Infill Experiments

Infill housing research and speculative proposals

ARCH 4/507
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UO Portland
Fall 2022
Thurs - 3:30-6:20
3 Credits

Course Description:

Housing in Portland is a much-needed resource. While commercial corridors and larger-scale urban planning focus on our city’s core, the single-family suburban fabric is ready for innovation. Many successful large-scale housing projects are underway, but a more distributed effort is needed. Local land use planning has created a series of avenues allowing thoughtful and denser solutions within the single-family lot. These policies create a smaller-scale approach that supports housing demand within a more significant percentage of the city. We must answer the call for housing by experimenting within this territory.

This seminar will investigate mid-scale housing in various Portland neighborhoods. Our focus will be on anything larger than a house and smaller than a twenty-unit residential building. In addition, we will investigate how we can thoughtfully densify the suburban fabric to address housing needs on the neighborhood level.

We will dig into recently adopted zoning codes that affect single-family lots. Our collaborative research will allow us to take a holistic view of building at this scale. We will look at the specifics of residential unit planning by breaking down components of typical unit typologies (studio, one-bedroom, two-bedroom, three-bedroom). This analysis will create an archive of unit types for the studio. From this research, we will create a series of speculative infill housing proposals that thoughtfully build community and character while delivering density to the suburban fabric.

At the end of the course, we will have a collection of zoning studies, unit typology research, and speculative proposals that serve as a platform for future design efforts. This seminar will examine and speculate on the potential of infill housing within Portland and beyond.
Recent Infill housing studies, Clayton Taylor / West of West (www.westofwest.com)