykom RSFSR for layouts A, B, C, D, E and F. On the X-axis: inhabitable surface areas; on the Y-axis: k coefficient. From Stroykom's album *Tipovyye proyekty i konstruktsii zhilishchnogo stroitel'stva, rekomenduyemyye na* 1930 g, 1929.



Type F-1 developed by the Standardisation Department at Stroykom RSFSR (1928–29). From Stroykom's album Tipovyye proyekty i konstruktsii zhilishchnogo stroitel'stva, rekomenduyemyye na 1930 g, 1929.

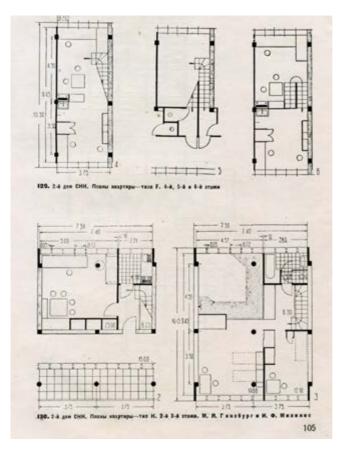


Axonometric views of the cluster system and floor plans of types A, B, E and F, developed by the Standardisation Department at Stroykom RSFSR (1928–29).

Graphics by Daniel Movilla Vega.

#### STAGE II\_ Transitional Type of Experimental House

#### Narkomfin Moscow, 1930



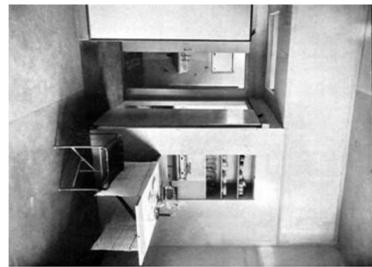


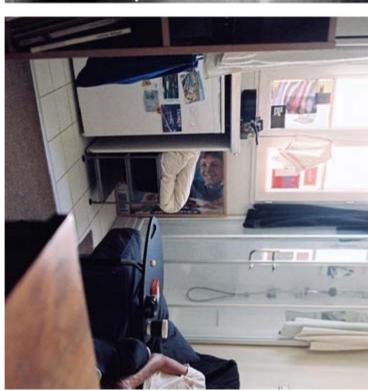
#### CIAM (OSA) Minimum dwellings

Sources: Marson Korbi and Andrea Migotto, Between Rationalization and Political Project: The Existenzminimum from Klein and Teige to Today
Urban Planning (ISSN: 2183–7635) 2019, Volume 4, Issue 3, Pages 299–314
DOI: 10.17645/up.y4i3.2157

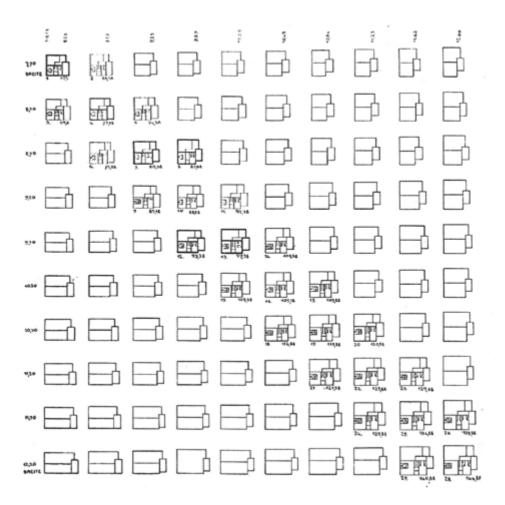


Existenzminimum dwelling. From II CIAM (Frankfurt, 1929), exhibition panels. Source: Aymonino (1971).





Minimum dwellings from II CIAM to today. From left to right: View of a bachelor room (Junggesellenzimmer), architect Kienzle (Giedion, 1929); Parisian micro-flat (Ghislain, student, in his fifth floor 10m2 apartment; Macherez, 2015).



Plan-efficiency comparison. Source: Klein (1928).

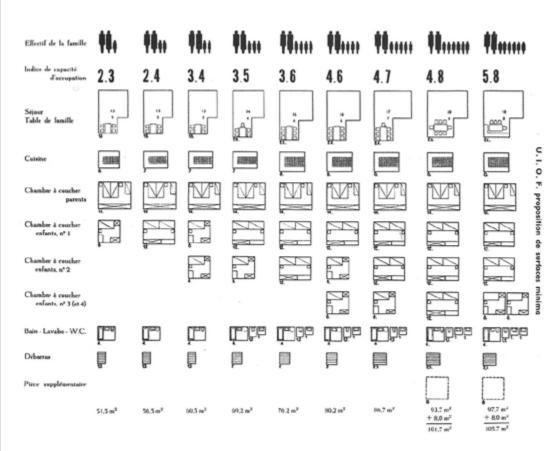


Diagram for the calculation of minimum surface norms for apartments in post-war France, first published in 1959 in Techniques et Architecture, 19(2). Source: Cupers (2014).

centralized and	services	house- keeping	kitchen
d and ed	physical culture	bathing	dining
	individual living cell	children's space	salon = club

# of dwelling Collectivist reconstruction

Schema of a collective dwelling:

dwelling process; the centralization and collectivization of the economic, cultural, and social factors of the

the reduction of the "apartment" to an

and a bedroom; whose content (function) is a living room adult person, individual living cell. One room for each

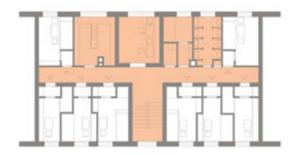
socialist forms of life. undifferentiated dwelling on a higher level; the reproduction of a single space material and organizational basis for

The collectivist reconstruction of the dwelling. Source: Teige (1932).

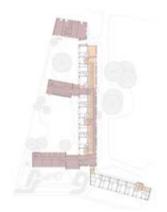
#### One-room apartment for the working women by Margarete Schütte-Lihotzky Home and Technology exhibition in Munich, 1928

Sources: Schmid, S., Schmid, S., Eberle, D. & Hugentobler, M. (2019). A History of Collective Living: Models of Shared Living.

