



Guest-edited by KAREN KUBEY

HOUSING AS INTERVENTION



ARCHITECTURE TOWARDS SOCIAL EQUITY





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ARCHITECTURAL DESIGN July/August 2018 Profile No 254 HOUSING AS **ARCHITECTURE TOWARDS** INTERVENTION SOCIAL EQUITY Guest-edited by KAREN KUBEY



About the Guest-Editor

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Introduction

Housing for the Common Good

Karen Kubey

Architecture's Progressive Imperative

Housing Betterment in the 19th and 20th Centuries

Matthew Gordon Lasner

Demapping Automotive Landscapes 14

Affordability as a Land Game

Marc Norman

The Global Crisis of Affordable Housing

05

Architecture Versus Neoliberalism

Robert Fishman

A New Era of Social Housing

Architecture as the Basis for Change

Paul Karakusevic

Calling All Architects

New Approaches to Old Housing

Emily Schmidt and Rosalie Genevro

Designing for Impact

Tools for Reducing Disparities in Health

Brian Phillips and Deb Katz

The Architect's Lot

Backyard Homes Policy and Design

Dana Cuff

62

cityLAB, Mapping Backyard Homes in Los Angeles, University of California, University of California, Los Angeles (UCLA), 2009

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Housing as Intervention: Architecture Towards Social Equity

Across the world, the housing crisis is escalating. Mass migration to cities has led to rapid urbanisation on an unprecedented scale, while the withdrawal of public funding from social housing provision in Western countries, and widening income inequality, have further compounded the situation. In prosperous US and European cities, middle- and low-income residents are being pushed out of housing markets increasingly dominated by luxury investors. The average London tenant, for example, now pays an unaffordable 49 per cent of his or her pre-tax income in rent. Parts of the developing world and areas of forced migration are experiencing insufficient affordable housing stock coupled with rapidly shifting ways of life.

In response to this context, forward-thinking architects are taking the lead with a collaborative approach. By partnering with allied fields, working with residents, developing new forms of housing, and leveraging new funding systems and policies, they are providing strategic leadership for what many consider to be our cities' most pressing crisis. Amidst growing economic and health disparities, this issue of Δ asks how housing projects, and the design processes behind them, might be interventions towards greater social equity, and how collaborative work in housing might reposition the architectural profession at large.

ARCHITECTURAL DESIGN

July/August Profile No. 254

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