

# 2017-2018 Housing Design Education

Living Together: Equity through Commoning Domestic Space  
32583

In recent years, housing prices in the San Francisco Bay Area have risen to the highest in the country due to a lack of supply. One of the primary responses has been the development of micro-units, which reduce the nuclear apartment to its ultimate minimum, often creating isolating and inhuman conditions. As an affordable alternative, Living Together has focussed on new forms co-living that common domestic resources. In the context of the Bay Area, co-living not only taps into the 1960s legacy of communes, it reconsiders the role of space within the sharing economy. The contention of the project is that by renegotiating the relationship between the public and private realm, residents have access to a higher quality and quantity of amenities while building meaningful social units and forms of governance. Our design-research on housing attempts to go beyond the nuclear family and embrace underrepresented lifestyles. Through examining how we live together, architecture can more equitably distribute resources and thereby have agency within socio-political and economic conversations.

A multifaceted design methodology was employed that fostered relationships outside the academy, engaged historic and contemporary living experiments, brought the outside to the academy, and created forms of public dialogue. Through workshops, lectures, site visits, interviews and documentation, students engaged directly with the SF Planning Department, non-profit organizations such as SPUR, and co-living/ commune residents. In conjunction to this, students also analyzed disciplinary precedents that offer insights into the opportunities and challenges of living together. Working in a transcalar manner from site to typological re-organization to details, the projects center on specific ways of living that are choreographed around sharing and time. A series of symposia brought theorists, historians, policymakers, activists, and entrepreneurs to the classroom to frame the pragmatic and conceptual possibilities in communal living. Student work has been able to engage a broader audience through exhibitions, revealing the power of visionary yet implementable architecture to challenge conventions on how we design housing today and reminding students the agency they have as designers.

## Housing in the Affordability Crisis

“The only indispensable material factor in the generation of power is the living together of people. Only where men live so close together that the potentialities of action are always present can power remain with them....“

—Hannah Arendt, *The Human Condition*

In recent years, communal living in San Francisco has gained widespread attention for its potential to address the affordability crisis in this highly desirable geography. While media accounts of this domestic typology typically describe it for its economic efficiency—incorporating it into simplistic narratives about gentrification and rising rents—this ‘necessity-oriented’ explanation of communal residences misses the breadth of motivations and manifestations of intentional communities, from socio-political values to professional networking and lifestyle affinities. The notion of living together is not new to San Francisco. In fact, during the 1960s, San Francisco became a critical hub for the development of communes—a time that shaped the city. The commune acted as a space for experimentation—of alternative politics, lifestyles, and an attempt to go beyond the nuclear family. These spaces sought to more precisely curate a way of living that existed outside of the system. Today, communal living is once again having a resurgence. Within a culture of the declining significance of the nuclear family, communal living has offered meaningful social units and institutions of culture, values, community and support. Not only has living together embraced a larger range of users, through sharing resources, these spaces inherently build a new type of commons and offer a higher quality of social life. In parallel, contemporary modes of communal living have expanded from communes to include co-living start-ups, hacker hostels, and membership-based timeshare models. Several of these are tied to the rise of the sharing economy, which also emerged in San Francisco. Peer-to-peer software experimentation has found opportunity to effectively re-organize the city’s resources and space, including housing. Reconsidering how we live, these platforms have effectively tapped into the transience of new forms of domestic life.

In this complex context of resurgence of communal living and against the backdrop of well-known communes that shaped the image of San Francisco in the 1960s and 70s, *Living Together* aims to shape an environment for housing education in which students understand the agency of architecture in the contemporary housing crisis through proposals for collective living. To address these new housing models, a research and design methodology has been developed that places students in direct contact with existing communal living experiments and asks students to map specific lifestyles and needs of local communities and constituencies. The studios pair a time-based understanding of how living environments are used with spatial analysis of architectural precedents that pioneered aspects of collective living. The resulting design projects consider shifting conceptions of the public and private spheres across many scales. From spatial interfaces with the urban context, to material development of negotiated thresholds within new dwelling types, students learn to leverage architecture as a device that mediates lifestyles, enables different scales of sharing, and builds frameworks for different uses over time. Through symposia and public platforms like exhibitions and publications, *Living Together* seeks to position both research and results of these housing studios in a broader public conversation about how we live today.

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## A. Building Relationships Outside the Academy



Workshops and exhibitions in collaboration with San Francisco Planning Department and San Francisco Planning and Urban Research (SPUR, Non-Profit Organization). Through these collaborations, experts and stakeholders interface with students directly, and student work is in dialogue to adjust/create new policies around group housing.



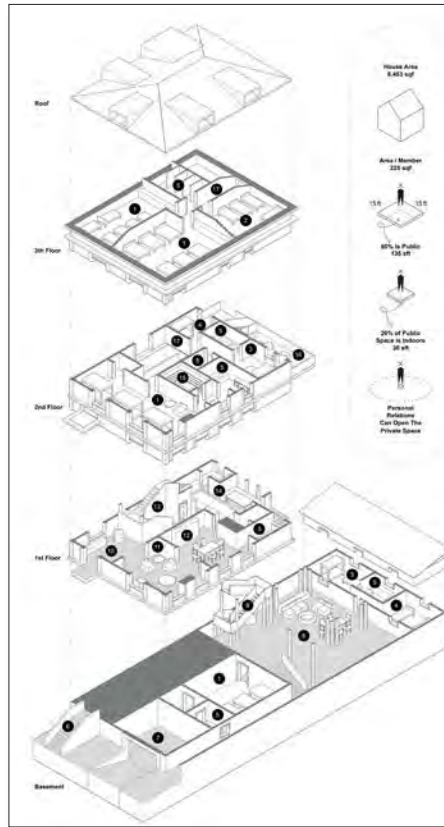
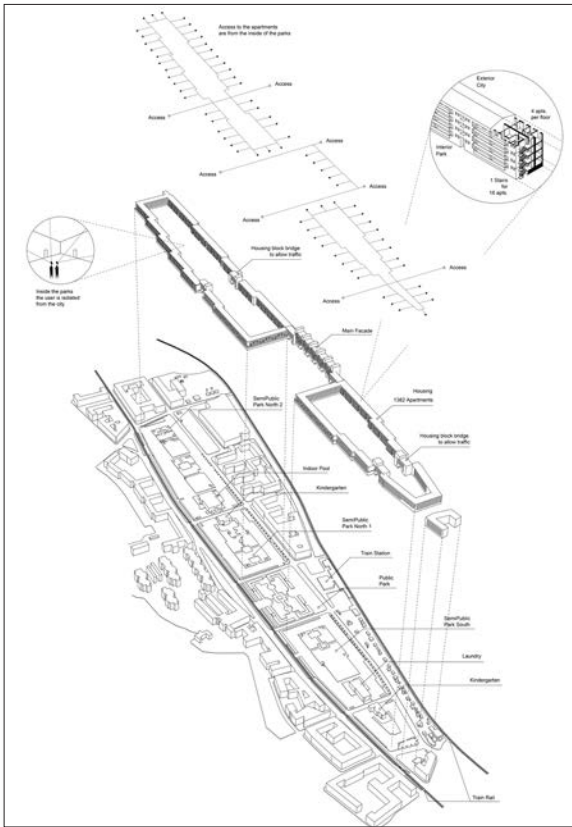
## A. Building Relationships Outside the Academy



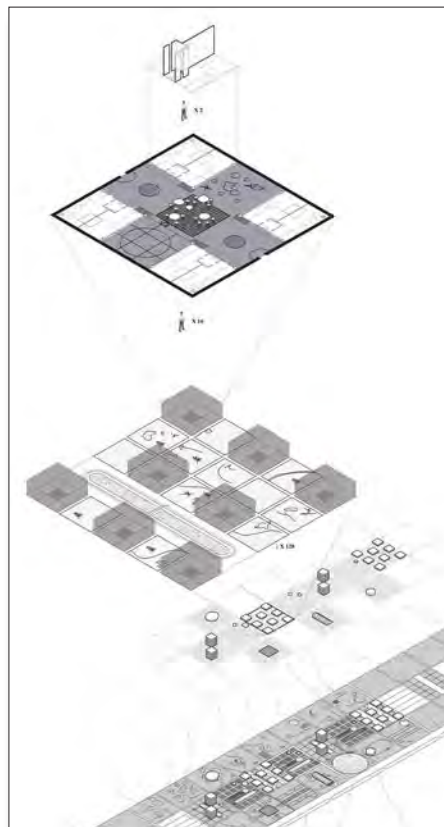
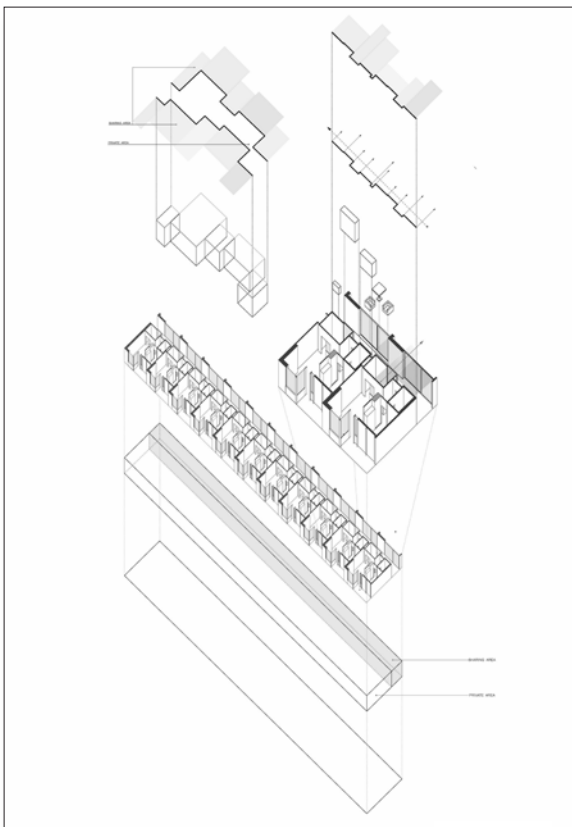
Students interface directly with a series of co-living/ commune households and through interviews and documenting spatial conditions, understand the opportunities and challenges of living together.