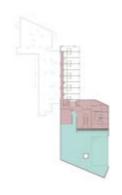




## 3. Modeling—A quantitative framework of intimacy and publicity



Høje Søborg, Copenhagen, 1952



Poolhaus, Vienna, 2007

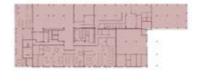


Lang Eng, Copenhagen, 2008





Spreefeld, Berlin, 2014



The Collective Old Oak, London, 2016

plan 1/2500

# Høje Søborg, Copenhagen, 1952

	area m²	in %	m² pers
outdoor space	10 660	42	47.8
usable floor space	14 805	58	66.4
public	1 985	13	8.9
collective	3 440	23	15.4
private	9 380	64	42.1

**FLOORS** 

223 124 UNITS

Lang Eng, Copenhagen, 2008

	area m²	in %	m² pers
outdoor space	4 195	38	21.0
usable floor space	6 695	62	33.5
public	0	0	0
collective	955	14	4.8
private	5 740	86	28.7

200

54 UNITS
2-3 FLOORS

# Spreefeld, Berlin, 2014

	area m²	in %	m² pers
outdoor space	6 980	48	49.9
usable floor space	7 495	52	53.5
public	1 145	15	8.2
collective	1 085	14	7.7
private	5 265	71	37.6

140 64 UNITS 7 FLOORS

# Poolhaus, Vienna, 2007

	area m²	in %	m² pers
outdoor space	3 925	18	-
usable floor space	17 850	82	-
public	4 025	23	-
collective	3 635	20	-
private	10 190	57	-

20 dwellers

20 units

320 252 UNITS 8-9 FLOORS

# Kalkbreite, Zurich, 2014

	area m²	in %	m² pers
outdoor space	6 485	31	25.0
usable floor space	14 550	69	56.0
public	4 600	32	17.7
collective	2 165	15	8.3
private	7 785	53	30.0

260 91 UNITS 6-8 FLOORS

# The Collective Old Oak, London, 2016

	area m²	in %	m² pers
outdoor space	830	7	1.5
usable floor space	11 880	93	21.6
public	1 915	16	3.5
collective	4 720	40	8.6
private	5 245	44	9.5

550 UNITS
10 FLOORS

# **Functions**

# Høje Søborg

- Communal
   kitchen + dinning room
   laundry room
   guest apartments
   fitness area, smoking room
   craft room
- Public rooftop terrace, courtyard cafeteria, restaurant daycare reception grocery store kiosk

### Poolhaus

- •Communal kitchen laundry room fitness area, hobby room rooftop terrace sauna, swimming pool
- •Public co-working area fitness area courtyard

# Lang Eng

- Communal
  kitchen + dinning room
  Lounge
  Library
  Playroom
  Cinema
  Workshops
- Public courtyard

# Kalkbreite

- •Communal kitchen + dinning room+living room laundry room, cold storage room flex apartments workshop, meeting room music room, offices, courtyard
- Public medical parctices daycare library, cafeteria courtyard

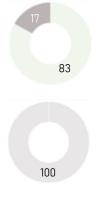
# Spreefeld

- •Communal kitchen + dinning room bathroom,laundry room guest apartments fitness area music room rooftop terrace
- Public co-working area daycare flexible rooms courtyard

### The Collective Old Oak

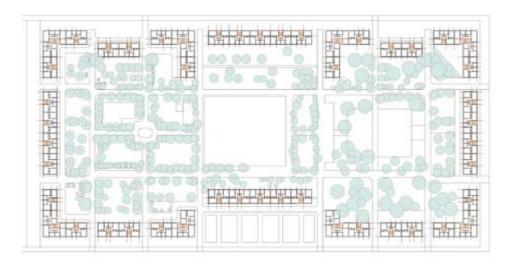
- Communal kitchen + dining room laundry room library quiet room movie room game room spa
- Public co-working area fitness area restaurant bar concierge

# Workers' Village, Shenyang, 1952



	area m²	in %	m² pers
outdoor space	31 407	83	104.7-78.5
usable floor space	6 282	17	-
public	0	0	-
collective	0 (2448)	0 (28)	-
private	6282	100 (72)	20.9-15.7
*****	******	***	300-400
			144 UNITS
3			FLOORS

- Non-profit developer with local municipality, low rents as working beneficaries, now leased building property
- •Occupancy through partial ownership (70 years)
- •Top-down initiation process
- •very low level of participation



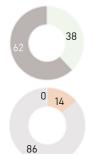
plan 1/2500





# Høje Søborg

- Non-profit housing association in accordance with social housing regulations
- Occupancy through rent
- •Top-down initiation process
- medium degree of participation building managed by developer, tenants' association for the organization of collective spaces and events, collective rent premium for the collective facilities, serviceoriented operation with 21 employees



# Lang Eng

- Resident contribution through home ownership,
- ·Occupation through purchase
- Bottom-up initiation process
- •very high level of participation self organized and self operated, participation in working gro ups is required



# Spreefeld

- Non-profit developer
- •Occupation by partial ownership, with option for full ownership
- •Bottom-up initiation process



•very high level of participation managed by the cooperative, but with significant resident involvement, collective areas self-managed by residents



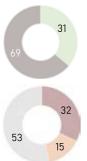


# **Poolhaus**

- Non-profit developer
- Occupancy by rent, minimum rental period of six months,
- •Top-down initiation process



•low level of participation externally managed by developers



# Kalkbreite

- Non-profit developer with cost-based rents, 11 subsidized apartments, leased building property
- Occupancy through partial ownership
- Bottom-up initiation process
- very high level of participation managed by the cooperative, service oriented, selforganized by residents through various committees such as a community council, solidarity commission, and clubs, collective rooms and employee salaries included in rent; food charged separately, with occupancy regulations,



