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Designing for Community: The Social and Spatial Construction of Danish Housing Architecture

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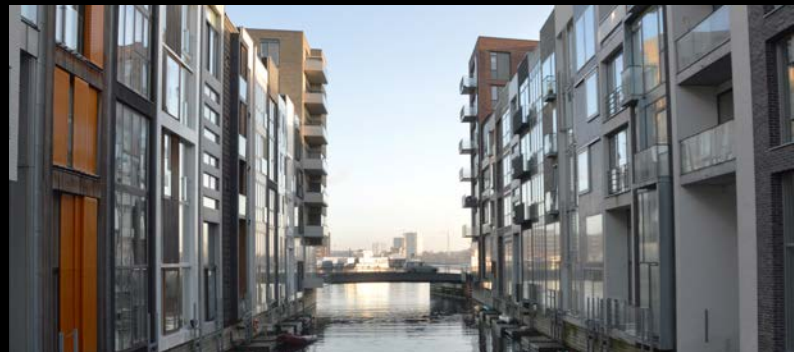
PETER STOLL

SENIOR INTEGRATIVE PROJECT:
HONORS THESIS

ARCHITECTURAL STUDIES
CONNECTICUT COLLEGE
2015



CONNECTICUT
COLLEGE



Designing for Community: The Social and Spatial Construction of Danish Housing Architecture

Peter Stoll
Honors Thesis 2015

What social structures and processes have led to the notable penchant in Danish society for designing for community?

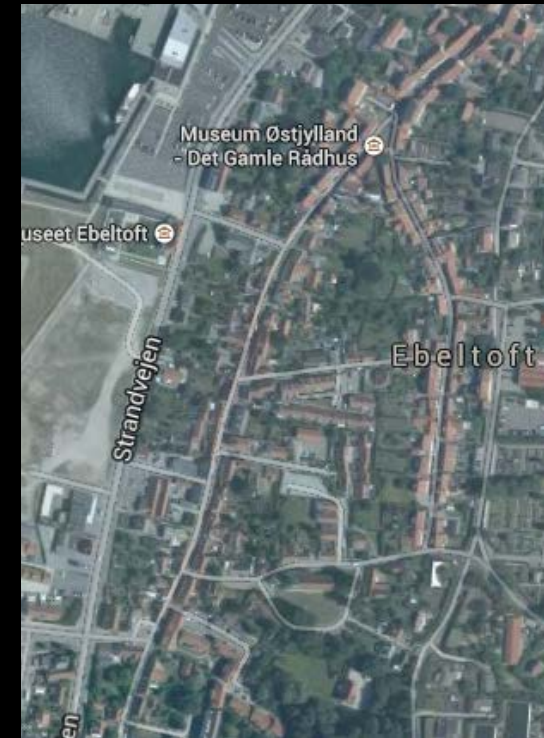
Vernacular architecture: “architecture without architects”



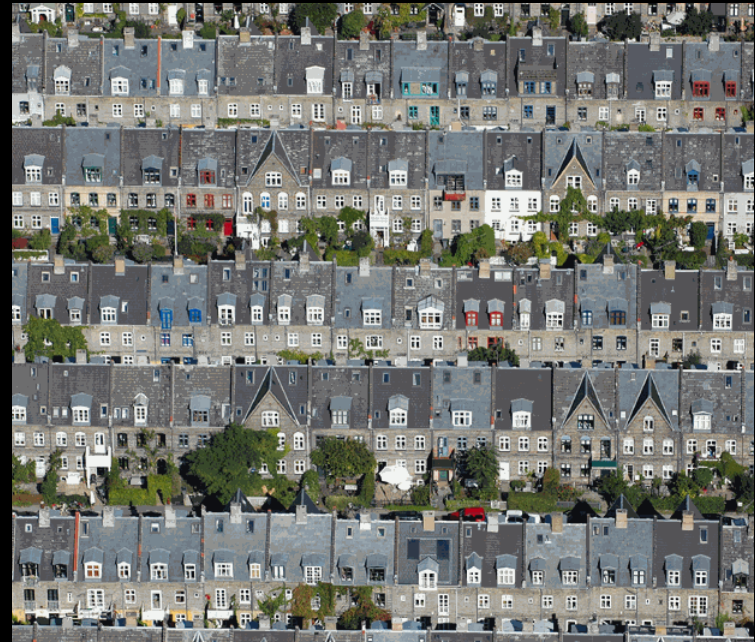
The *Laenge*, or Danish longhouse



Ebeltoft, East Jutland, Denmark



Industrialization and Workers' Cooperatives



Brumleby, 1853 (left) and
Kartoffelraekkern, 1873-1889 (right)

