A. COURSE DESCRIPTION

This class will offer a critical and speculative platform to analyze the architectures of housing through seminar discussions and workshop exercises. Housing is a central topic for disciplinary discussion and practice: while the house is many times regarded as the realm of intimacy and retreat from the outside world, we will address housing as an architecture central to the organization of society, and will inspect its relation to changing cultural and technological frameworks, economic processes, and political arrangements.

We will study housing as it is defined through spatial configurations and territorial arrangements, and will consider how it draws spaces of inclusion and exclusion at different scales—constructing realms of domesticity and foreignness. We will additionally explore how these definitions are not constituted by architectural elements alone, but are additionally constructed through technological networks, arrangements of objects, and institutional policies, which result in diverse individual occupations and collective forms of organization.

The discussion component of the class will bring into focus different theoretical frameworks and will consider historical transformations of the architectures of housing throughout the last century. Workshop exercises will ground this inquiry through research on contemporary case studies in New York City. The development and rehearsal of systems of representation adequate to address the questions identified in our discussion and research will be a central component of the class’s work, and will link our efforts to current speculations within the discipline.
Pedagogical Goals
1. Acquire critical and representational tools to speculate on the architectures of housing both as a discursive and a design endeavor.
2. Verbally and visually communicate architectural concepts in multiple media formats.
3. Understand historical genealogies and theoretical debates relating to the architectures of housing in the modern and contemporary periods.
4. Relate these genealogies and debates to contemporary challenges and current practices of housing.
5. Develop tools of design research.

Prerequisites
Students should be familiar with architectural techniques of representation, and should have taken at least one design studio prior to taking this course.
B. CLASS FORMAT
The class will meet twice a week: Mondays will be dedicated for seminar discussions, while
Wednesdays will be reserved for activities related to the development of workshop exercises.
The course will be structured around two blocks of readings articulating the discussion
sessions and two main exercises organizing the workshop. While initial sessions will have a
slightly heavier reading load, two special sessions of seminar activities with no readings will
precede the workshop pin-ups corresponding to each of the exercises.

Discussion Sessions

SPACES
Defining an outside
  Architectural, 1992), 332-65
- Robin Evans, “Figures, Doors and Passages” in Translations from Drawing to Building (London:
  Architectural Association, 1997), 56-90
- Walter Benjamin, “Paris, Capital of the Nineteenth Century” in The Arcades Project (Cambridge:
  Belknap Press/Harvard University Press, 1999), 14-26
  Additional readings:
  - Debora Silverman, “The Brothers de Goncourt: Between History and the Psyche” in Art Nouveau in Fin-
  - Theodor Adorno, “Interieur” in Kierkegaard, Construction of the Aesthetic (Minneapolis: University of
    Minnesota Press, 1989)

Facing the inside
- Gaston Bachelard, excerpts from The Poetics of Space (Boston: Beacon Press, 1969), 3-37
- Beatriz Colomina, “Intimacy and Spectacle,” in AA files n.20 (Autumn 1990), 5-14
  Additional readings:
  - Sigmund Freud, ”The Uncanny” in The Complete Psychological Works of Sigmund Freud (London:
    Vintage, 2001)

Adolf Loos, Moller House in Vienna
(1930), as conceptualized by Beatriz
Colomina (1994)

Sigmund Freud’s house and consulting
room in Vienna (1891-38)
**Neighbor spaces**
  Additional readings:
  - Dolores Hayden, "Collectivizing the Domestic Workplace," *Lotus* n. 44 (1989), 72-89

**Technological domesticities**
- Georges Teyssot, "Water and gas on all floors," *Lotus* n. 44 (1989), 83-92
- Beatriz Colomina, "The Office in the Boudoir" in *Office US: Agenda* (Zurich: Lars Muller, 2014), 81-88
  Additional readings:

**Object arrangements**
- Christopher Reed, "A Room of One’s Own: The Bloomsbury Group’s Creation of a Modernist Domesticity," in *Not at Home* (London: Thames and Hudson, 1996), 147-160
- Jesse LeCavalier, “Stuff During Logistics,” in *After Belonging: The Objects, Spaces, and Territories of the Ways We Stay in Transit* (Zurich: Lars Muller, 2016), 166-178
  Additional readings:
**TERRITORIES**