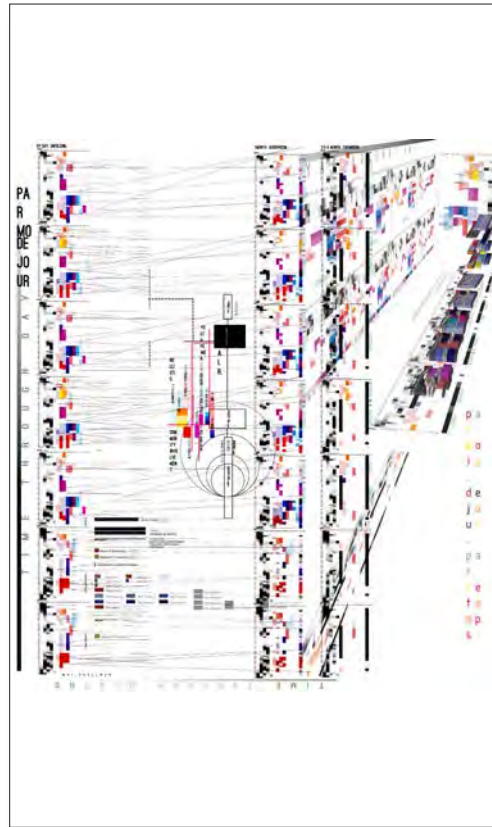
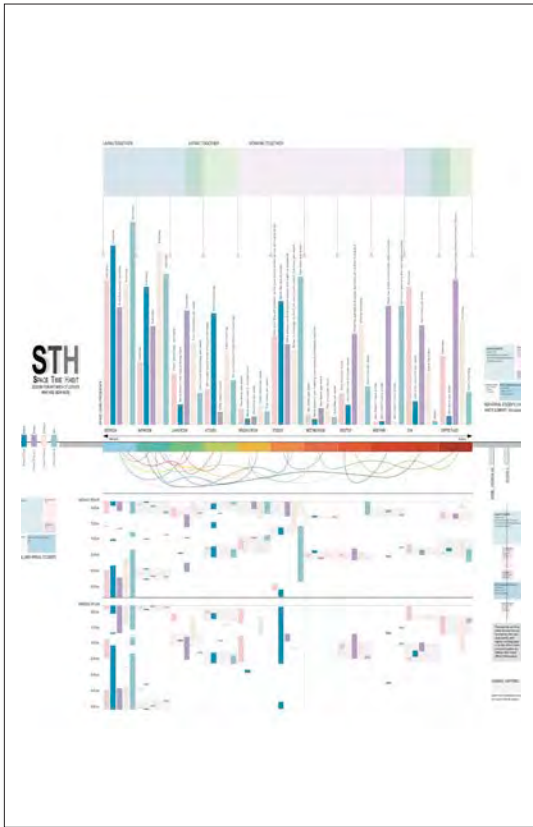
## B. Understanding Domesticity



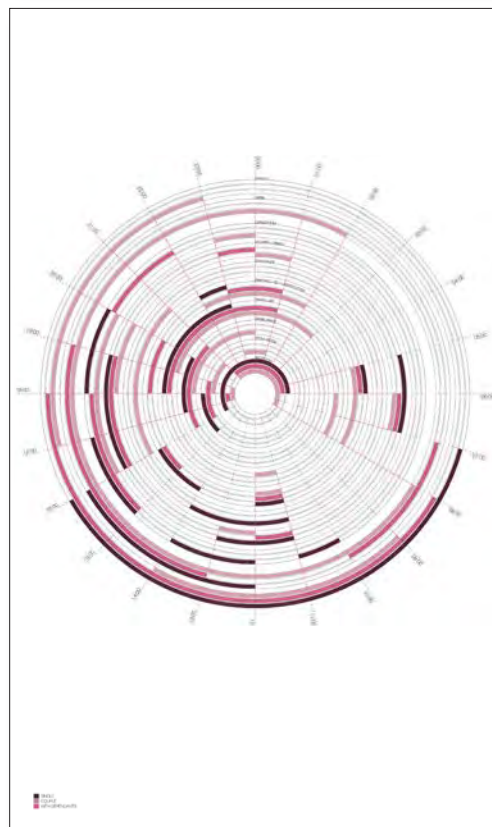
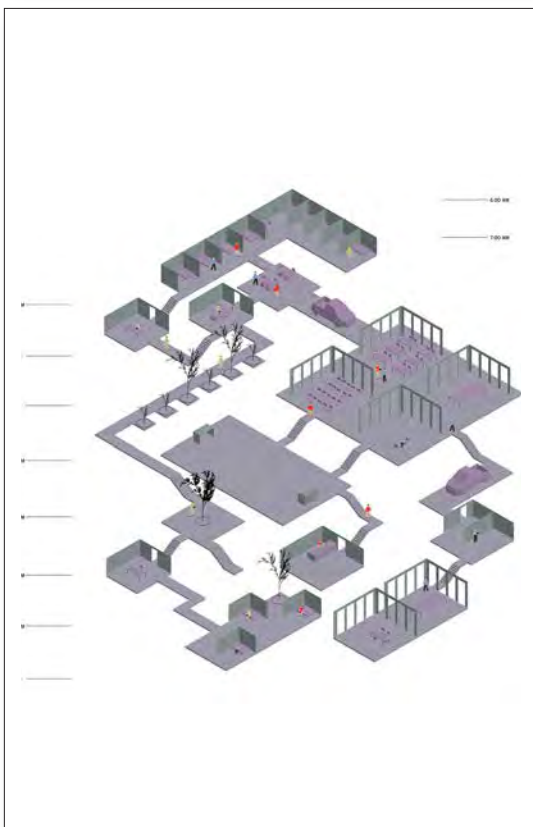
Students analyze a series of co-living projects — historic as well as contemporary— to understand the relationship between the public and private sphere and the spatial interfaces that negotiate these realms.



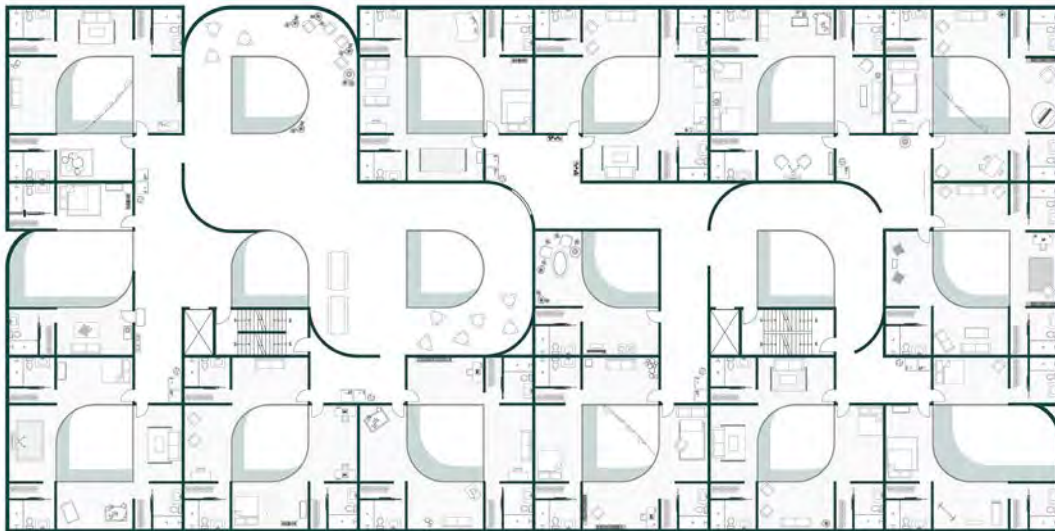
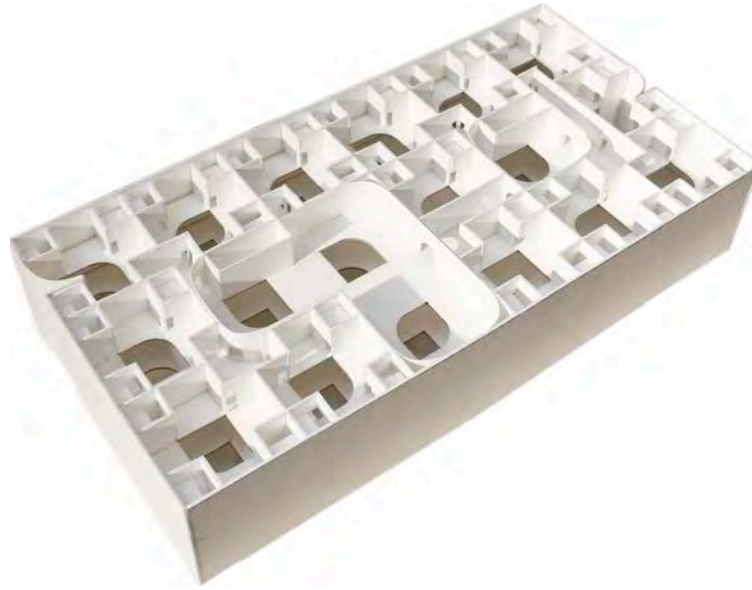
## B. Understanding Domesticity