Social Housing and the Welfare State



Left: Copenhagen slum,
1890s

Above: Brøndby Strand, 1969

Social Housing and the Welfare State



Albertslund Syd, 1967, plan
(left) and street (above)

Social Housing and the Welfare State



Galgebakken, 1974, plan
(left) and street (above)

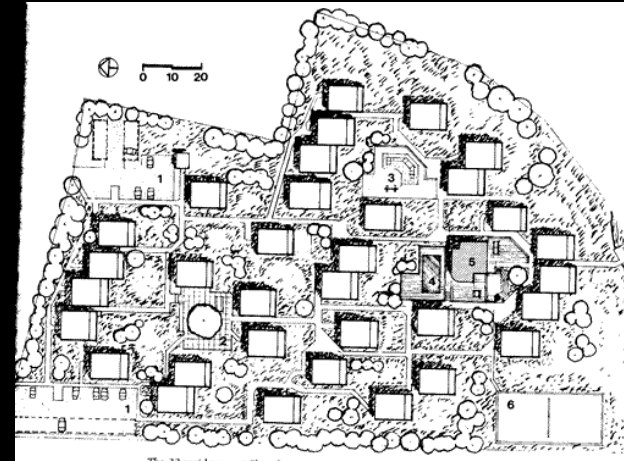
Co-Housing and the Cultural Revolution

“If a team of planners at any time had been given the task of doing what they could to **reduce life between buildings**, they hardly could have achieved more thoroughly what has inadvertently been done in the **sprawling suburban areas**, as well as in numerous **functionalist redevelopment schemes**.” – Jan Gehl, *Life Between Buildings*

Jan Gudmand-Høyer, “The Missing Link Between Utopia and the Dated One-Family House,” 1968