**World Dwelling**

- Pierre Bourdieu, “The Berber House or the World Reversed” in *Social Science Information* n.9 (1970), 151-170

Additional readings:

- Homi Bhabha, “The world and the home,” *Social Text* 10.2-3 (1992), 141-151

**Planned Communities**

- Kenny Cupers, “The expertise of participation,” in *The social project : housing postwar France* (Minneapolis: University of Minnesota Press, 2014), 137-183
- Mariana Fix, “The Real Estate Circuit and (the Right to) the City: Notes on the Housing Question in Brazil” in *Housing after the Neoliberal Turn* (Leipzig: Spector Books, 2015), 13-20

Additional reading:

- Reinhold Martin, “Territory,” in *Utopia’s ghost: architecture and postmodernism, again* (Minneapolis : University of Minnesota Press, 2010), 1-26

---

![Introduction of the Electrolux refrigerator in Iran, Tehran musavvar n.385 (1950).](image)
Infrastructures of Transience
-Ijlal Muzaffar, “Prisoners of the Present: Transient Populations, Sovereign Thoughts, and Depoliticization of Housing in the Postwar Era,” in After Belonging: The Objects, Spaces, and Territories of the Ways We Stay in Transit (Zurich: Lars Muller, 2016), 166-178

Additional readings:

Financial Landscapes
-Frederik Engels, excerpts from The Housing Question (New York: International Pub., 1935), 43-77

Additional readings:

Homelessness and the Urban Commons
-David Harvey, “The creation of the Urban Commons,” in Rebel Cities (New York: Verso, 2009), 67-88

Additional readings:
-Krzysztof Wodiczko, “Conversations about a project for a homeless vehicle,” October n.47 (Winter 1988)
**Workshop Exercises**

Students will develop two analyses of the selected case study and will rehearse one system of representation to address each of them. Each exercise offers two alternative topics for students to address. Each exercise will be started with a discussion of the topics and representation systems to be explored, followed by deskcrits and collective class discussions, and will end in a review pin-up. The two exercises will be compiled for the final review, adding a summary text (400 words) and a summary image.

A selection of case studies will be offered in the first class, but students are invited to present their own options. These might include: An apartment building in Chinatown, a Barnard/Columbia dormitory building, a NYCHA public housing development, a squatted housing (such as C-squat), a homeless shelter, a co-housing project (such as Pure House), a recent high end development (such as 432 Park Avenue), and a recent micro-housing development (such as Carmel Place).

**EXERCISE 1**

**Typologies:** This analysis should address the spatial organization of the case study a stake, its constitutive formal features, and their historical evolution in relation to the development of NYC housing. Representational strategies should address these questions with a critical use of isometric or perspective drawings.

**Individual Occupations:** This approach to the exercise aims to deal with the ways in which the selected case study is appropriated by a user, and will document the different objects and technologies that mediate this process of occupation. A documentary photo journal will be used to address the relations between spaces, inhabitants, programs, and meanings.

**Typologies: Gillows and Co., Furnishings for a small drawing room (1822)**

**Individual Occupations: Martha Rosler, “Semiotics of the Kitchen” (1975)**
EXERCISE 2
Policies: This examination of the case study will deal with the political and legal frameworks structuring the limitations and possibilities of the particular housing project being considered. Research should be made available though policy diagrams rendering those frameworks and their potentials visible.

Collective Practices: This study will consider the different systems of organization at play in the housing project under examination, addressing the way in which those enact or challenge the buildings social and political frameworks. These practices will be represented through the deployment of a narrative in the form of a graphic novel.

Each exercise should unfold in 3 11”x17” spreads. The first of them should be dedicated to the research process including, for example, a representation of historical information, an explanation of the different pieces of evidence mobilized, interview transcripts, or a description of the agents included in the narrative among others. Students will present 8 11”x17” spreads at the end of the semester, 3 for each exercise and 2 with the summary.

