Reconceptualising Urban Housing

The global housing crisis has created an urgent need for housing worldwide, especially in urban centers where 80% of the world's population is housed. To address the need to build more homes faster, many important factors are being overlooked, including community, identity, and livability. From city to city, the context differs dramatically, but the problem is universal. How can urban collective housing be more livable? How do we ensure that the design of housing will enhance inhabitants' well-being and quality of life?

Reconceptualising Urban Housing will be exhibited as part of the 7th edition of Time Space Evidence, organized by the European Cultural Centre (ECC), during the Venice Biennale from May 28th to November 28th, 2023. The exhibition brings together a group of women-led practices from around the globe with unique perspectives on collective housing, primarily in urban and rural settings. The diverse range of projects exhibited will not only feature a variety of approaches in Europe and North America but also in developing nations such as Uganda, Malawi, and Mexico, exploring diversity in building typology, climate, and economic and cultural factors, while enabling a shared commitment to social and environmental sustainability.

The selected projects showcase new thinking around housing: they take a holistic approach to livability, exploring the balance of community and private, design for social connection, adaptability, identity and agency, optimization of natural light and ventilation, integration of green spaces and urban farming, and access to outdoor spaces. While remaining unique to each local context and demographic, together and in different ways, they redefine what collective housing can be and how it can support livability for its inhabitants.

Featured practices:
- Atango Architecture, Uganda
- Ateliers Brinkman Architecten, NL
- Atelier D. Architecture + Design, Canada
- Eileen Jurdel Architect, Malawi
- Ferrandis Canales Architecture, Mexico
- Manuelita Gaufrand Architecture, France
- Noa Noa, The Netherlands
- STUDIO4A, Australia
- Studio GAP, USA