

Instructors

Lars Graebner
(graebner@umich.edu)
Christina Hansen
(hansench@umich.edu)

Craig Borum
(cborum@umich.edu)
Claudia Wigger, coordinator
(cwig@umich.edu)

Gabriel Cuéllar
(gcuellar@umich.edu)
Kit McCullough
(kitmcc@umich.edu)

Jonathan Rule
(jonrule@umich.edu)
Ana Morcillo Pallares
(anmorcil@umich.edu)



Shabbyshabby apartments, Raumlabor



COLLECTIVES

the power of living and working together

We have to find ways to work and live together, to welcome people, to make experiments.
We need new ways to build without using up the world's resources.
We need low cost housing in our cities. Space is not a luxury – but a necessity!
Housing should be a public value that relates to other common goods.
We have to reinvent the idea of housing, ground, and soil.

Raumlabor

The way we live and the communities we belong to become central, especially during challenging times. Over half a million Americans are experiencing homelessness, and between thirty to forty million feel unsure about paying their rent. Food deserts remain a serious issue, linked to obesity, under-nutrition, and climate change. More than 18 million Americans live in “low-access” neighborhoods, and 30 percent more Americans of color find themselves in food deserts. With our population aging rapidly, and one in four adults feeling lonely, finding new ways for us to live together is becoming increasingly more important.

This studio will explore the intention of individuals to act as a community and how the values of co-housing, co-living communities, and cooperatives can build support systems that foster solutions-oriented approaches. Communities have the power to address challenges such as climate action by living sustainably in the face of environmental threats, aging with dignity and independence, providing solutions for affordable housing, and finding a balance between sociability and privacy.¹

As suburbia continues to spread out and expand, it becomes increasingly vital to design dense housing and use resources more efficiently and sustainably. Through the simple aggregation of dwellings, a house becomes housing, and as a result, it confronts issues of density versus individuality, as well as the requirements for public access against the instinct of privatization. This uniquely ambivalent architectural subject requires consideration of both physical and social space, from the scale of infrastructure to that of an individual room. Since housing involves repetition and deviation, it serves as an ideal subject for comprehensive learning. The goal of this studio is to engage, negotiate, and synthesize comprehensive design from a broad range of agendas. Emphasis will be placed on invention through the manipulation of precedents as a starting point.

Through the framework of the Collectives studio, we will explore urban fabrics, housing (and mixed-use) typologies, domestic environments, new opportunities for collective living, and material investigations relevant to our time's most urgent challenges. Collectives Studio requires all students to develop and document a comprehensive architectural project, combining the Research, Schematic Design, and Design Development phases traditionally found in most architectural practices into one semester.

Each studio section will propose its own framework for collective living, choosing its specific site and approach. Students will work collaboratively in groups to address the challenges of housing diverse populations during times of economic and climate uncertainty, and turn them into opportunities for designing visionary proposals across various scales with careful attention to context and building systems.

¹ Together by Design The Art and Architecture of Communal Living, William Richards