40

# The Collective Old Oak

- Private developer with different Co-Living and co-working properties in various cities
- Occupancy through rent
- •Top-down initiation process
- •Low level of participation externally managed by developers, community manager organizes social life, with employees for the reception area and various services, rent includes a private room, the use of all collective areas, cleaning service, events and occasions, and a gym membership,

# III. Shenyang Workers' New Village\_From research to design

# 1. Intentions

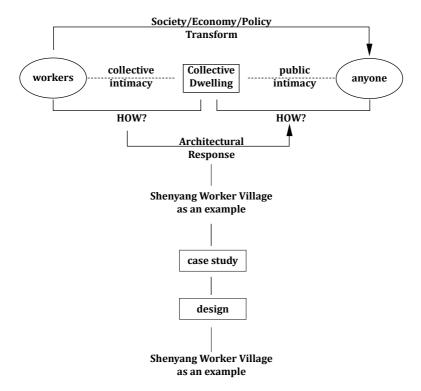
The designed is the response to the original research question: Is there still a possibility of revival to retain the original use under the context of dissolution. The transition from research to design is constantly challenging from p2 to p3. The architectural observations and research conclusions are not always corresponding. The design goal from p2 was set as "layers of intimacy", which origins from my research intentions of intimacy and may be designed through a series of spaces with varying degrees of openness and collectivity.

"From private rooms and shared facilities to communal spaces and public functions, the design aims to build a living system where the boundary between the external world and the inner context is shifting, so dwellers share an enveloping collective consciousness and remain anonymous."

-----Quoted from P2 Graduation Plan submitted by author

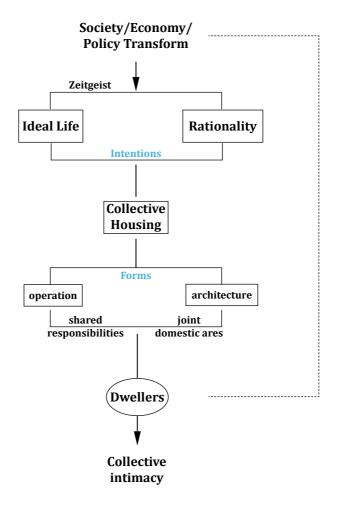
Reviewing the descriptions, I found nothing wrong with them, but the gap between the abstract verbal descriptions and the concrete architectural operations nagged at me for a long time. The turning point came when I delved into the impact of behavior on buildings and courtyards (feedback from Mark). A bridge was built between this architectural reflection and my research observations on spatial efficiency and socialist life.

# 2. Framework



The structure of the entire study changed several times and the following is a historical collection

# i. Initial Draft



# Collective Housing, a Pursuit of an Ideal Life and Collective Intimacy

My research seeks to explore how pre-existing forms of collective housing fit into shifting notions of intimacy within the residential sphere.

The article begins by clarifying two research subjects, namely collective housing and collective intimacy, based on the context of recent research. Collective housing can be seen as a form of group living in which the ideal life is externalized into a series of organized private and communal spaces or shared facilities. Intimacy, as an inherent attribute of a home, also extends to the relations between co-living dwellers through joint domestic areas and shared responsibilities, which in turn are constantly evolving as new social, political, and economic challenges emerge. The shifting scope of collective intimacy is well represented in the study of historical cases, for which I build up a framework to interpret the definition both from a broad perspective and within specific typologies(Fig.)., The research then leads to the main question of how established forms of collective housing confront changing circumstances of 'ideal life'. Finally, a series of questions are raised in the context of the Workers' Village in Shenyang, China. These will be the thread of the future design based on the findings of this paper.

I research the history of collective housing in Central Europe (Schmid S, 2020) and the Scandinavian area (Vestbro), in combination with theories of utopia (Tafuri 1979). The meaning of collective housing is expressed primarily through social contribution rather than architectural form. Generally driven by a rational response to new challenges or the quest for an ideal life due to social upheaval, collective housing has been articulated as a utopian practice against either the exploitation of labor by industrialization or the alienation of individual intelligence by the metropolis. (more utopia description) Utopian socialists fight for "the poor and the uneducated working classes" (Owen 1970).

Collective housing is the externalized ideal life, reflecting the relations between co-living dwellers shaped by the spatial structure. Collective intimacy, described as a sociality of closeness, grows through the slow repetitive rhythm of everyday life in the joint domestic area (Maria 2020). On one hand, it is partly rooted in human nature that prevents us from realizing ourselves except as part of a group (Miller, H. A. 1921), thus making collective living a spontaneous form for people who believe there is something wrong with life in most cities (Sargisson 2012). On the other hand, the similarities generated from the top-down and paternalistic system, therefore, create happiness and cheerfulness (Fourier 1996) due to egalitarianism. Ultimately, collective housing reflects degrees of cohesion and coordination between group members, which can be refined within an individual or a family, or extend to a wider range of groups, a community, or even a part of society...neoliberalism

# ii. P2 Explanation

The article begins by clarifying two research subjects, namely collective housing and collective intimacy, based on the history of collective housing in Central Europe (Schmid S, 2020) and the Scandinavian area (Vestbro), in combination with theories of utopia (Tafuri 1979). Collective housing can be seen as a form of group living in which the ideal life is externalized into a series of organized private and communal spaces or shared facilities. Intimacy, as an inherent attribute of a home, also extends to the relations between co-living dwellers through joint domestic areas and shared responsibilities, which in turn are constantly evolving as new social, political, and economic challenges emerge.

The decaying utopia and shifting notions of intimacy lead to the main question of how established forms of collective housing confront changing circumstances of the 'ideal life'. As a manifesto of ideal life and a rational response to transient challenges, collective housing is displaced and marginalized in the face of the devastating metropolis. Also, the shifting scope of collective intimacy poses a problem of balancing collectivism and individuality. In the context of the Workers' Village in Shenyang, China, it also becomes challenging to find a moderate condition between going back to the utopian oasis under the planned economy and embracing real estate development.

