ANATOMY OF AMERICAN HOUSING
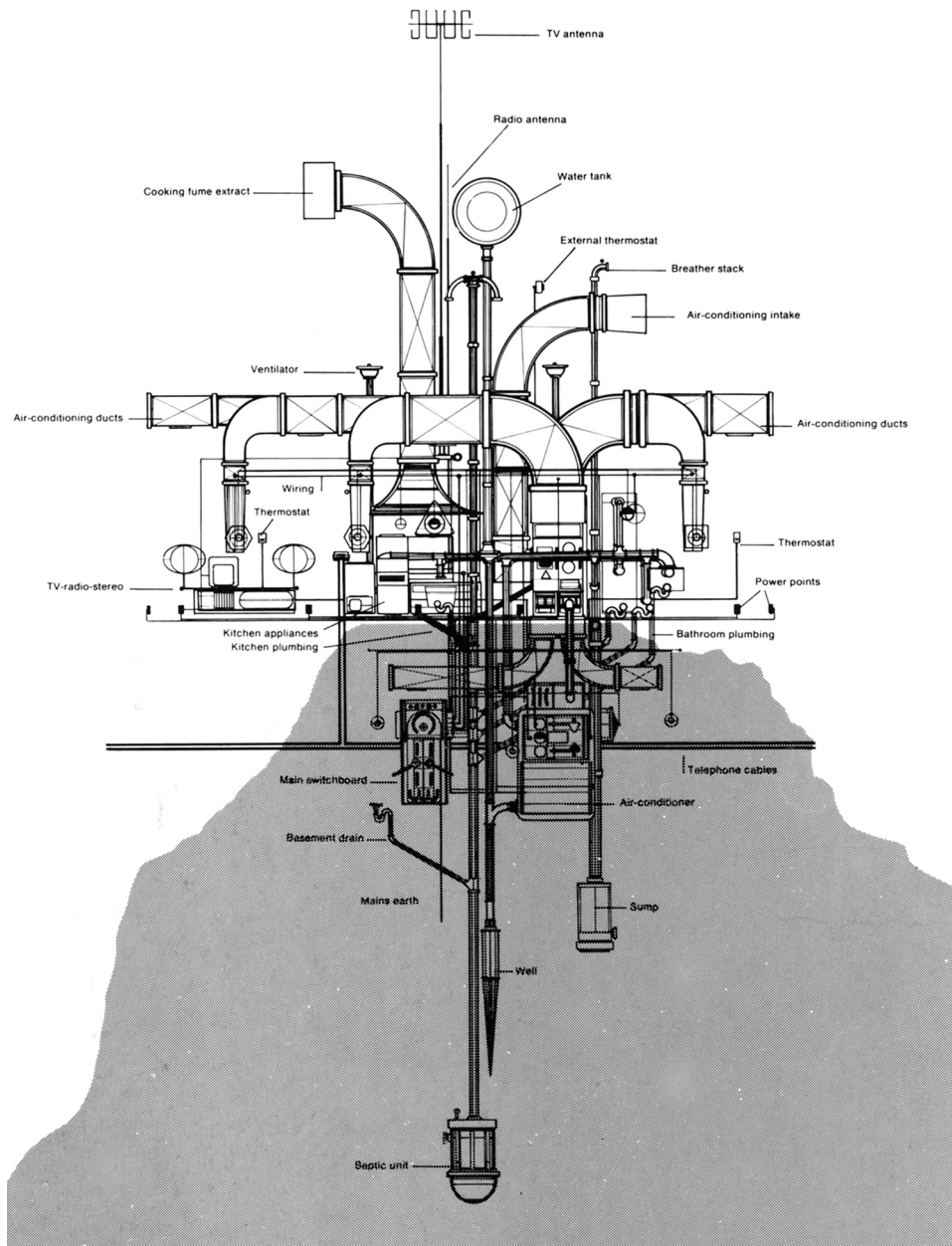## An Architectural Design Studio for a Future Society

ANATOMY OF AMERICAN HOUSING
An Architectural Design Studio for a Future Society

ARCH 4602 Undergraduate Architecture Studio
Spring 2022, M/W/F, 1:00-4:50pm, Architecture Bldg, Room TBD
Texas Tech University College of Architecture
Dr. Jeffrey S. Nesbit, H. Deane Pearce Chair