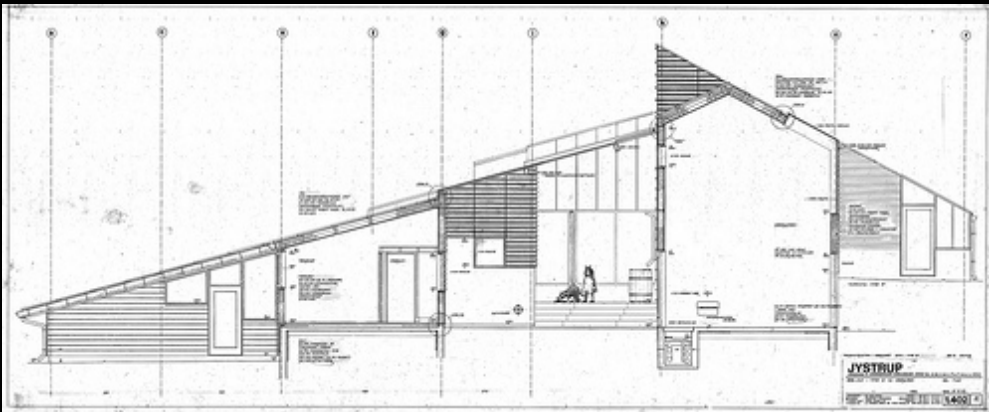


Co-Housing and the Cultural Revolution



Saettedammen (left) and
Skraplanet, 1972

Co-Housing and the Cultural Revolution



Vandkunsten, Jystrup
Savvaerk, 1984

Co-Housing and the Cultural Revolution



Dorte Mandrup, Lange Eng,
2009

Co-Housing and the Cultural Revolution



Dorte Mandrup, Lange Eng,
2009



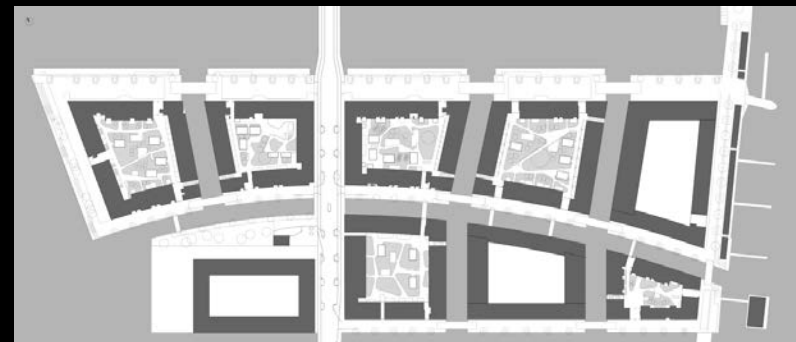
Danish Housing in the 21st Century

Challenges:

Globalization, Neoliberalism, privatization

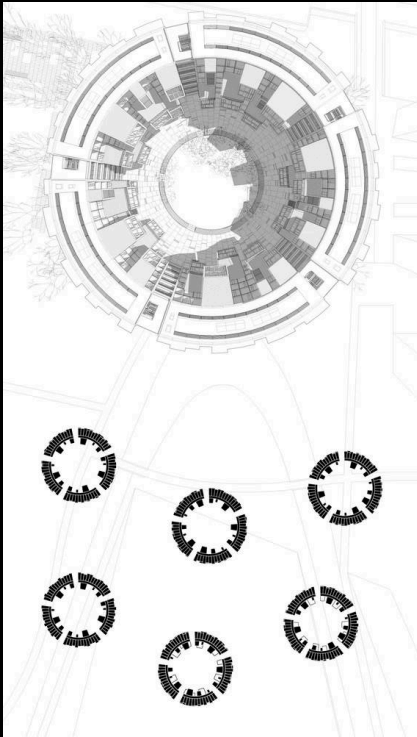
Opportunities:

New technologies, sustainability (broadly defined)



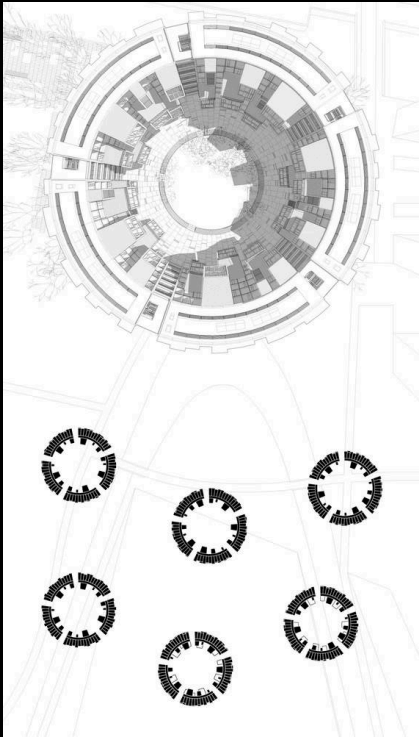
Arkitema, Sluseholmen, 2009

Danish Housing in the 21st Century



Lundgaard & Tranberg,
Tietgenkollegiet, 2009

Danish Housing in the 21st Century



Lundgaard & Tranberg,
Tietgenkollegiet, 2009

Danish Housing in the 21st Century



Bjarke Ingels Group (BIG),
8-House, 2009

Danish Housing in the 21st Century



Bjarke Ingels Group (BIG),
W57, 2015

Conclusions

Architecture does not exist in a vacuum

Danish housing architecture is **socially** and **spatially** produced through the conflicts over the **role, function**, and **expression** of the built environment

- Subsistence
- Industrialization and class consciousness
- Questioning norms of the 1960s
- Liberalization of the Welfare State

Spaces for community

- Interaction
- Cohesion
- Human scale



Bjarke Ingels Group (BIG),
W57, 2015