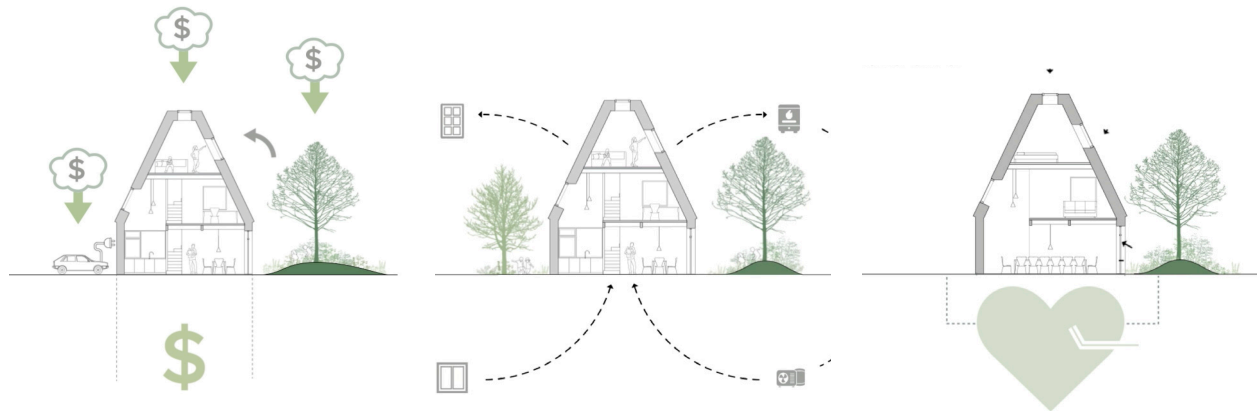


# JUST LIVING

WHAT ARE THE HOUSING MODELS FOR TODAY AND TOMORROW?

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*Images from 'Living Places' principles*

## Overview

What is the **spatial impact** of housing to the **wellbeing of people and the environment**? Knowing that we need to build a tremendous amount of housing in a short amount of time, we should not lose sight of how this new housing provides opportunities to address **socially- and resource-conscious** homes and neighborhoods. How we live together has changed overtime (and will keep on changing), but how can we design to be more fluid to address societal and demographic changes over time? We are now living in broad-ranging and fluid household constellations, but not much has changed in housing design and delivery.

Standard housing typologies were designed around socio-demographic narratives, which we have outgrown in present time. How can we, as architects, contribute to bridging the disconnect between rapidly evolving lifestyles and the way we build? We will be immersed in a collective research lab setting to question: How should we build for people, while also considering that individuals living next door to each other have significantly different lifestyles? Our site of exploration is based on the Campus as a Living Lab research on Acadia Park, a neighborhood on UBC campus that is loved for its quality of living but it is not dense enough for today's economic realities.

## Methodology

In this design research studio we mainly explore through drawing and supported by precedent studies, lived-experience and real world observation. The studio will be broken down into 5 Loops. Assignments will progressively build-up into an individual design proposal. Our administrative client will be Student Housing and Community Services and our active client will be the lived-experience data gathered from Acadia Park residents. We received feedback from residents on three different scales: Unit, Neighborhood and Building. Our clients want to know from us: How does lived-experience shape new housing?

We will use the 'Living Places' concept to rethink our understanding of buildings in a new way through sustainable solutions and practical action. With this tool, we will explore how the building industry can advance the health of people and the planet through a scalable building approach that aims to achieve a lower carbon footprint and better indoor climate, all while enhancing the health and well-being of residents.

## Exploration Site

Acadia Park Student Family Housing is praised by many of its residents as an ideal place to live, study, raise children, and develop a strong sense of community. The Campus as a Living Lab is a study done in 2022, provides lived-experience linked to the qualitative aspects of housing design that contribute to wellbeing. The study collected input from its residents through a series of in-person workshops and an online survey, exploring three scales of the housing environment: the unit, the building, and the surrounding community. Acadia Park will be the site for our exploration addressing current housing ideas.

## Field of Inquiry

We will study Acadia Park from different perspectives

- What are the different options to bring more housing to the site? Strategic infill or redevelopment?
- How might the lived-experience data of the current Acadia Park community inform and generate innovative housing approaches?
- How might the people-centered nature of this studio address the theme of diversity and housing justice and equip designers with tools they can apply to processes of inclusion?

## Learning Objectives

1. Articulate a conceptual agenda for a multi-storey mixed-use building
2. Define and represent a clear formal organization (e.g. circulation and sequence, hierarchy, programmatic packaging, massing, etc.)
3. Technical:
  - a. Apply a basic understanding of material performance and assembly
  - b. Articulate a clear structural logic
  - c. Apply effective site orientation measures relative to environmental factors (topography, sun, wind, light, etc.)
  - d. Apply Life Cycle Assessment and Environmental Product Declarations to objectively measure ecological performance of materials and assemblies
4. Use diagrams and models to represent conceptual aspirations and performance
5. Integrate fundamental aspects of accessibility and inclusion in design, including interior and exterior spaces

## Assignments

There will be five loops from precedent studies, to programming and a design project.

- Loop 1(1.5 week 10%) Precedent study & Conceptual Analysis
- Loop 2 (3 weeks 20%) Acadia Park Research & Development Models
- Loop 3 (2.5 weeks 20%) Programme Development
- Loop 4 (4 weeks 40%) Design Project Development
- Loop 5 (2 weeks 10%) Knowledge Sharing & Representation

To wrap up our process, we will be presenting project findings in a publication we can disseminate.