

IARC 4/584
Fall 2018
MWF 1:00-4:50
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HOME

adaptive reuse affordable housing

There is a close affiliation between the interior and the domestic. On the one hand, the modern profession of interior architecture is rooted in the nineteenth-century house decoration, until the mid-twentieth century, interior design was largely limited to the domestic space. On the other hand, the idea of home is often associated with interiority. Since the industrial revolution, the domestic interior has acted as a reflection of its inhabitants' identity, a refuge from the outside world, a depository of the family history, etc.

Some scholars and designers use the term "home" in contradistinction from the word "house" to warn against reducing architecture to physical forms and functional requirements. But what does it mean to be at home? What does turn a house into a home? The ideas behind this ordinary word are as complex as its architectural manifestations are diverse.

About a century ago, Le Corbusier declared the housing "a problem of the epoch" and called for revisiting the architectural approach to the house. While his answer to the question has been widely criticized and our expectations for housing has changed, affordable housing has remained a dire need in most of the world. In this studio, we will explore the home, both the notion and the physical form, through the problem of affordable housing.

Throughout the term, we will combine design explorations with reading, discussion, case study, and analyses. We will engage with ideas from philosophy, cultural anthropology, and other disciplines. Simultaneously, we will explore some housing typologies and design approaches to affordable housing. Each student will develop a unique approach and a set of design strategies, principles, and ideas to guide their design. The design process will also include the typical studio activities, field trip, presentation, iterative and parallel design, pin-up and peer review.

