Guidelines from community participation for the design of collective housing

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The purpose of this workshop is to bring students of architecture, and diverse disciplines, to the reality of the people who inhabit and use the spaces designed in a collective environment. Students learn from the experience of people (citizens / clients with whom they will work and collaborate) in the spaces they inhabit, and they take into account their needs, their aspirations and their local knowledge when designing. Also, these people learn from the academic and technical knowledge of future architects and feel able to continue maintaining and developing the place in which they reside. The workshop specialize in the design and construction of communal spaces.
The aim is that together, architects and future inhabitants could collaborate in creating quality living spaces.

to bridge the gap that often exists between academia and practice, as well as that between the academic knowledge of architects and the experience of the people.

to put academic knowledge to serve the residents of the communities in need of architects which can guide and help them describe and materialize the space in which they wish to live.
HOUSING DESIGN STUDIO

The Housing Design Studio of the School of Architecture, Polytechnic University of Puerto Rico, requires students to learn concepts and fundamentals of design, and also to solve architectural problems of advanced level. Emphasizes on **fundamentals of design focused on the subject of housing**. For this, the course consists of a series of lectures, site visits, exercises, projects, and class discussions. The dynamics of the design workshop provides a framework for interaction between students and the teacher as they work to find alternatives to the same problem. This will revolve around the theme of evolutive habitat, ie, housing that is a reflection of its inhabitants and therefore may be a changing entity, unfinished, adaptable and flexible to fit different lifestyles.
As part of the OIKONET Network, **the students of the Housing Design Studio worked with design guidelines prepared by the "ENLACE Project of Caño Martín Peña.** The "ENLACE Project" is an organization whose mission is to coordinate and implement public policy relating to the rehabilitation of Caño Martín Peña, in San Juan Puerto Rico. It also works with urban, social and economic development of the surrounding communities with effective and active participation of residents and organizations community-based, through partnerships between the communities and the private and public sector. **These guidelines were prepared taking into account a participatory process carried out with the residents of the communities surrounding the Caño Martín Peña for the design of collective housing.**
Caño Martín Peña
SUMMARY

Caño Martín Peña
Participatory Process of “ENLACE Project” with the communities that surround the Caño Martín Peña in San Juan, for the design of collective housing. These dwellings need to be built for the relocation of residents whose homes will be affected by the dredging of the channel.
Design guidelines according to the participatory process conducted

1. **Proveer múltiples entradas:**
   Ubicar una entrada principal por la Avenida Quisqueya y otras entradas adicionales alrededor del perímetro del solar para facilitar el acceso peatonal a la comunidad y el entorno público.

2. **Proveer calles caminables:**
   Diseñar aceras anchas y cómodas para los peatones, promoviendo accesibilidad para personas incapacitadas y/o personas de edad avanzada.

3. **Diversidad de estacionamientos:**
   Considerar alternativas de estacionamiento que incluya uno o varios tipos de espacios para los residentes estacionar: estacionamiento desuperficie (individuales o colectivos), soterrados, estacionamientos con marquesinas, estacionamiento debajo de la vivienda. Evitar edificios individuales y atados que estén dedicados solo para estacionar.

“Me gustaría tener un estacionamiento debajo de mi vivienda para ahorrar espacio.”

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Design guidelines according to the participatory process conducted

13. Proveer viviendas espaciosas y cómodas: 
Diseñar unidades con habitaciones, baños y áreas de estar de tamaño amplias para que sean espaciosas y cómodas.

14. Proveer unidades accesibles en la 1ra planta: 
Ubicar unidades en la 1ra planta de los edificios de vivienda de manera que sean accesibles para personas con impedimentos y/o personas de edad avanzada.

15. Limitar cambio de niveles en el interior de viviendas: 
Proveer viviendas que sean de un solo nivel sin cambio de niveles, siempre y cuando sea posible, para que sean accesibles para personas con impedimentos y/o personas de edad avanzada.
Las Gladiolas Site
Las Gladiolas Site
Student proposals following the guidelines

Nicole Mercado Project
Student proposals following the guidelines

Evelyn Villalobo Project
Student proposals following the guidelines

Luis Villanueva Project
Student proposals following the guidelines

Suhalee Rivera Project
Student proposals following the guidelines

Carol Zapata Project
Student proposals following the guidelines

Miriam Lopez Project
CONCLUSIONS

• To incorporate community participation in the design of collective housing and public spaces should not be an extra component in a project. Housing, and the spaces that surround it, are associated with both the place and its culture. For this reason, to understand the culture of a place is not enough to be a distant observer. It is necessary to talk to its inhabitants, to understand how they live and what their aspirations are.

• This should be an integral part in the education of an architect. Students should not only learn from their teacher but also from individuals for whom they are designing. Then learn from their experience in space.

• Establish design guidelines based on a process of community participation is a great tool to incorporate in the design the voices of its future inhabitants or users and to anticipate future changes. The guidelines help to make these voices tangible and to translate them into a design proposal.

• The ultimate goal of the students should be designing houses that can be converted into homes, where residents have a sense of belonging and attachment to their dwelling but also for the entire community.
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