dwelling, not housing

Dwelling is the full range of everyday life activities, focused in the house but including a place that is usually much larger than it.

This studio involves the design of a prototypical apartment building or house cluster... that includes spaces for a wider range of activities than the word “housing” usually implies, such as spaces for work, for children, and for community;

...for about a dozen or so families... in each of which people are related by blood, marriage, friendship, occupation, or simple desire to live together;

...in an urban or less-urban place... on a site, to be determined, in New York or London for the urban, and Oregon for the less urban;

...that incorporates...
- smaller size dwellings and higher overall density
- community and privacy
- work and play
- nature and daylight
- flexibility and adaptability.

The global pandemic and the realities of climate change are contributing to a society-wide rethinking of how people live, and therefore the form of cities, suburbs and rural settlements. This studio will involve the design of a prototypical apartment building or house cluster that allows for the sorts of changes that are now projected in work, in our relationships to cities and the landscape, and in dealing with the climate emergency. Using precedents of vernacular, historic, and 20th/21st century buildings, we will develop new typologies for dwellings of the immediate and longer-term future.

The studio requires rigorous and continual involvement with the tools and processes of architecture: design at multiple scales simultaneously (critical to projects with multiple dwelling units), continual re-iteration and ‘recycling’ of design ideas, the use of multiple hand and digital media techniques, including orthographic and perspective drawing, sketching, and modeling. It also includes the development of knowledge about precedents and typologies, and in this regard we will learn from the dwelling-related work of architects such as Neave Brown, Peter Barber, Ash-Sakula, Alejandro Aravena, Herman Hertzberger, Charles Correa and many others; and the vernacular and modern architecture of Japan, Scandinavia, the Netherlands and various other places around the world.

The final project will be (a) particular building(s) in a particular place—and presented in a way that makes its basic architectural principles explicit and that can be seen as a prototype for dwellings in the next decades of this century of transformation.