Finally, the findings of the research will be the thread of future design. Intimacy may be designed through a series of spaces with varying degrees of openness and collectivity. Sinking into the ground produces a framed backdrop and thus creates a sense of closure and collectivity. The boundary between the external world and the inner context is shifting, where people share an enveloping collective consciousness and remain anonymous.

I. Problem Statement	Decaying Utopia Fluid Intimacy	A Universal Question	e housing
II. Theoretical	Layers of Intimacy		collective
Modeling	Models of Collective Housing	Workers' Village, Shenyang China	A utopian oasis in collective housing
III. Design	Sinking into the ground  Between Privacy and Connectedness	Workers' Vill	

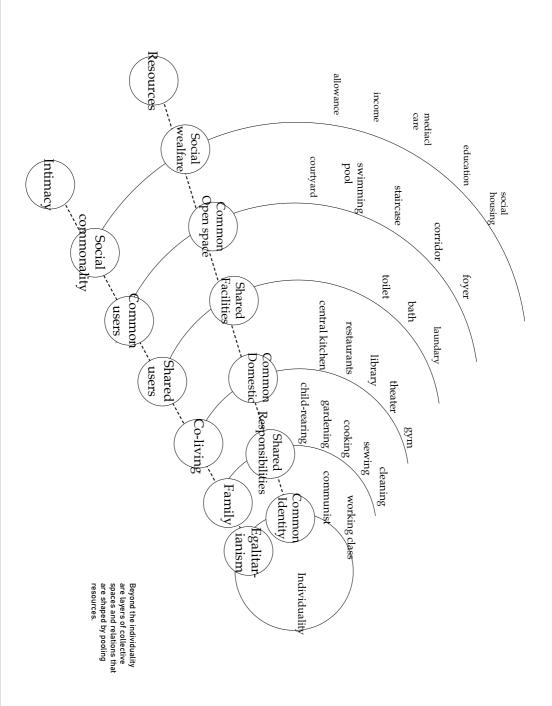
# iii. Collective intimacy as a design method

Collective intimacy is not a single notion, it is a series of togetherness with different degrees of cohesion and coordination between group members, formed primarily through varying degrees of resource gathering.

The degree of pooling of resources is progressive, ranging from relatively loose, such as social benefits, to strong ties, such as shared family space and shared responsibilities. Correspondingly, the range of intimate relationships is progressive. Occupants of collective housing have loose ties as co-users of communal open spaces, while these are much stronger when they share household responsibilities for the group as a whole. These ties are not linearly progressive; they sometimes overlap with each other.

For example, in the case of the Workers' Village, social welfare, courtyards, toilets, bathrooms are all shared due to the common identity of the dwellers. In the case of Prästgårdshagen, responsibilities for common domestic spaces are taken by all tenants, which is also a way to keep the group united as those not participating in the group work are likely to be rejected by the residents' association.

Collective housing ultimately presents a complex sense of detachment and connectedness, and a series of relationships that are both close and distant.



# 3. Questions

Main Question

How the obsolete architectural form can be improved to revive collective housing?



# Gentrification in Shenyang Workers' New Village

Business is always the easy way to preserve historical buildings while make profits from them so that they can be preserved instead of bigger gentrification of the whole Neighborhood.

"The existing building fabric is characterised by 3-storey blocks surrounding large central courtyards, two of which now become the focus of contemporisation into a tourist, educational, and rich commercial destination."



# 3. Questions

# Subquestion 1

# What will happen when the form loses its original intentions?

Modification

Demolition

Gentrification

Assetization

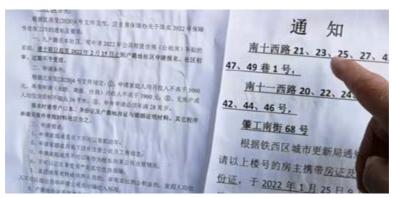
Museumization

Preservation

# **Collective Housing**



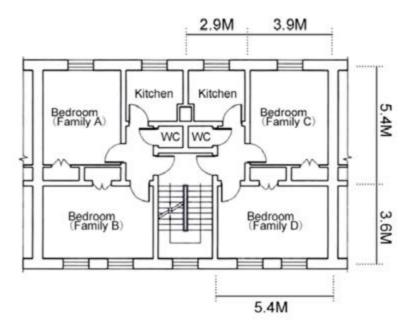




# 3. Questions

Subquestion 2

which essential values should be preserved for co-living even in this context of abandonment?

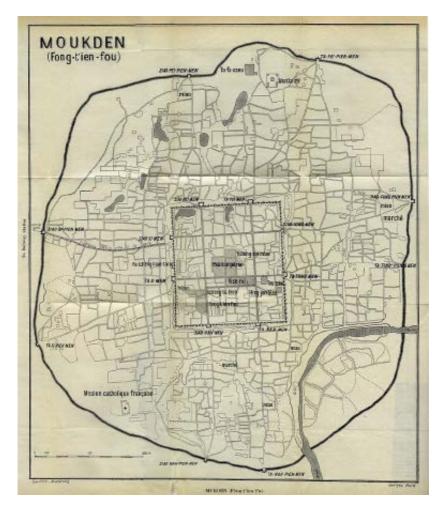


# IV. Shenyang Workers' New Village Historical Context

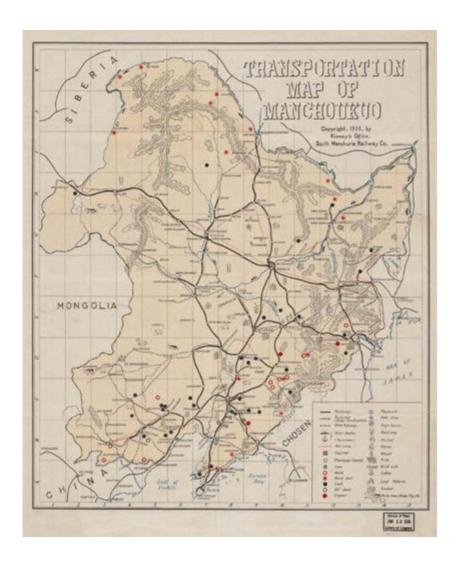
# 1. Historical layers

Shenyang's geographical position has led it to experience shifts between various governing regimes. As the origin of the Manchus, the ruling ethnic group of the Qing Dynasty, The city originally developed around the Manchu imperial city/castle. With the colonization of Manchuria by Japan, Shenyang started industrialization as a city on the railway line. Years of colonial history make Shenyang the largest industrial base of Maoist China.