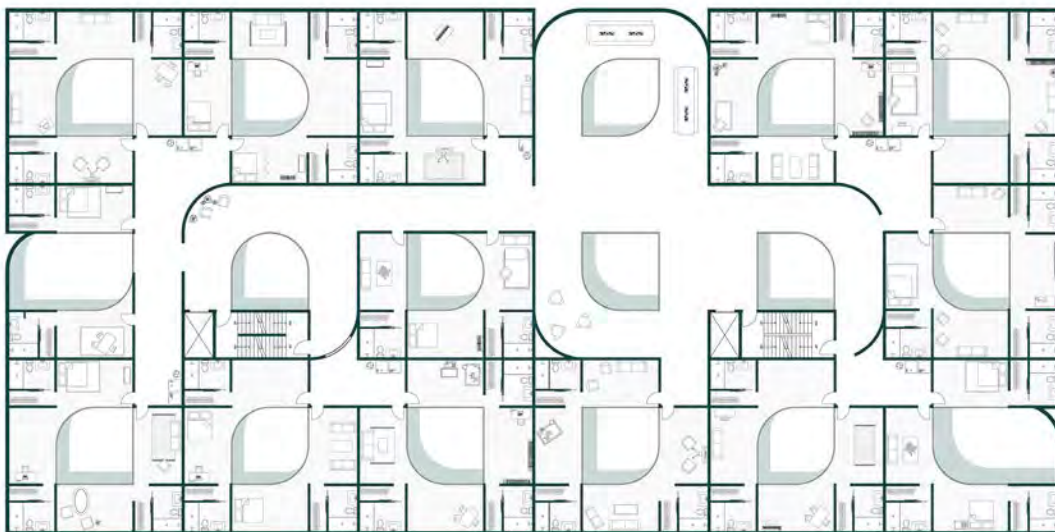
Students map the time-based occupation of their specific subjects. If our daily lifestyles and everyday choices are a measure of a form of politics, through this analysis students understand the relationship between space, privacy, and sharing.

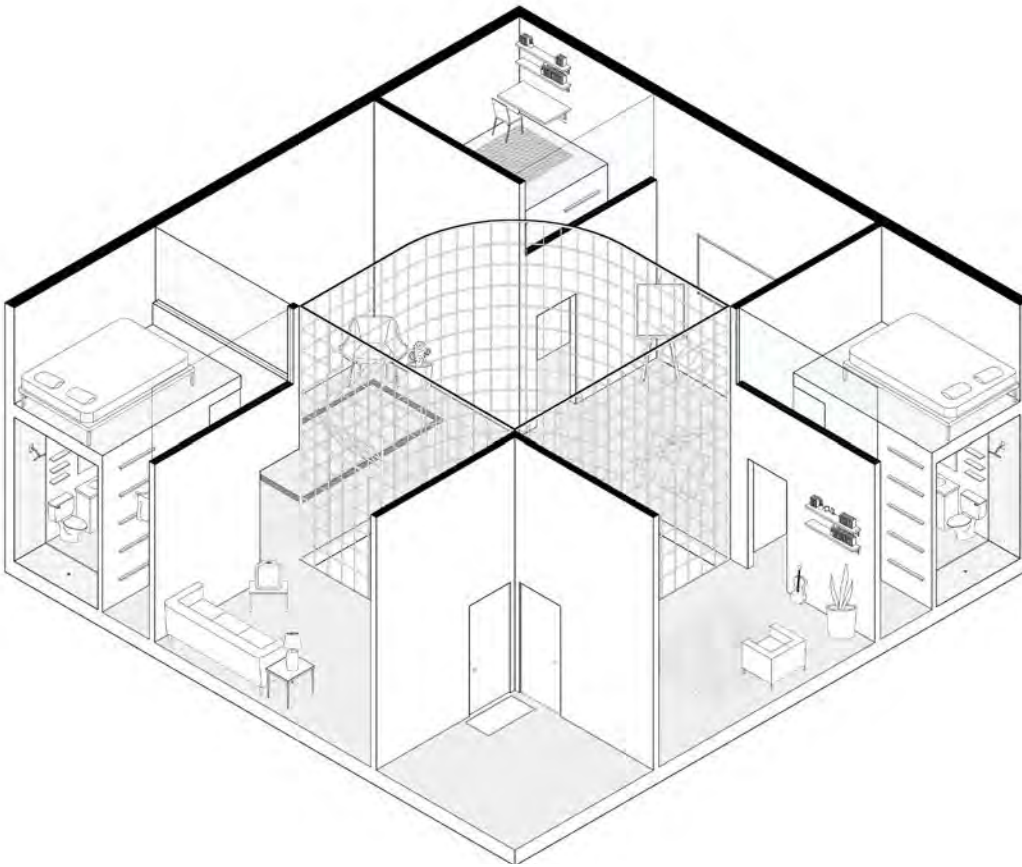


## C. Trans-scalar Design Methodology



Student Project  
Work Sample 1  
Interrogating the Figure/Field





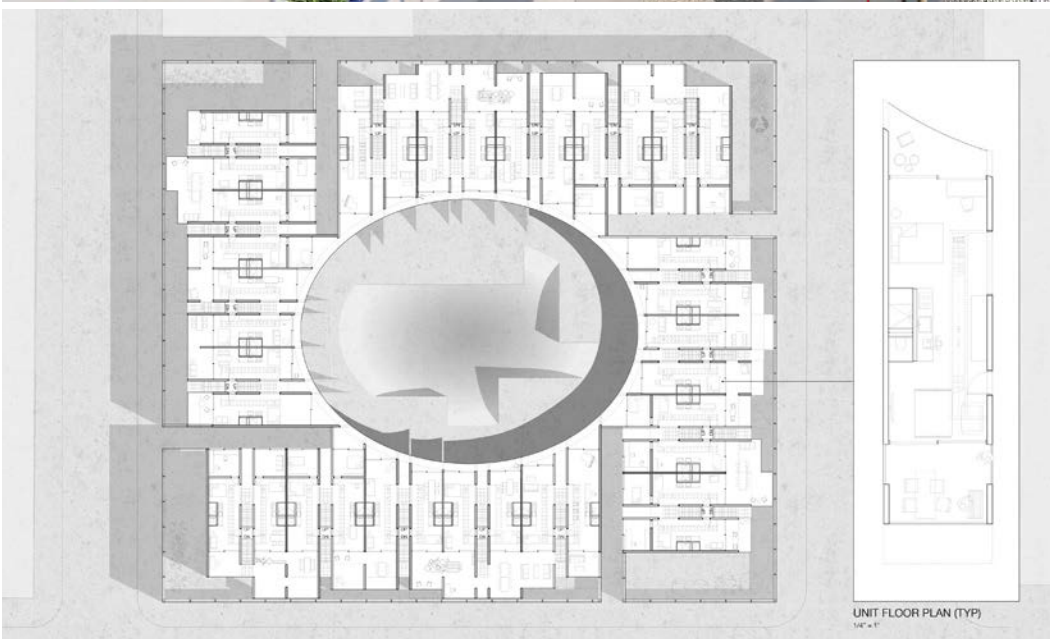
Student Project  
Work Sample 1  
Interrogating the Figure/Field