Acclaimed architectural critic, Reyner Banham understood that the overly clean American house interior was shaped by a flimsy hollow shell—and the primary feature, mechanical services at its core. The potential utility and imaginary of housing systems are confronted by its contingencies in culture, including climate, landscape, and social politics. Postwar American suburban housing stock (single family) and the rise of luxury urban capital (pencil towers) have generated an unhealthy space between idealism and inaccessibility. How do fundamental questions in society and the environment relate to, and (re)form, the design of enclosures, social space, and our relationship to past live-work binaries? After analyzing several housing types across the US and reconfiguring architectural models for social and environmental retooling, new housing methods emerge. This architectural design studio expands upon Banham's earlier observations and imagines a future society of increased affordability, environmental resiliency, and social collectivity across the diverse contexts of this extra-urban American landscape.

Anatomy of a Dwelling, Reyner Banham, 1965

"With very little exaggeration, this baroque ensemble of domestic gadgetry epitomizes the intestinal complexity of gracious living—in other words, this is the junk that keeps the pad swinging. The house itself has been omitted from the drawing, but if mechanical services continue to accumulate at this rate it may be possible to omit the house in fact."

- Reyner Banham, 1965

ARCH 4602
Architectural Design Studio VIII

ANATOMY OF AMERICAN HOUSING
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6 Semester Credit Hours

Prerequisite: ARCH 4601. Provides instruction in advanced architectural design projects. Students develop integrated design skills as they negotiate the complex issues of program, site, and form in a specific cultural context. Integrates aspects of architectural theory, building technology, and computation into the design process.

In response to the ongoing affordable housing crisis, how can architecture provide better alternatives for a future society—from the micro scale of a housing unit, to the "neighborhood," and eventually to the regional scale? It is vital for the design profession to begin asking the critical questions to better understand, and interrogate, the role of design in relationship to environment, society, and technology. In an essay entitled "A Home is Not a House," published in 1965, Reyner Banham observed that "Americans do not monumentalize or make architecture…they have tended to build a brick chimney and lean a collection of shacks against it." A bold statement, nonetheless, Banham suggests the American house was more of a shell to hold an excessive use of utilities and the rise of home appliances ("piping, flues, ducts, wires, lights, inlets, outlets, ovens, sinks, refuse disposers, hi-fi reverberators, antennae, conduits, freezers, heaters"). Found deep within the context across the postwar urban landscape, a series of housing patterns emerged. As a hybrid of both local context and external migrations of culture, such examples include, but not limited to, *bungalow* (Chicago), *shotgun* (New Orleans), *townhome* (Houston), *dingbat* (Los Angeles), *rowhouse* (Boston), *Bahamian* (Miami), *single* (Charleston), *painted ladies* (San Francisco), and *alley houses* (Baltimore). For this semester, we will straddle between critical reinterpretations of Banham's theory and the deep structure of the American house to better response to our current housing and help provide radical alternatives in support of affordability, adaptability, mobility, and collectivity.

The studio will follow five fundamental manifestos for imagining a future anatomy of American housing:

⇒ Equity and affordability must be made central to design and planning.

⇒ Housing easements must become public space: *active* and *accessible*.

⇒ Alternative housing models must be built on innovative forms of infrastructure, including the advancement of environmental resiliency.

⇒ (Re)Zoning must radicalize architectural programming for housing adjacencies such as labor, economy, and public service.

⇒ Landscape strategies must be integrated into housing models for increasing biodiverse ecologies and environmental porosity.

The studio is organized in five phases: (1) Literature Review, (2) Typology, (3) Anatomy, (4) Collectivity, and (5) Final Documentation. Each phase will be accompanied by a lecture and a series of detailed assignments. Intentionally, each segment will build upon the previous exercises to advance the studio project into a comprehensive collection of ideas, propositions, and architectural drawings. At the end of each phase, all supporting materials, drawings, and InDesign files must be submitted to the respective course OneDrive folder. The architectural design project for the semester will provide suitable challenges for students to explore issues stated in the course description and learning goals as described in the NAAB Program and Student Criteria. An overview of the design project is presented during the first studio meeting. Assignment briefs are provided at appropriate intervals during the semester (see schedule) for various phases of the design project including digital documentation requirements. A final Digital Document is required of each student that communicates completion of all phases of the design project.