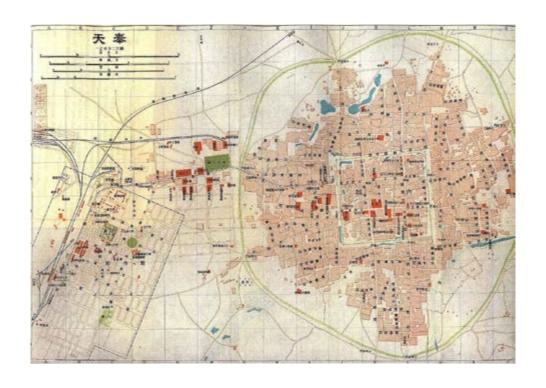




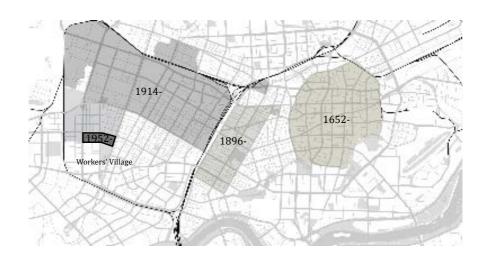
Shenyang is the origin of the Manchus, the ruling ethnic group of the Qing Dynasty. It originally developed around the Manchu imperial city.



With the colonization of Manchuria by Japan, Shenyang started industrialization as a city on the railway line.



Soon the South Manchurian Railway Company established a colonial dependency along the rail line next to the original city.



Manchu Period	Russian Colonization	Japanese Colonization	Founding of PRC	Chinese Economic Reform
1652	1896	1914	1949	1978
Manchu Capital	South Manchuria Railway Company	Tiexi District Industrialisation + Urbanization	of China is officially	Reform of state-owned enterprises mass layoffs of workers

Years of colonial history make Shenyang the largest industrial base of Maoist China. With so many historical layers, the community shows the ambition that Shenyang, though once a source of feudal kingship and a colonial city, should now be a working-class city.



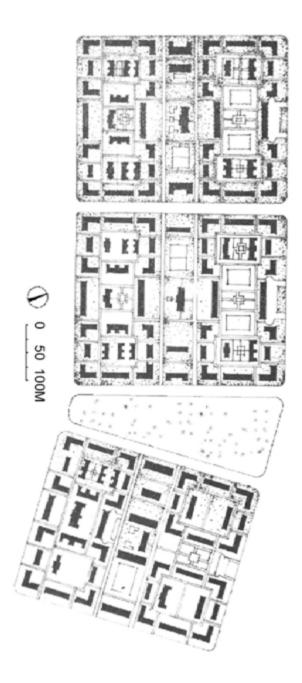
Shenyang Daily Newspaper, First edition, 7<sup>th</sup> Sep, 1952

Sources: https:// news.sohu.com/ a/680267333\_121124709

"The development of production brings new happiness-

# The government builds the village for workers staff

Huge and well-equipped new type of residential complex with seven thousand dormitories will be completed this year"

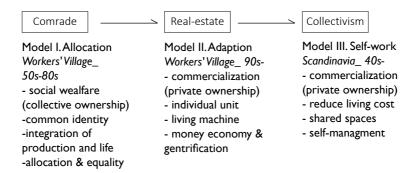








# 2. Shifting Model of Collective Housing in China



### Model I. Allocation

The first model is from the 50s to 80s which relies heavily on the planned economy and ration system.

Any worker family can apply for a room freely, rent is 4% of gross household income. Four rooms: four families, and shared facilities are a single group. The group extends vertically upwards for three floors to form a single unit. Each building is a juxtaposed combination of this single unit, without lateral connections. The reduced living space, shared facilities, and standardized units were to reduce construction costs and create equality.

Most living resources are centralized in service blocks, nearby the community, or combined with working life. All the means of subsistence are social welfare attached to a homogeneous identity: the worker class. The equality brought an opportunity for equal dialogue within the group: people used a unified word to address each other: comrade.

Through depersonalization, the group becomes the measure of things, and workers identify themselves with the values and norms that guide their behavior. How they perceived "us" and "I" is the source of intimacy.

Other Service blocks within the village a kindergarten a photo studio a hospital grocery and food stores, restaurants grain stations post and telecommunications branches, banks



Fig.1\_ Workers' Village primary school



Fig.2\_ Workers' Village theater



Fig.3\_ Canteen\_Shenyang Blower Factory

## Model II. Real-estate

But this model relies heavily on the whole social system, like Tafuri mentioned 'an oasis of order', so after a series of social reforms, this mode quickly declined. During the urban renewal project in 2000, units were transformed into separate apartments to follow the trend of real estate development and the need for privacy. Factories could not afford the maintenance costs. This district is close to the train station and city center, so 3/4 of the land was auctioned for commercial tower apartment development in the 90s.

Now residents who remain living here are aging and most of them are low-income. In the 80s, there was a rapid simplification of the family structure due to the single-child policy. The migration of young people to big cities has led to a surge in the proportion of elderly people living alone. Some residents here chose to stay in the new apartment, and some just left.

This community is not a collective housing anymore. While the collective sense of the era may still exist. I believe that recreating an intimate community is a key way to improve living conditions here.

