Housing in the Context of Community

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For both economic and environmental reasons, housing in the United States is densifying, which can create conflicts with people in established neighborhoods. Architects are often at the front lines of NIMBY (Not in My Backyard) outrage. The goal of this studio is to learn effective ways to communicate with non-designers, especially those we may initially see as antagonists. This studio is site-specific, but the form and type of housing will be determined by each student and each student will prepare to defend, to people from the community, both the type of housing as well as the aesthetic and conceptual decisions.

This studio is unique in three significant ways.
1. Structure: This studio focuses on elevation, and section, rather than plan.
2. Format: Your final product will be a presentation and design packet.
3. Site: You will interact with and learn from the neighbors of the site.

Our field trip will be to Seattle to observe a Design Review Meeting and explore housing in the community context. While students are encouraged to attend a meeting on Monday, April 9 or Tuesday April 10 (the start of Week 2) students who are unable to make those dates can attend a meeting during the week of Spring Break and I will provide a map in advance to specific housing developments (though tours will not be available at that time).

Attendance at an evening community meeting is required on May 13th.