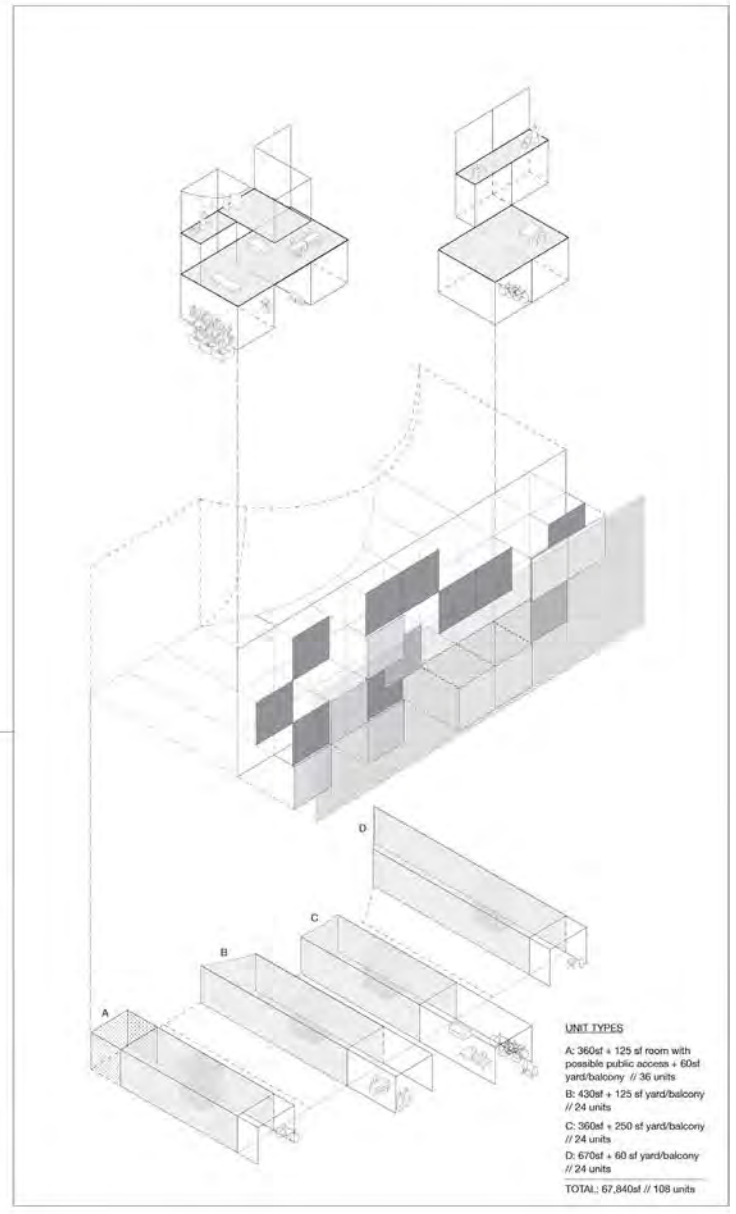
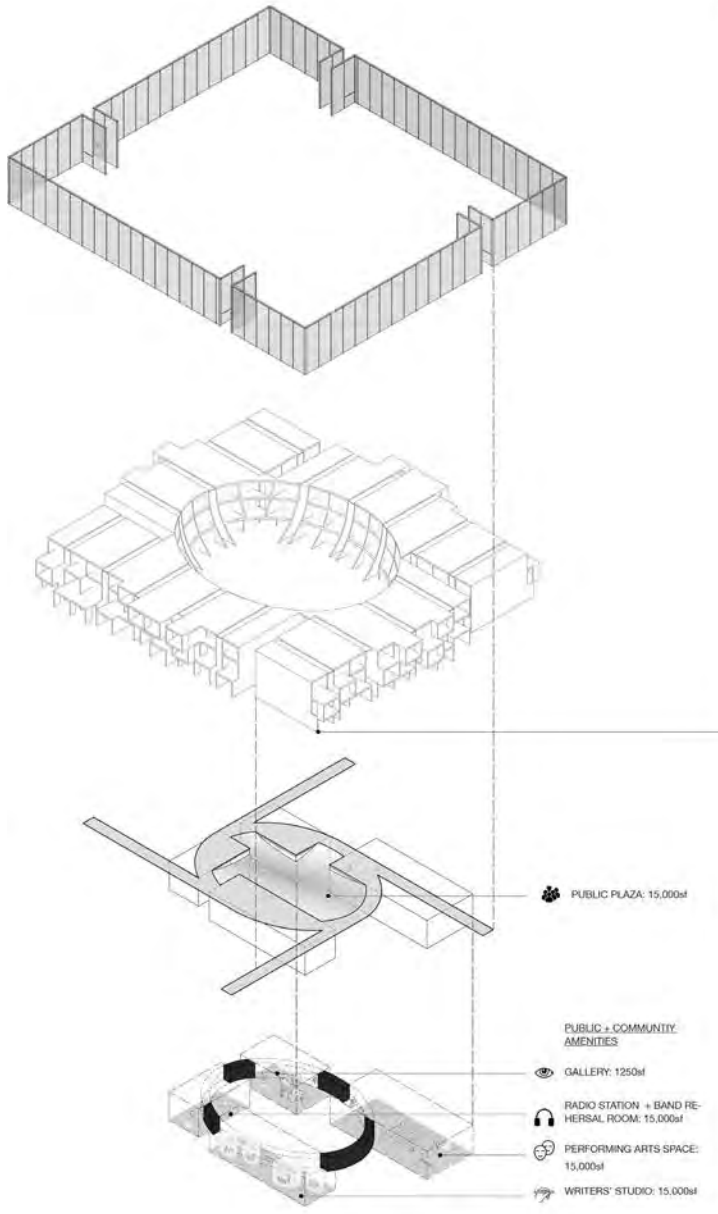


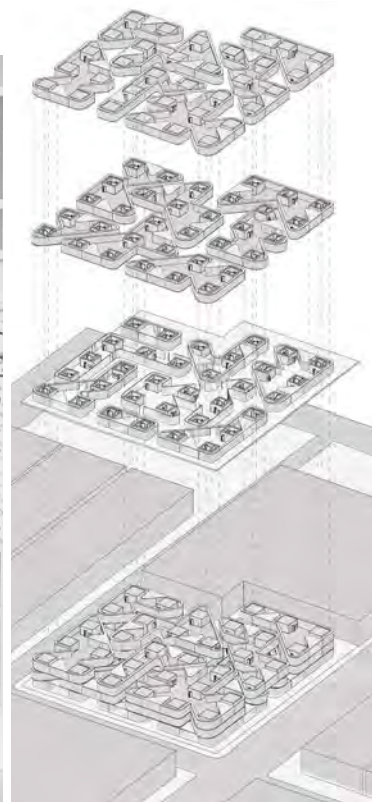
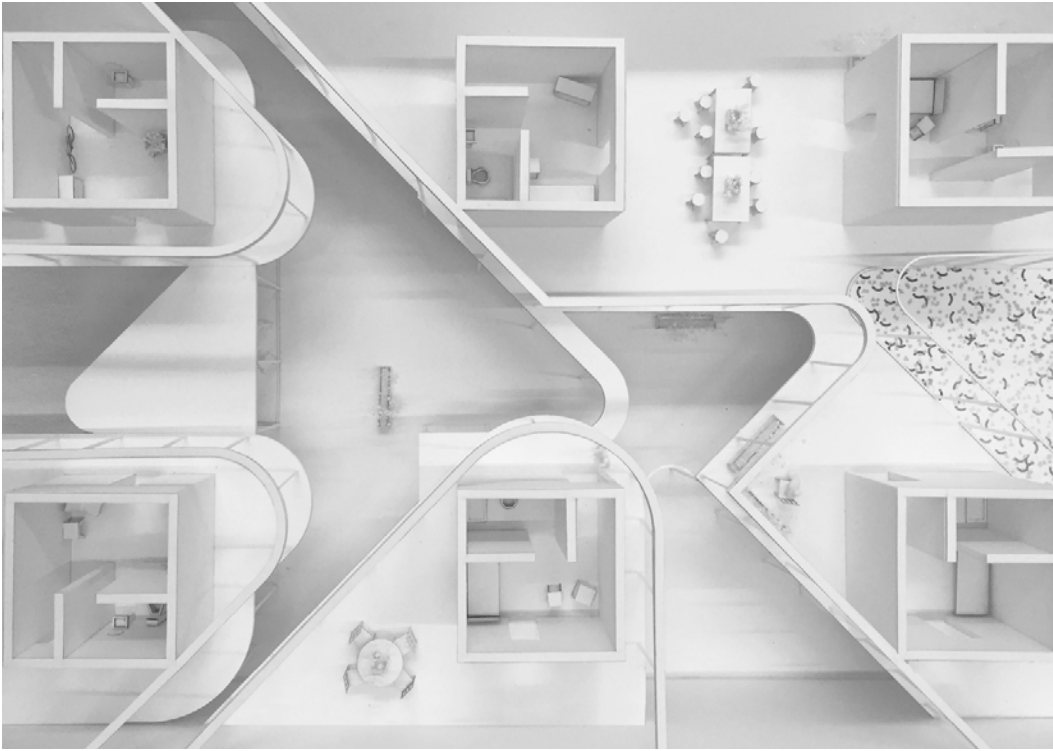
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Student Project  
Work Sample 2  
Collectivity from Within