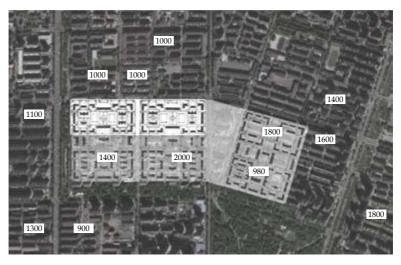


Fig.7\_ Renting price RMB/per month

### Sources:

https://www.shenyang.gov.cn/zwgk/fdzdgknr/tjxx/tjgb/202205/t20220507\_2927013.html https://shen.zu.anjuke.com/ditu/

Minimum wage: 1300.0 Disposable income: 4213.8



"Including housing in normal consumption"

"For decades, our country has been saddled with a big burden by treating the distribution of housing without compensation as a superiority of the socialist system...."

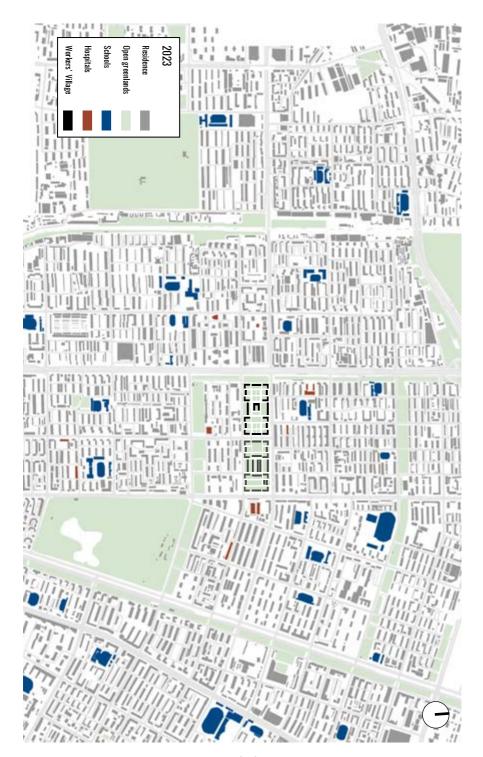
Shenyang Daily Newspaper, 1992

Sources: https://m.jiemian.com/article/6784570.html

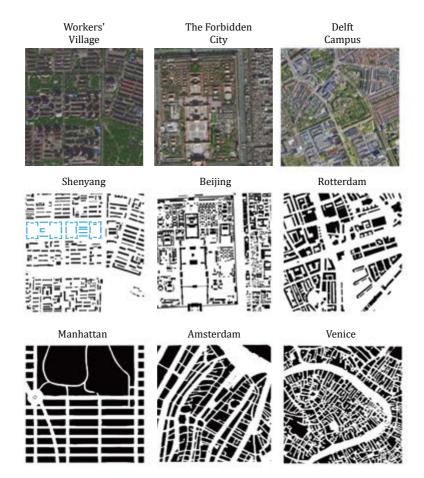
# V. Decline \_Ethnographic research

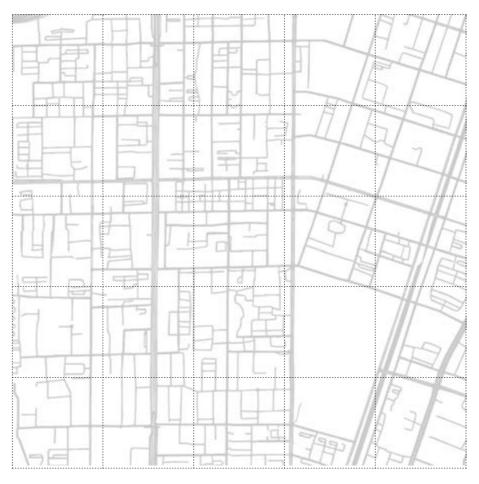


The courtyard at the Workers' Village Shenyang, China, 2023



# 1km<sup>2</sup> city



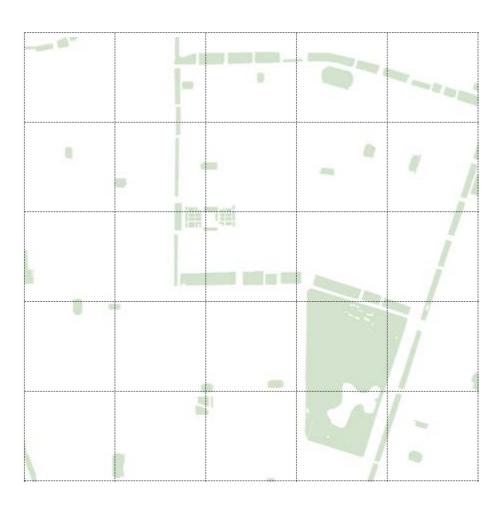




# Urban greenbelt Shenyang, China, 2023



#### Urban greenbelt Shenyang, China, 2023











This community is different from its surrounding.

Buildings are arranged parallel to each other along the road. They look like classroom seats. Courtyards are either surrounded by ground-floor shops or by gated walls. They are more like the gap between buildings within the plot that is divided by roads. Urban greening is either parks within individual plots or functional landscapes that beautify this division. The worker's village jumps out here as it is the opposite graph. The yards are defined by residential buildings themselves.

They are part of the public green belt, an open green land that everyone can get access to. But it's not entirely public due to the common territorial awareness and the living devices here. The greenery in the outer circle is more like a border between private life and public street

Therefore, there is both the possibility of public participation and the trouble of being disturbed in private life. Residents are undoubtedly looking forward to the latter, in fact, the community wall has been realized. I think people just want a barrier before entering the private living unit from the public or collective streets. I will keep the right part of this community.

And it is necessary to increase the usable area, so I imagine a functional box independent of the original buildings. , the extension of domestic life, also interactive with the courtyard, which is inefficient due to the extra size.

