Enrollment limited to 16 students

Instructor: Mike Pyatok, FAIA

Class Time: Thursdays 2:00-4:50 PM

Location: TBD

Designing Affordable Housing: Process and Product

This combination lecture and discussion class will review a series of case studies of affordable housing executed by the instructor during the past 30 years. Each will be deconstructed, revealing the factors which shaped the final product: attitudes of neighbors and residents; developers’ belief systems; political, social, cultural, economic, financial factors; regulatory and funding influences; changes in construction technologies and the ‘green’ movement; all aided, abetted and at times confused by the architect’s belief system.

40 projects will be reviewed, varying along a spectrum from low-density suburban locations (10-25 dwelling units per acre) to urban locations (up to 150 dwellings per acre). Some will be mixed used, some mixed income. Students will be expected to take a critical look at the cases, followed by discussions in hindsight focusing on what was done right, what was done wrong, what could have been done differently.

ASSIGNMENT A. Working in 2-person teams, students will research an affordable housing project executed in a developed nation other than the US, using a checklist provided by the instructor, to help guide the research, deconstruction and explanation of what led to the project’s final form. The material must be presented on two facing pages, each 11x17, and also in a power point show. This will be due at the mid-term in an all-class presentation.

ASSIGNMENT B. Again working in 2-person teams, students will research an affordable housing project executed in a developing nation, using a checklist provided by the instructor, to help guide the research, deconstruction and explanation of what led to the project’s final form. The material must be presented on two facing pages, each 11x17, and also in a power point show. This will be due at the end-term in an all-class presentation.