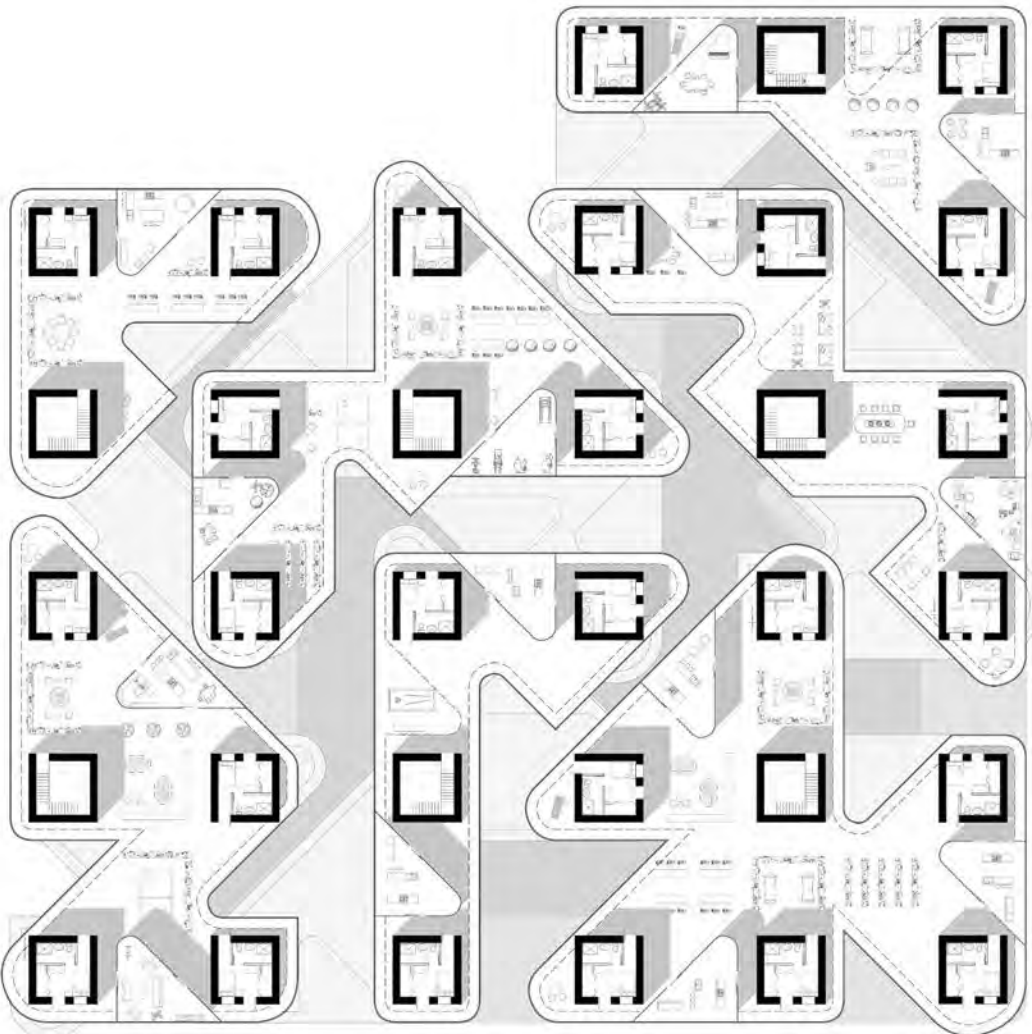


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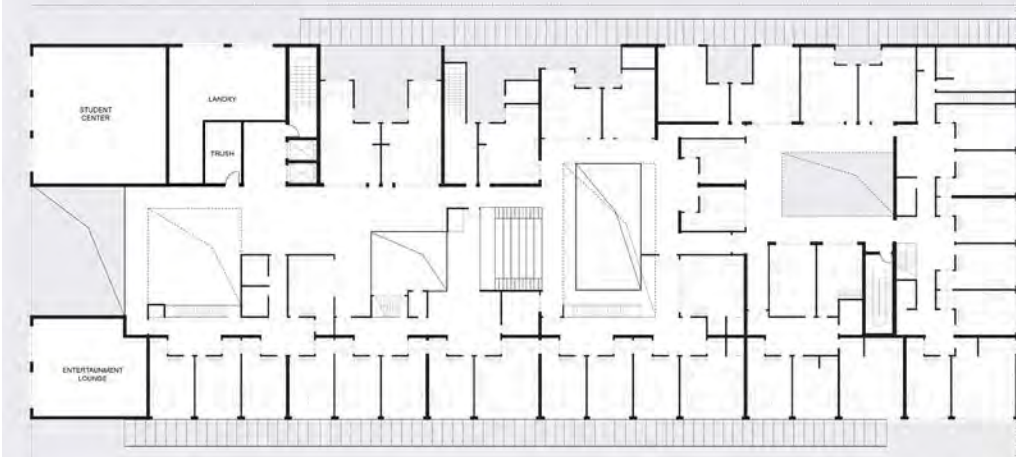
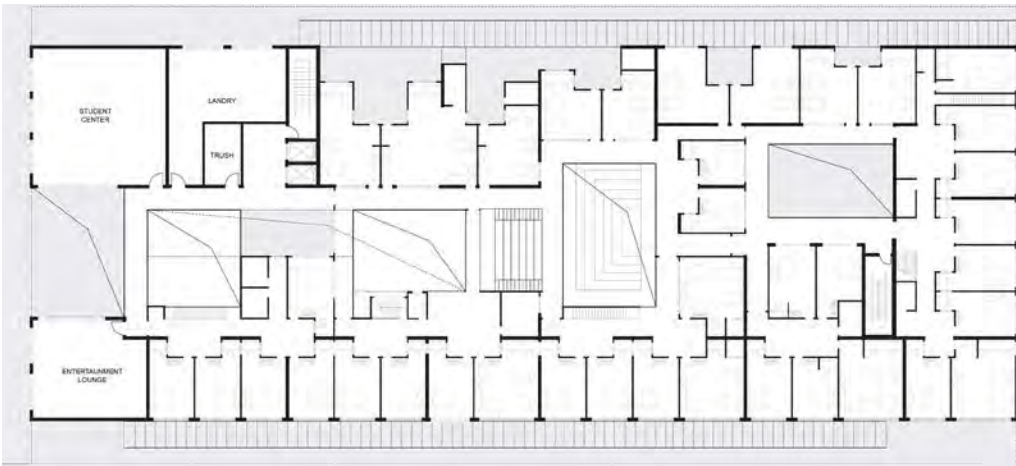


Student Project  
Work Sample 3  
The Cell and Public Platform

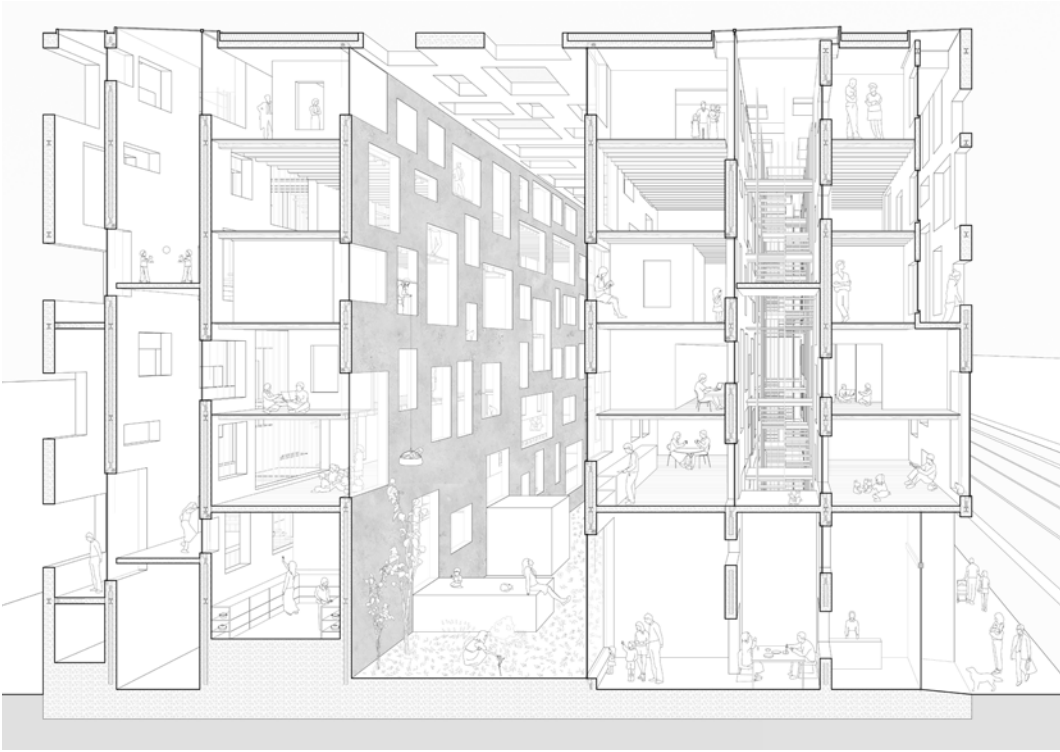


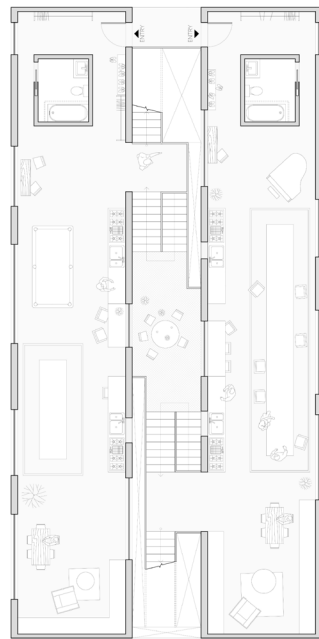
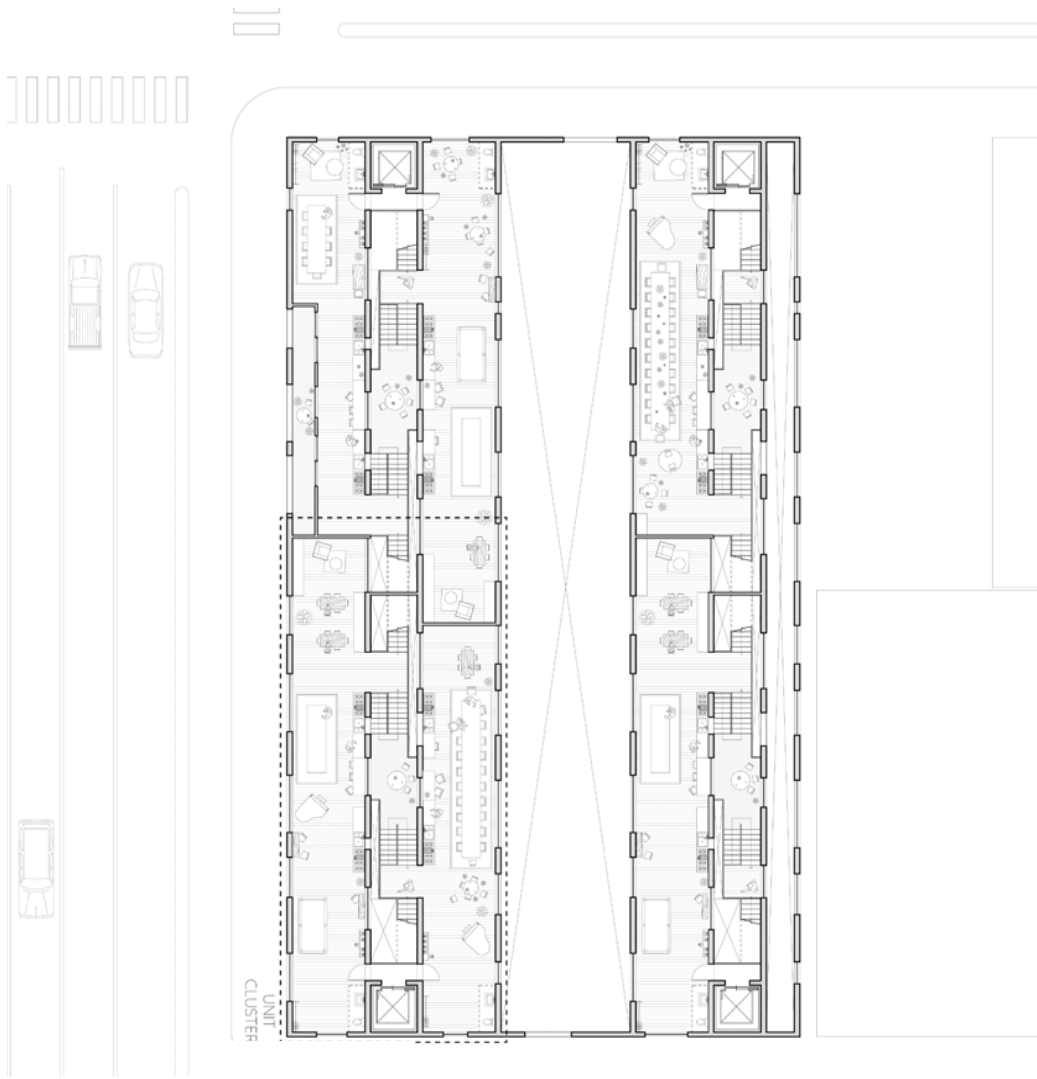
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Student Project  
Work Sample 4  
Collectivity and the Expanded Corridor



