More than any other building type, housing is influenced by complex social, political and economic conditions. Housing architects must work within multiple layers of constraint, many of which are highly dynamic, changing over the course of a project. Understanding the external forces that act on the design and production of housing, sheds light on the challenge architects face when trying to create more sustainable, principled and beautiful housing. By the end of the class, students will be well acquainted with these forces and better equipped to predict and adapt to changing housing conditions.

The primary goals of this seminar are 1) to give designers the skills to predict and adapt to changing housing conditions; and 2) to guide students to develop the intuition needed to respond to unpredicted changes and to be able to discuss them intelligently. The information and principles learned are directly helpful when applied during the design process and students will be equipped to design housing that is both visionary and realistic.

Assignments
1. Respond: Critically react in writing to a theory presented in the readings and illustrate your response with examples of existing housing projects (300 words each, Due Week 2 and 3, 5% for each).
2. Theorize: Write a coherent, original housing theory (1,200 words, Week 4, 25%).
3. Present: In teams of two, research the unique constraints on housing in a specific location, anywhere in the world. The final product is a ten-minute, ten-slide presentation to the class and a two page summary memo (Due Week 7 or 8, 25%).
4. Design (Final Exam): A timed conceptual design of a housing project, either by hand or digitally, completed entirely during the two hours of the Week 11 exam period. The brief will be presented during the exam period (25%).
5. Engage: Participate in class discussions, field trips and presentations (15%).

Readings
The primary course text is Housing Design, A Manual, by Leupen and Mooij. Please read the first sections, through page 32, before the first class session. Additional required readings will be posted as pdfs online.