



EXPLORATIONS IN MODULAR HOUSING

ARCH 4/585 Advanced Architectural Design I, Winter 2018

ARCH 4/586 Advanced Architectural Design II, Spring 2018

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Introduction

Modular construction has seen a resurgence in recent years, especially in the area of affordable housing and micro apartments. Projects like Michael Maltzan Architecture's Star Apartments in Los Angeles or nARCHITECTS' Carmel Place in New York have been ground breaking in their use of modular construction and in their exploration of related conditions of scale, form, density, and program.

This studio will explore the opportunities and constraints of modular building in relation to the design and construction of multi-family housing projects as a means to help address the housing crises cities like Portland are currently facing.

Studio Structure

During the first term students will develop modular unit prototypes to be deployed at varying scales on a number of different sites. Areas of exploration will include housing typology, density, domesticity, and place making. Students will design a number of development alternatives utilizing the modular prototypes they have developed. The final product of the first term will be highly refined modular prototypes and at least three development alternatives.

During the second term each student will select one of their development alternatives for continued exploration. The primary focus of the second term will be the detailed development of the preferred development alternative. Projects will be explored via large scale studies with an emphasis on digital and physical models.

While it will not be a requirement, students will be highly encouraged to work in teams.