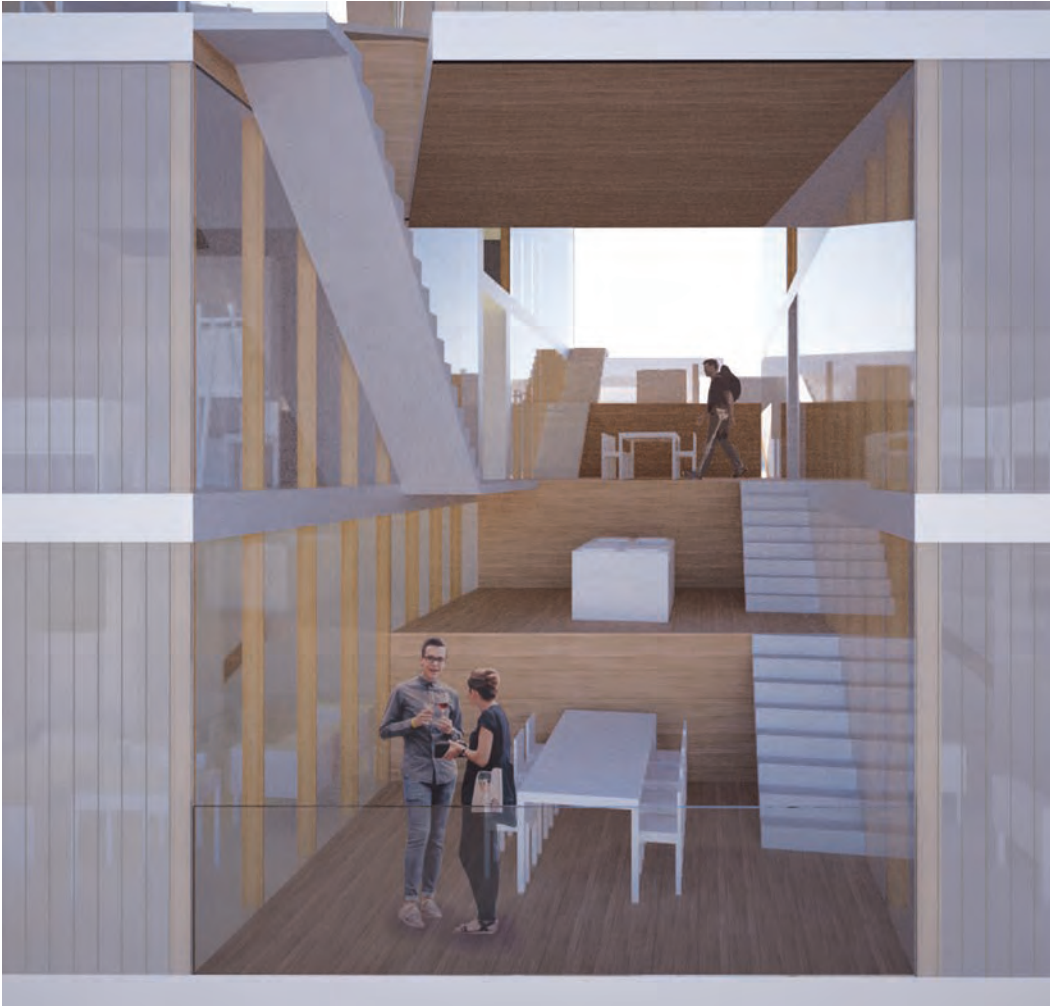
Student Project  
Work Sample 5  
Housing City Workers



