Architects and designers have a fundamental role in our collective response to two significant crises facing our communities - housing affordability and environmental sustainability. One building type that allows for architects to propose a direct response to these crises is Affordable Housing. Publicly funded Affordable Housing is now often required to be at the forefront of high quality, durable, and sustainable design. Additionally, progressive architects are championing the ideas of identity, dignity, and vibrancy in Affordable Housing design. This course will examine contemporary efforts to provide high quality Affordable Housing in West Coast cities that integrate advanced methods of sustainable design.

Using a deep understanding of three case studies of different scales and types, students will explore the design development of a typical common space and residential unit within an Affordable Housing development. Class time will be split between lectures, discussions, and in class drawing activities geared toward developing a shared understanding of the construction methodologies in Affordable Housing design. Throughout the quarter, students will build a set of drawings that fully describe one key area of a selected case study project. These will include plans, sections, axonometric views, and detail callouts. A final project will combine revised versions of this drawing set with an experiential perspectives and section model to communicate overall design intent. We will use free analysis tools like THERM to determine the effectiveness of these proposals.

This course may include a field trip to a project that is in construction as well as guest lectures from professionals working in the design and construction of Affordable Housing. It will be a highly interactive course with aims to build student understanding of construction drawings, sustainable design, and housing design.