SCHEDULE

Wk 1   *introductions*
       Jan 12   all school meeting – studio lottery
       Jan 14   virtual lecture (on Zoom)

Wk 2   **PHASE I: LITERATURE REVIEW**
       Jan 17   *MLK - no class meeting*
       Jan 19   virtual studio meeting (on Zoom)
       Jan 21   all studio presentations

Wk 3   **PHASE II: TYPOLOGY**
       Jan 24   lecture
       Jan 26   desk crits
       Jan 28   all studio presentations

Wk 4   -
       Jan 31   desk crits / CoA lecture: Charles Davis II (Princeton)
       Feb 02   desk crits
       Feb 04   all studio presentations

Wk 5   -
        Feb 07 desk crits
        Feb 09 desk crits
        Feb 11 all studio presentations

Wk 6   **PHASE III: ANATOMY**
        Feb 14 lecture / CoA lecture: Viola Ago (UCLA)
        Feb 16 desk crits
        Feb 18 all studio presentations

Wk 7   -
        Feb 21 desk crits
        Feb 23 desk crits
        Feb 25 all studio presentations

Wk 8   -
        Feb 28 desk crits
        Mar 02 desk crits
        Mar 04 all studio presentations

Wk 9   -
        Mar 07 desk crits / CoA lecture: Chris Cornelius (UNM)
        Mar 09 desk crits
        Mar 11 all studio presentations

Wk 10
        Mar 14 *spring break – no class meetings*
        Mar 16 *spring break – no class meetings*
        Mar 18 *spring break – no class meetings*

Wk 11   **PHASE IV: COLLECTIVITY**
        Mar 21 lecture
        Mar 23 desk crits
        Mar 25 all studio presentations

Wk 12   -
        Mar 28 desk crits
        Mar 30 desk crits
        Apr 01 all studio presentations

Wk 13   -
        Apr 04 desk crits
        Apr 06 desk crits
        Apr 08 all studio presentations

Wk 14   -
        Apr 11 desk crits / CoA lecture: Ted Flato (Lake/Flato)
        Apr 13 desk crits
        Apr 15 all studio presentations

Wk 15   **PHASE V: FINAL DOCUMENTATION**
        Apr 18 *University holiday – no class meetings*

Apr 20 desk crits
Apr 22 *no class meeting* – <u>all studio work due</u>

Wk 16 *reviews*
Apr 25 desk crits
Apr 27 desk crits
Apr 29 all studio presentations

Wk 17 -
May 02 *University last day of classes*

GRAPHICS

Along with the typical rules in architectural drawing, a graphic standards list will be shared with the students at the beginning of the semester. You will be given specific instructions on drawings, models, and their pertinent scales at each submittal phase. Intermediate internal reviews will occur often and expect each student to be actively engaged in the discussions as well as being prepared for scheduled virtual pin-ups on Miro and virtual desk critiques. All drawings in the studio must follow these required drawings standards, they are not recommendations. General guidelines include:

⇒ no color (and desaturate all images);

⇒ no perspectives (only one-point perspectives, if necessary);

⇒ sheet sizes (8.5"x11" and 11"x17", depending upon the drawing and orientation); and if need, larger sheet sizes for in-person presentations will be coordinated by the instructor and provided in advance;

⇒ line weights (five different line weights, nothing thicker than 1.2 pt or smaller than .10);

⇒ line types (various dash types, including double dash, and dash-dot-dot);

⇒ hatch types (5 or 6 types from Illustrator, including one solid with 3 different grayscales);

⇒ projection types (only 3 types: 0 degrees frontal, 60 degrees oblique, and 45 degrees military projection);

⇒ general scales of drawing (prefer engineering scales, no need to be too concerned with the architectural scale as we will need to make adjustments along the way);

⇒ drawing labels, and text/font sizes should be consistent across the studio (Times New Roman: 8pt for captions, 10pt for labels/annotations, and 14pt bold for drawing titles in upper left-hand corner);

⇒ signs and symbols – the same graphic scale and north arrow to be used across all drawings;

⇒ entourage – should provide the same entourage (in vector format) for plan and elevations (trees, people, cars, should be consistent too).