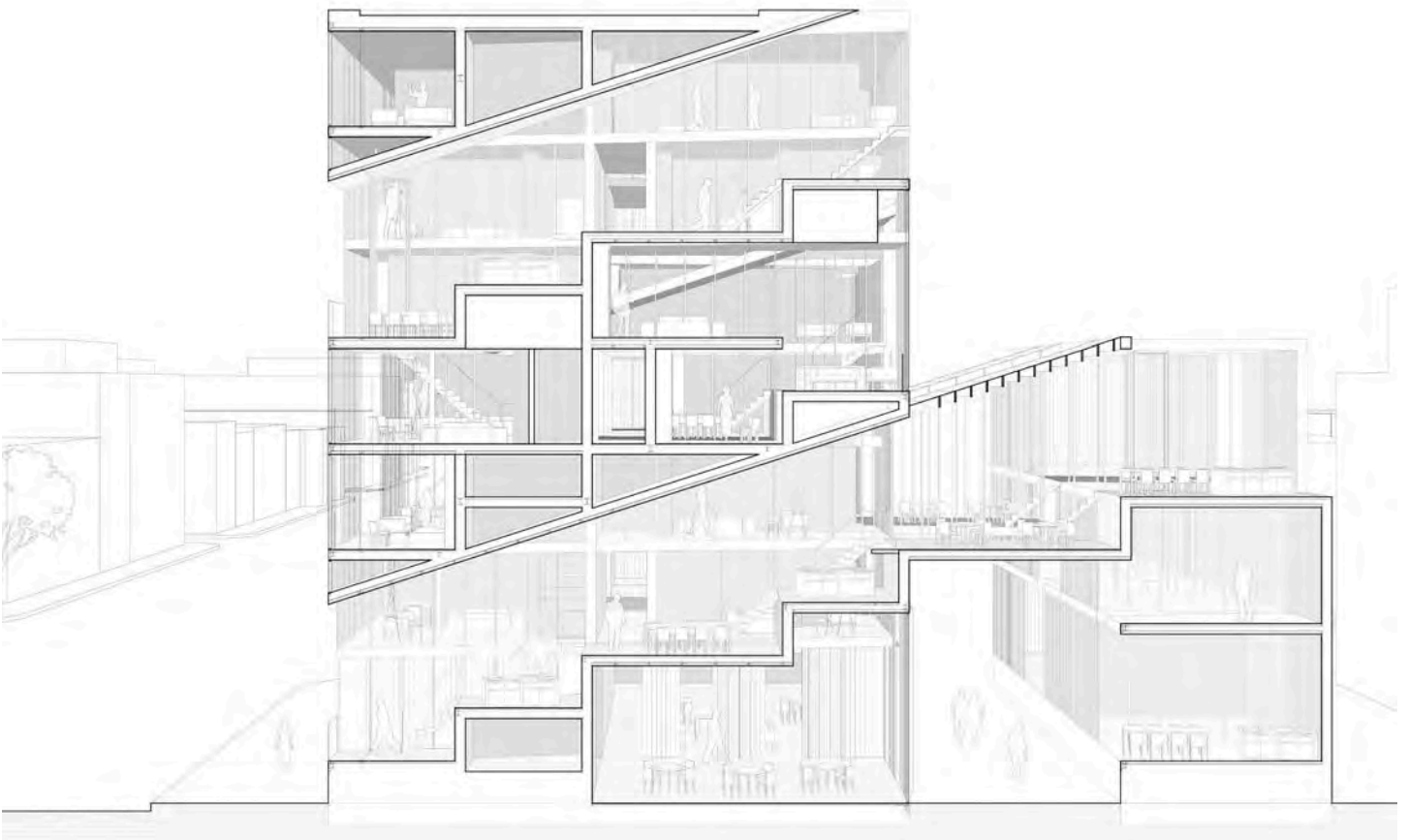


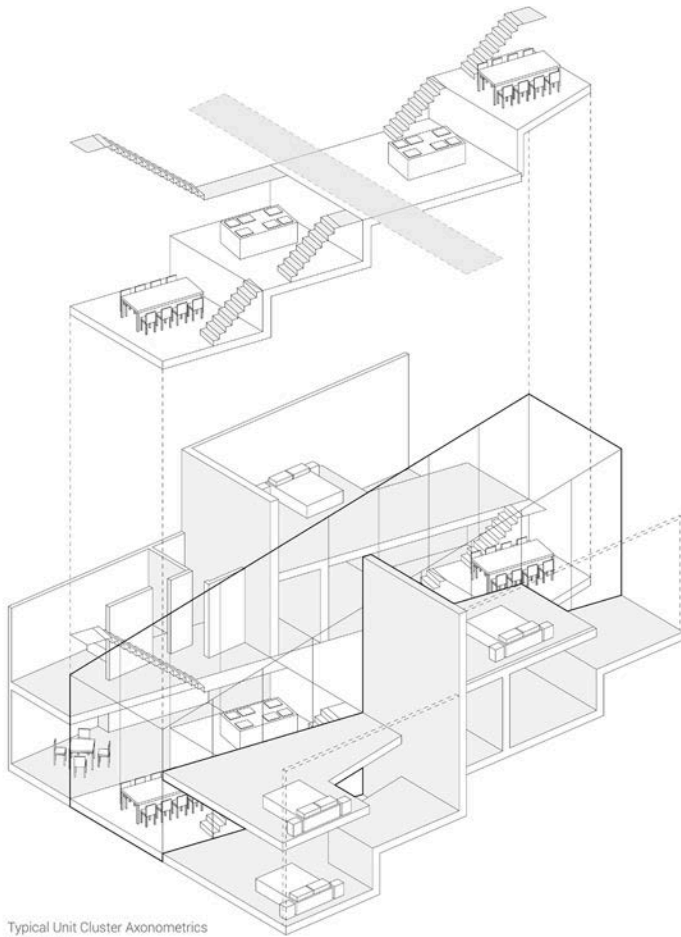
Student Project  
Work Sample 5  
Housing City Workers

Living Together: Equity through Commoning Domestic Space

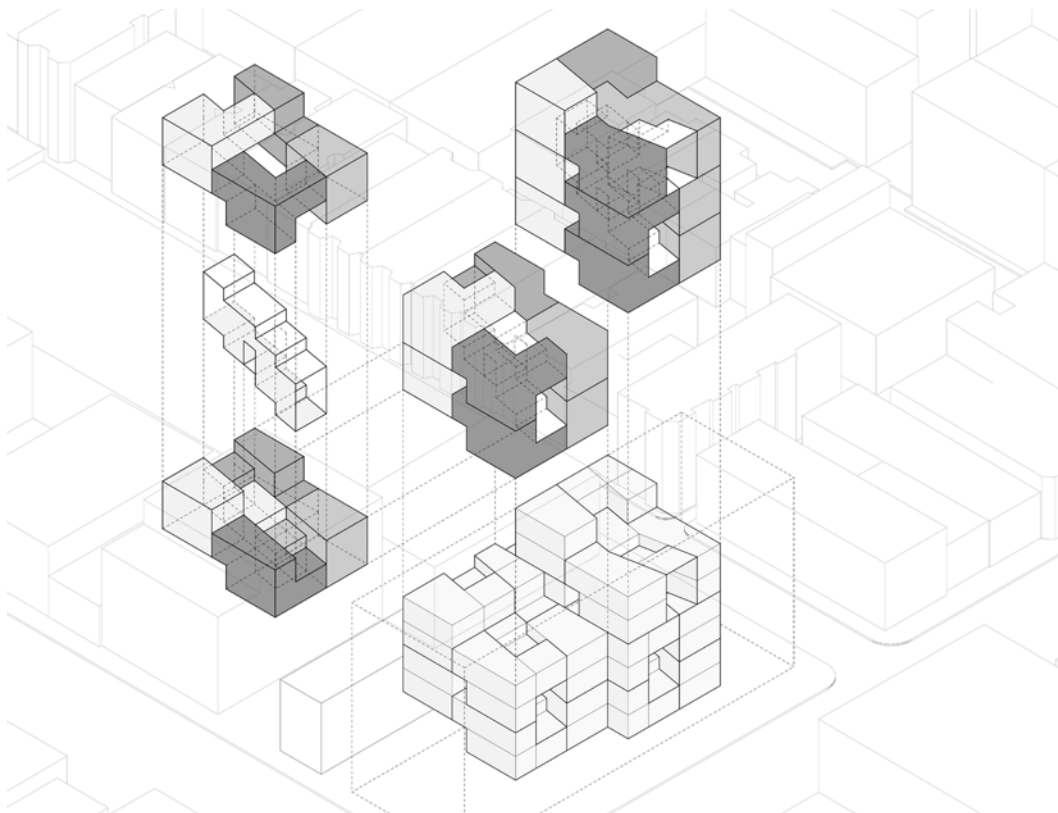


Student Project  
Work Sample 6  
Nested Collectives





Typical Unit Cluster Axonometrics  
1/4"=1'-0"



Student Project  
Work Sample 6  
Nested Collectives



# D. Public Engagement

## DOMESTIC AFFAIRS

February 15, 2015 3pm-9pm  
California College of the Arts, 1111 8th St, San Francisco, CA 94107

**0**  
Leo R. Hebel Boardroom **3:00-3:30**  
Introduction: **DOMESTIC AFFAIRS**  
NEERAJ BHATIA / CCA, The Open Workshop  
CHRISTOPHER ROACH / CCA, Studio VERA  
ERIC ROGERS / New Haven Winstor Square Coop  
ANTJE STEINMULLER / CCA, Studio URBS

**1**  
Leo R. Hebel Boardroom **3:30-4:45**  
**THE RIGHT TO THE CITY**  
IAN DIMAM / BIZR&L Housing  
DAVID BAKER / David Baker Architects  
KEARSTIN FESCHINGER / The SF Planning Department  
SONIA TRAUSS / SF Bay Area Renters Federation

**2**  
Leo R. Hebel Boardroom **5:00-6:30**  
Panel: **IMMANENT URBANISM(S): COMMUNAL LIVING IN A CITY NOT DESIGNED FOR IT**  
EMILY ABRUZZO / Yale University  
ZAC BENTLEY / Radical Theory House  
CREON LEVIT / NASA  
ERIC ROGERS / New Haven Winstor Square Coop  
JESSY KATE SCHINGLER / Einhuus Network  
JAY STANDISH / OpenDoor Development Group

**3**  
Timken Auditorium **7:00**  
Lecture/Discussion: **INEQUALITY AND COLLECTIVE FORM**  
PIER VITTORIO AURELI  
Digma, Yale University, Architectural Association  
+  
REINHOLD MARTIN  
Columbia University

*Lectures are followed by a moderated discussion by Neeraj Bhatia*

## DOMESTIC AFFAIRS #2

July 28, 2016, 6:30pm  
Shorefront Lab  
337 Seward Street, San Francisco, CA 94110

The second in a series of housing symposia, Domestic Affairs #2: CATALYSTS brings together a diverse group of designers that investigate design opportunities that challenge from new typologies of housing, to materials of domestic fabrication, to the construction of affordable units and the middle class—this event probes how design can stimulate new domestic environments.

### CATALYSTS

Speakers  
**RENEE CHOW**  
UC Berkeley / Studio URBS  
**MARC NORMAN**  
**ALBERT POPE**  
Rice University  
**JONATHAN TATE**  
OAT

*Lectures will be followed by a moderated discussion by Christopher Knapp and Sarah Hinkle*

*Domestic Affairs is a design research project undertaken by The Urban Works Agency at CCA that is examining new models of housing, domestic, and affordability in San Francisco through design.*

A series of Symposia, entitled 'Domestic Affairs' has offered public ways to share student work, as well as engage outside designers, theorist, policy makers, activists, and historians.

## DOMESTIC AFFAIRS #4

### LIVING TOGETHER

November 15th, 2016 6:00pm-7:00pm  
California College of the Arts, 1111 8th St, San Francisco, CA 94107

**Commune as Praxis**  
Domestic and public spaces that are not designed for their intended use are being reworked and reimagined.

**Commune as Practice**  
The practice of communal living is being reworked and reimagined in what they are working on.

**Communal Histories**  
Precedents from the history of communal living, intentional communities, and their interests.

**Speakers:**  
CHRIS CARLSSON  
IRENE CHENG  
JUNG IN KIM  
WILLIAM LITTMAN  
SIMON SADLER

**Speakers:**  
PIER VITTORIO AURELI  
EMILY ABRUZZO  
NEERAJ BHATIA  
ANDREW HERSCHER  
MARC NORMAN  
ERIC ROGERS  
ANTJE STEINMULLER

**Speakers:**  
ZARINAH AGNEW  
KEITH COOLEY  
PERETZ PARTENSKY

## DOMESTIC AFFAIRS #5

### DOMESTICITY AFTER BELONGING

March 16th, 2017 5:00pm-8:00pm  
California College of the Arts  
1111 8th St, San Francisco, CA 94107

Global circulation of people, information, and goods has destabilized what we understand by residence, generating great diversity—a crisis of belonging. Conditions being greater accessible to even new communities and further complicates the conditions, inequalities for large groups, large metropolitan areas of people. After belonging, a project initiated at the fine arts, architecture, interior design, and urban planning departments, and the rights of refugees and collective. Where do we belong? In the objects we own, share, and exchange—how do we manage our belonging?