#### On-site research\_April 5-6/July 16-21

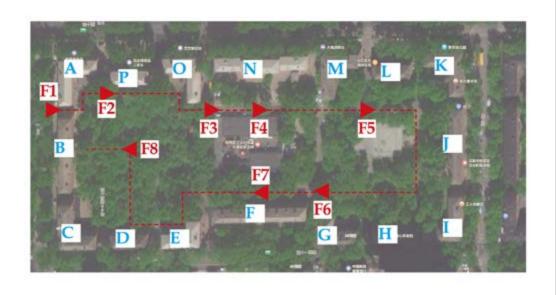




#### ZHANG Tianyi



Thanks to my cousin, he does the first research remotely for me. He is a train driver now.



#### Working list

4.5. 社区情况 多少户; 收入情况,是低保吗,是 收入情况,这边房租多少, 程房难吗,是原来分的房 子还是租的	4.4. 建筑情况 每一栋、都要拍两侧立面, 找一两个可以进入的单元 门,进去拍一下上下楼情 况,尤其是楼道里有没有 杂物	4.3.院子里有人活动吗? 是谁(主要是老头老太太 还是小孩)? 在哪(院子里,大树下, 石凳上,道边)? 做什么(聊天,下象棋)?	42. 一共有16个出入口, 哪些是最主要的?	4.工人村內部 (详细) 4.1. 有多少单元以及编号, 在地图上标出来
找居委会	· 建筑立面照片 (最好单点透视 点透视 · 单元门口 · 楼梯间	选 3-4 个有人活动的地点。 地图标注位置在哪 + 视频 20s-60s 访读参考附录 2——访该	主要出入口(盲猜是 F3 和 F6) 选一个、视频 20s-60s,记录 车辆和行人经过情况,加照 片; 次要出入口选一个(建 议 F2 或 F3),同样视频加照	地图见脐录1、建议彩打3 张 地图标注+3-5 张单元门照 片,最好是单点透视 也可以写表里(左下角)

#### 如果周日来不及,可放到周一

5.周日,公园书到上入约	•
e, 工人材外部 (大概)	
el. 劳模国+药两侧建筑(析录)	视频+照片
e2. 南十一路 55 巷 ( 药景, 拍到高速 + 中间绿花带 + 小区以及围墙)	视频各10s-30s(前进的时候拍荷况即 进的时候拍荷况即
e3. 南十一路 (街景、拍到工人村入口、 对面小区, 尤其是围墙)	照片各2张斯说。2 张细郎
c4. 赞工游 (班景)	视频 + 照片
工人村文化馆 (内部)	
会、前十四路(荷景、拍到工人村 人口、对面小区、尤其是围墙)	微頻+照片 (同上
es. 重工南街 (高架桥下,绿化,工人村单定门入口)	视频+照片(同上

## 1.周六晚,沈阳站到割店 a. 沈阳车站内景, 外景

b. 从车站投乘地铁, 地铁内部 规则+照片



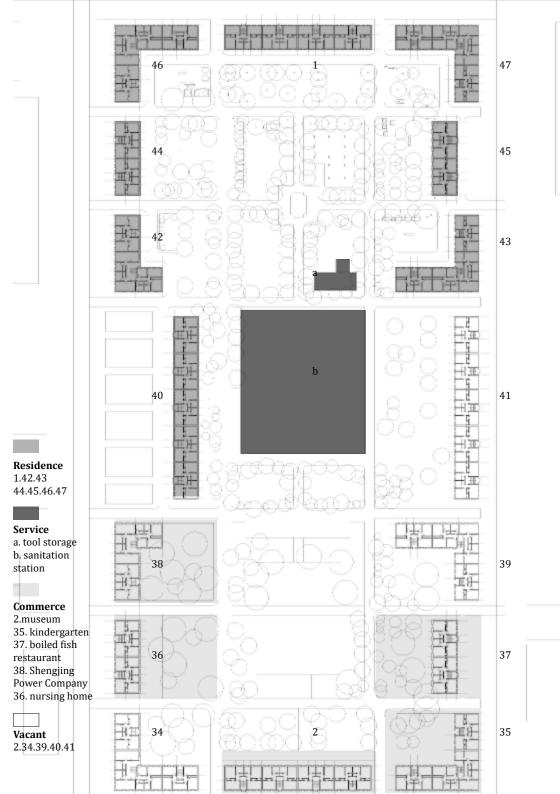
# 2.周日、酒店到公园

dl. 公园内人物活动 dl. 公园风景, 尺度	c. 酒店对面建设公园 (大概, 可略)
规则+照片+资质	视刻 + 照片

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EATING

EATING

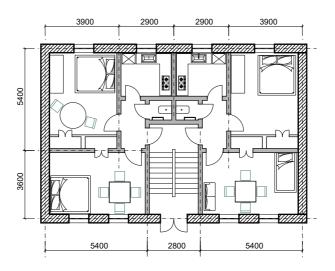


#### **Typology**

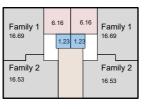
Each building is an equal machine containing the same parts of social human resources. The homogeneous unit plan indicates that everyone is similar and together resembles a group. This living model also corresponds to the social structure.

