ARCH 438/538 Housing Prototypes

Spring 2021
Department of Architecture – Eugene
University of Oregon
Instructor: Professor Michael Fifield, FAIA, AICP
Credits: 3
Time: Thursday, 4:15 - 5:45 PM remote; other online
Prereq.: Junior Standing with a design background

CATALOG DESCRIPTION:
Examines modern housing prototypes from the 1920s to the present with an emphasis on understanding the many and varied factors involved in the production of high-quality housing.

COURSE DESCRIPTION:
Special emphasis will focus on the review of appropriate housing models for the future, given demands for increased density and responding to diminishing natural resources. Case studies primarily from the U.S., but also from Europe, the Middle East, and Asia, will be examined. Issues addressed will include: differences in housing form as a result of density issues (e.g., from s.f.d. to high-rise point towers); site, building, unit design principles; relationship of inside to outside; affordability; construction technology; zoning and building codes; new and emerging lifestyles (changing demographics); New Urbanism; homelessness; manufactured housing; special user groups (e.g., elderly); social and behavioral factors as form determinants; origins of suburbia and multi-family housing; providing a sense of community, identity, and memorable image in neighborhood design.

COURSE OBJECTIVES:
Students are expected to develop an:
• Understanding of the many and complex factors involved in the design of various housing types.
• Understanding of the theoretical, traditional, symbolic, practical, and technical considerations of various housing types and their application.
• Ability to analyze and design appropriate housing projects based on the emphasis and issues addressed in this course.

COURSE REQUIREMENTS:
Class attendance and participation. Although there are recommended reading assignments, the main thrust of the course will be based on projects.
Project #1: In-depth Case Studies (a team or individual project for 50% of course grade)
Project #2: Individual Project for 50% of course grade
ARCH 438: Design Project or Research Paper or Take-Home Final Exam
ARCH 538: Design Project or Research Paper
Also note that this course satisfies one of the subject-area course requirements for the Graduate Housing Specialization.

COURSE FORMAT:
All scheduled class periods will be remote with additional online recorded presentations. Housing types and issues will be presented primarily in weekly online Zoom presentations. Remote Zoom meetings will have numerous case study presentations by guests, opportunities for discussion, and student presentations.

TEXTS: Numerous e-book readings and/or PDFs.