Background information on NYC housing can be found in:
- Alfred Mediolo, Housing Form and Public Policy in the United States
- Richard Plunz, History of Housing in New York City: Dwelling Type and Social Change in the American Metropolis
C. EVALUATION AND ACADEMIC INTEGRITY
Student's final grade will consider both seminar participation and workshop exercises in the following percentages:

Seminar: 30%
Preparation of seminar discussion: 15%
   To prepare the seminar sessions, students should bring to class either a written question responding to the readings, an image addressing the topics considered in the readings, or a news item related to the readings, for collective evaluation in the class.
Participation in seminar discussions: 15%

Workshop: 70%
Exercise 1: 25%
Exercise 2: 25%
Final Compilation (including revised exercises): 20%

Attendance
Attendance to all course meetings is mandatory. If you have a good reason for missing class, please inform the professor by email beforehand. Otherwise, every unexcused absence after the second one will lead to a reduction of the grade in fragments of one-third of a letter grade (A- to B+). More than four unexcused absences will lead to an automatic failure in the course.

Academic Integrity
Statement on academic integrity: “The intellectual venture in which we are all engaged requires of faculty and students alike the highest level of personal and academic integrity. As members of an academic community, each one of us bears the responsibility to participate in scholarly discourse and research in a manner characterized by intellectual honesty and scholarly integrity.” The full statement can be found at www.college.columbia.edu/academics/integrity/statement.

We expect that students will work in accordance with their honor code. You can find them at www.barnard.edu/dos/honorcode and www.college.columbia.edu/honorcode

Academic integrity violations in this class will be referred to the Dean's Discipline process.
<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Date</th>
<th>Activity</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Wednesday 9/7</td>
<td>Introduction</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Monday 9/12</td>
<td>S1: SPACES. Defining an outside</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Wednesday 9/14</td>
<td>W1: Presentation and discussions of case studies.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Monday 9/19</td>
<td>S2: SPACES. Facing the inside</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Wednesday 9/21</td>
<td>W2: EXERCISE 1. Class discussion</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Monday 9/26</td>
<td>S3: SPACES. Neighbor spaces</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Wednesday 9/28</td>
<td>W3: EXERCISE 1. Desckrit</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Monday 10/3</td>
<td>S4: SPACES 4. Technological domesticities</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Wednesday 9/28</td>
<td>W4: EXERCISE 1. Class discussion</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Monday 10/10</td>
<td>S5: SPACES 5. Object arrangements</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Wednesday 10/12</td>
<td>W5: EXERCISE 1. Deskrit</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Monday 10/17</td>
<td>W7: EXERCISE 1. Pin-up</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Wednesday 10/19</td>
<td>S6: SPACES. Seminar activities</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Monday 10/24</td>
<td>S7: TERRITORIES. World Dwelling</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Wednesday 10/26</td>
<td>W8: EXERCISE 2. Class discussion</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Monday 10/31</td>
<td>S8: TERRITORIES. Planned Communities</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Wednesday 11/2</td>
<td>W9: EXERCISE 2. Deskcrit</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Monday 11/7</td>
<td>Election Day</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Wednesday 11/9</td>
<td>W10: EXERCISE 2. Class discussion</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Monday 11/14</td>
<td>S9: TERRITORIES. Infrastructures of Transience</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Wednesday 11/16</td>
<td>W11: EXERCISE 2. Deskrit</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Monday 11/21</td>
<td>W11: EXERCISE 2. Pin-up</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Wednesday 11/23</td>
<td>S10: TERRITORIES. Seminar activities</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Monday 11/28</td>
<td>S11: TERRITORIES. Financial Landscapes</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Wednesday 11/30</td>
<td>W12: Compilation and Formatting</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Monday 12/5</td>
<td>S12: TERRITORIES. Homelessness and the Urban Commons</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Wednesday 12/7</td>
<td>W14: Compilation and Formatting</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Monday 12/12</td>
<td>Final Review</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

* Students with Disabilities*

Students with disabilities who will be taking this course and may need disability-related accommodations are encouraged to register in advance with the Office of Disability Services (ODS) in 008 Milbank for Barnard students or Disability Services at Wien Hall, Main Floor – Suite 108A for Columbia students.