	TYPE I	NO.36,37,44,45	4
	TYPE II	NO.1,2	2
	TYPE III	NO.40,41	2
	TYPE IV	NO.34,35,39,43,46,47	6
	TYPE V	NO.38,42	2
-	TYPE VI		1
	TYPE VII		1

Type A 1/200

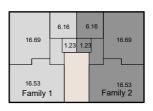


1951-2000



97.36 m2

2000-2023

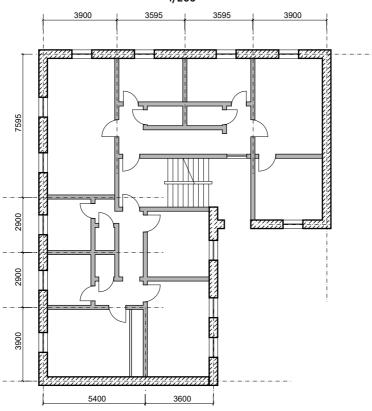


48.68\*2

The homogeneous unit plan was the best choice. each family has one room out of four on the same floor, and has to share a kitchen and a toilet with another family. condensed space for domestic life brings strong bonds between co-dwellers as they need to share almost everything

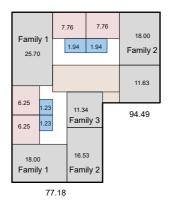


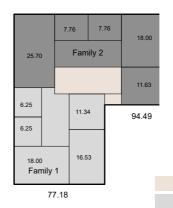
Type B 1/200



1951-2000

2000-2023



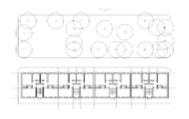


Staircase
Apartment 1

Apartment 2







Residence building 3 floors 4 units 24 apartments



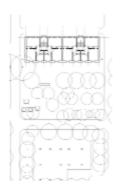




Residence building 3 floors 3 units 18 apartments







Residence building 3 floors 2 units 12 apartments







Residence building 3 floors 3 units 18 apartments



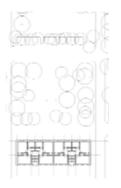




Residence building 3 floors 3 units 18 apartments







Residence building

3 floors

2 units

12 apartments





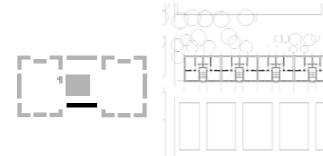


Residence building 3 floors

2 units

12 apartments

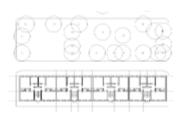




Vacant building 3 floors 5 units



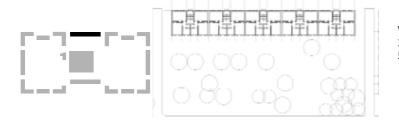




Rental building for bookshop 3 floors 4 units







Vacant building 3 floors 5 units



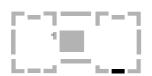


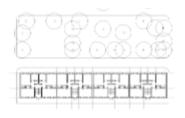




Rental building for energy company 3 floors 2 units







Municipality building for nursery home 3 floors 4 units



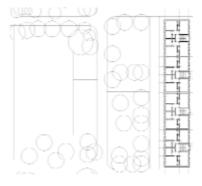




Vacant building 3 floors 3 units







Municipality building for workers' village museum 3 floors 4 units







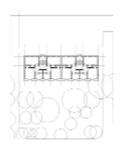


Rental building for kindergarten 3 floors 3 units









Rental building for boiling fish restaurant 3 floors 2 units

#### Sanitary station a

Municipality building







#### Sanitary station b

Municipality building







#### Staircase



#### Courtyard





#### The Vastness





#### The Vastness



## Private occupation in public spac





#### Along the road





#### Layers of Intimacy

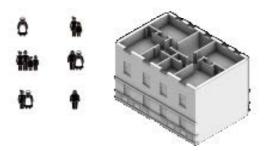
#### Type A\_2000-2023 aging community smaller family

#### 1- private apartment





#### 6- unit lising



#### Layers of Intimacy

## Type A\_1951-2000 workers' family

1- private room





2- shared facilities





4 reighbour





12-unit living





#### [The Falling Class]



She was hanging out the laundry when I interviewed her.

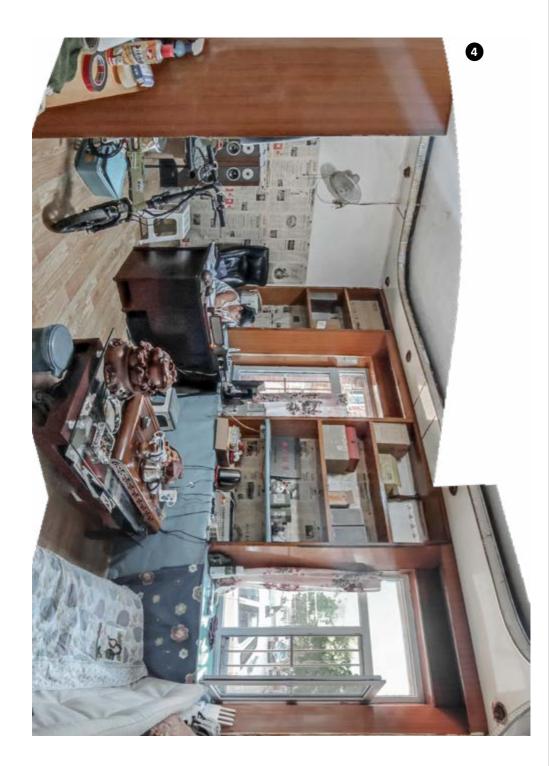
The rent for a single room is 330 yuan (42.25 euros) a month. In 2022, the average monthly salary of employees in Shenyang's urban non-private units is 8,752.5 yuan (1121 euros)\_Shenyang Statistic Bureau

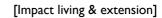




The rent is 450 yuan (57.61 euros) a month. He does not live here, he uses this room as a storage room and office.

When interviewing him, he was playing with his mobile phone beside a stone chair. A college student was in the room teaching his son extracurricular English classes. 150 rmb (19.2 euros) for per 2-hour class.





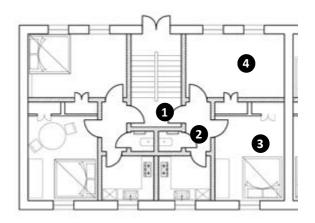












#### [Impact living & extension]











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#### MSc 3 Independent Group

Design and Research

Daniel Rosbottom
Mark Pimlott

Research Plan

Aleksandar Stanicio

Interiors Building Cities

## **Collective Intimacy**

Back to a utopian oasis in collective housing

### Research