In belonging, in the redefinition of what it means to belong, and the relation of political context, belonging, mobility, and the relation of the technology industry, and community building together. Community after belonging also the current political context as it moves to discuss and shape new conditions. Two evening discussions will focus on the production of home-sharing platforms and other technologies of sharing, digital and local displacement processes, and the rights of refugees and collective. Where do we belong? In the objects we own, share, and exchange—how do we manage our belonging? The event will conclude with a keynote lecture by Andrés Jaque from the Office of Political Innovation and Columbia University.

**TECHNOLOGIES FOR A LIFE IN TRANSIT**  
3:00pm, CCA Campus Center  
SARA DEAN  
Assistant Professor, Graduate Design  
California College of the Arts

**JANETTE KIM**  
California College of the Arts  
4:00 (to be shown)

**MICHAEL OVADIA**  
Docent Candidate and Instructor,  
Stanford University

**MOLLY TURNER**  
Lecturer,  
UC Berkeley Haas School of Business

**SHELTERING TEMPORARINESS**  
5:00pm, CCA Campus Center  
NEERAJ BHATIA  
California College of the Arts & The Open Workshop

**SAM DODGE**  
Deputy Director, Department of Homelessness & Supportive Housing

**CHRIS HERRING**  
Sociology Department,  
University of California Berkeley

**ERIN MCLEROY**  
Anti Eviction Mapping Project

**TONY SPARKS**  
San Francisco State University

**BLAKE STEVENSON**  
Lecturer,  
California College of the Arts & AIA

**KEYNOTE**  
**ANDRÉS JAQUE**  
Office for Political Innovation and Columbia University  
Timken Auditorium, 6:30pm  
Followed by a moderated discussion by the After Belonging Agency (Curators of the Solo Architecture Triennale 2016) and Jonathan Massey  
Supported by the Royal Norwegian Consulate General New York

**Moderated & Co-Organized by the After Belonging Agency (Curators of the Solo Architecture Triennale 2016)**

**LLUIS ALEXANDRE CASANOVAS BLANCO**  
**IGNACIO GONZÁLEZ GALÁN**  
**CARLOS MINGUEZ CARRASCO**  
**ALEJANDRA NAVARRETE LLOPIS**  
**MARINA OTERO VERZIER**

## D. Public Engagement



Images from Various Symposia,  
involving students and outside guests.

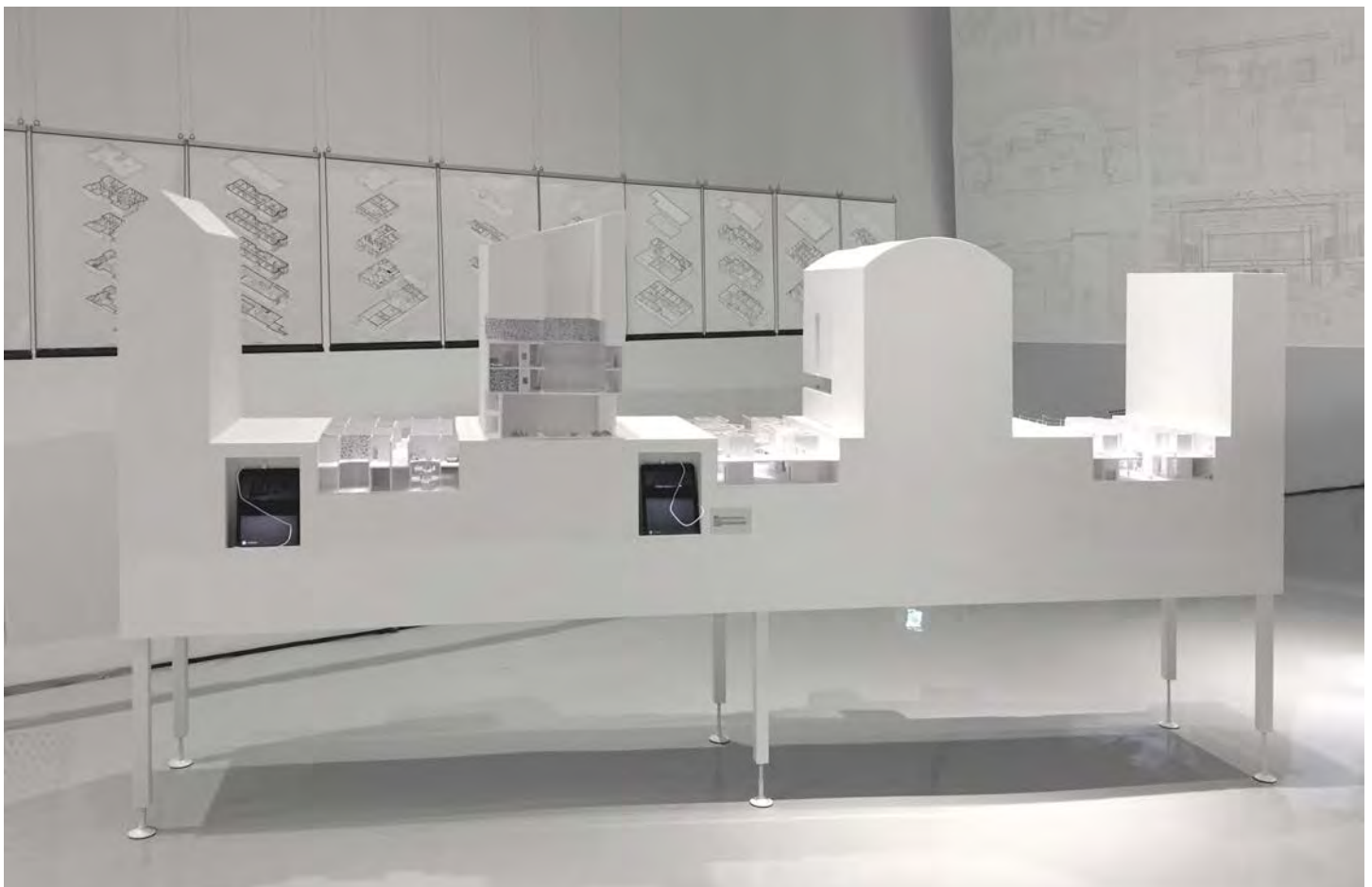


## D. Public Engagement



**At Home Together**  
Exhibition at the Seoul Architecture and Urbanism Biennale, 2017.

Featuring five student projects overlaid with AR (artificial reality) showing soft forms of occupation/ reappropriation within the hardware of the architectural housing typology.



## D. Public Engagement

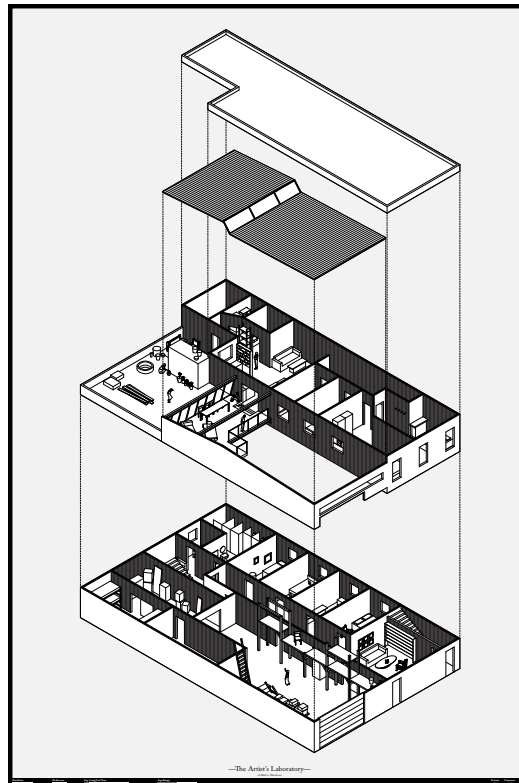
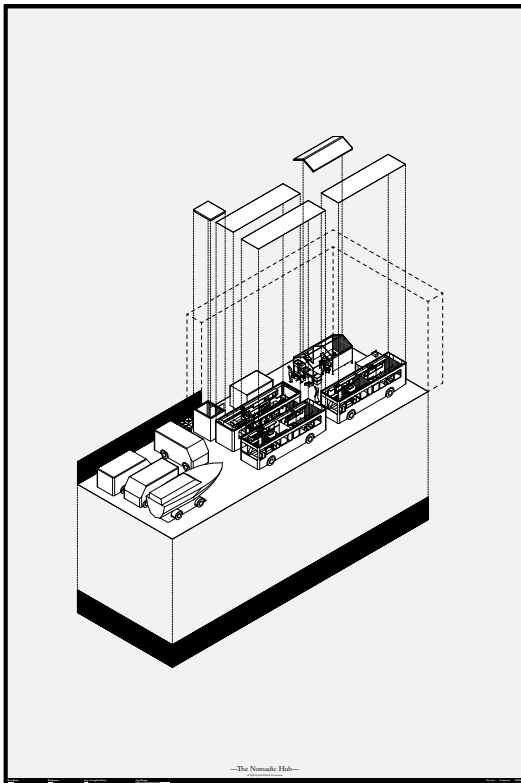


At Home Together  
Exhibition at the Seoul Architecture and  
Urbanism Biennale, 2017.

Analysis of contemporary co-living spaces and the distribution of public and private space. Black lines depict the architectural frame, while Blue lines show how occupation inserts and reappropriates this frame.



## D. Public Engagement



At Home Together  
Exhibition at the Seoul Architecture and  
Urbanism Biennale, 2017.

Featuring five student projects overlaid  
with AR (artificial reality) showing soft  
forms of occupation/ reappropriation  
within the hardware of the architectural  
housing typology (above)

Analysis of contemporary co-living  
spaces and the distribution of public and  
private space (below)