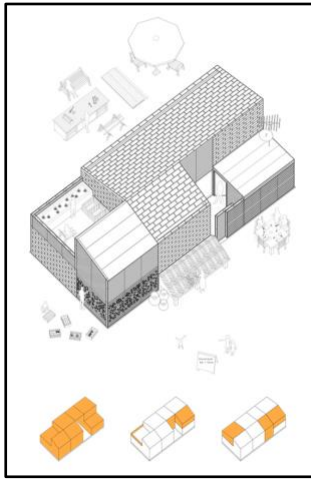


Arch518/409 **Introduction to Housing**
Sharon Haar, FAIA, NOMA, Professor (haar@umich.edu)
Tuesdays, 8:30 am – 11:20 am; room 3154 (3rd floor capstone room)



COURSE DESCRIPTION

Housing is defined by universals such as the need for shelter and specifics such as location. It is also influenced by demographics, politics, race, and gender. This course asks: what do our homes say about us as individuals and as a society; how is this expressed through architecture and urbanism?

Introduction to Housing looks broadly at the topic of housing, the building type where the space of our domestic lives (the house) and the collective (the community or city) meet. It offers multiple frames of analysis, asking questions such as: What makes a house a home? What makes a house housing? What do our homes say about us as individuals and as a society, and how is this expressed through architecture and urbanism? What are the impediments to providing safe, equitable, and affordable housing today?

Introduction to Housing weaves together several themes and topics in recognition of the intersectional nature of “housing.” Its scope ranges from traditional forms and organization to contemporary discourses of feminism, gender, and queer space; the reshaping of the city by neoliberalism; and urgent conversations around social and spatial justice.

The class will focus on North American and European examples and their “orbit”—projects in Asia, Latin America, and elsewhere that fall within the contemporary discourse of “western” architectural epistemologies. However, in its framing it offers a critique and rethinking of the ontological—material, social, cultural, political, gendered, racial—contexts of these examples. Through readings, media, case studies, in class discussions, and assignments students are encouraged to expand this frame of reference through their own experience and in doing so reflect this knowledge back into the content of the class.

As a seminar, students are expected to actively engage with the class material and with one another. Assignments build iteratively on a week-by-week basis and allow for a variety of presentation formats; there will be no large midterm or final assignments. There will be several guest interlocutors over the semester. The class is open to graduate students and upper-level undergraduates.



Images: Tatiana Bilbao, Housing+ (top); Lacaton & Vassal, Transformation of 530 Dwellings (bottom)