REFERENCES

Reyner Banham, "A Home is Not a House", *Art in America*. 1965, volume 2, NY:70-79.

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Albert Pope, Ladders (Princeton Architectural Press, 1996).

Alexander Eisenchmidt, "Autopia: Notes on Banham's Visionary Metropolis," in *Journal of Architectural Culture*, vol 7 (Coimbra Univesrity Press, 2016).

Antje Steinmuller and Urban Works Agency, "At Home Together: Co-living Spaces and Typologies," in the 2017 Seoul Biennale of Architecture and Urbanism, filmed and edited by Daniel Ruiz.

"Blackboxing Banham," Seminar, Knowlton School of Architecture, The Ohio State University, February 24 – March 6, 2021.
https://knowlton.osu.edu/events/2021/02/blackboxing-banham

Charles Shafaieh, "Shading Sunset: Charles Waldheim on reimagining the streets of Los Angeles for a warmer future," on Harvard Graduate School of Design News, April 19, 2021.

Charles Waldheim and Office for Urbanization, Future of the American City (Cambridge: Harvard Graduate School of Design, 2019-Present).

Daisy Ames, "Urban Housing Cloister: Newark, New Jersey," in projects Daisy Ames, 2013.

Daniel Ibañez, Jane Hutton, Kiel Moe, eds, *Wood Urbanism: From the Molecular to the Territorial* (Barcelona: Actar Publishers, 2020).

Jaen Nicholas Louis Durand, *Recueil et parallèle des édifices de tout genre anciens et modernes* (Paris: Gille, 1799).

Jeffrey S. Nesbit, *Future of American Housing* (Charlotte: University of North Carolina Charlotte, 2020).

Keith Krumwiede, "As the American Dream Dies, We Must Rethink Our Communities," in The Architect's Newspaper, December 29, 2017.

Keith Krumwiede, *Atlas of Another America: An Architectural Fiction* (Chicago: The University of Chicago Press, 2016).

Lars Lerup, *After the City* (Cambridge: MIT Press, 2001).

Lydia Kallipoliti, *The Architecture of Closed Worlds: Or, What Is the Power of Shit?* (Zurich and New York: Lars Müller Publishers and Storefront for Art and Architecture, 2018).

Neeraj Bhatia, *New Investigations in Collective Form* (Barcelona: Actar, 2019).

Nick Axel, Ann Lui, Mimi Zeiger, eds, *Dimensions of Citizenship* (Los Angeles: Inventory Press, 2018).

Reyner Banham, *Los Angeles: The Architecture of Four Ecologies* (London: The Penguin Press, 1971).

Rosetta S. Elkin and Jesse M. Keenan, "Retreat or Rebuild: Exploring Geographic Retreat in Humanitarian Practices in Coastal Communities," in *Climate Change Impacts and Adaptation Strategies for Coastal Communities* (New York: Springer Publishing, 2017), 149-165.

RESOURCES

Cities for Adequate Housing
Municipalist Declaration of Local Governments for the Right to Housing and the Right to the City
https://citiesforhousing.org

"Defining the Just City Beyond Black and White," Essay by Toni L. Griffin
https://www.gsd.harvard.edu/2020/06/excerpt-defining-the-just-city-beyond-black-and-white-by-toni-l-griffin/

Future of the American City
https://fotac.gsd.harvard.edu

"Ideas for solving Boston's housing shortage, explained"
https://boston.curbed.com/2019/3/27/18282102/bostons-housing-crisis-solutions

"It's time to vacate the 100-year floodplain," by Albert Pope
https://www.houstonchronicle.com/opinion/outlook/article/It-s-time-to-vacate-the-100-year-floodplain-12224946.php

"Los Angeles Has a Housing Crisis. Can Design Help?"
https://www.nytimes.com/2021/06/22/arts/design/los-angeles-housing-crisis.html

"Racing The Sea: Miami Beach's Housing Crisis Worsened by Climate Change"
https://www.wlrn.org/news/2020-12-14/racing-the-sea-miami-beachs-housing-crisis-worsened-by-climate-change