

COLUMBIA UNIVERSITY
GRADUATE SCHOOL OF ARCHITECTURE AND PLANNING

A4003x COMPREHENSIVE STUDIO III
SECOND YEAR DESIGN

FALL 1977
SESSION II/ 9 weeks

PROJECT: Composite Perimeter Housing Prototype for Marcus Garvey Park
Village Extension

ISSUED: October 10, 1977

REVIEWS: November 2,3
December 14,15

INSTRUCTOR: Kenneth Frampton

Typological Approach: The last thirty years of architectural education have been based largely on two essential precepts: 1) that built form should be determined on a basis that at least in theory should be seen as being both functional and exclusively programmatic, and 2) that students (or for that matter practicing architects) should always be given a tabula rasa upon which to invent forms of unprecedented originality.

Over the past decade a counter thesis has come to be advanced in both theory and practice to the effect that: 1) perceptual invention and originality is a contradiction in terms or at best a trivial iteration when set against the more profound cultural problems facing the civilization and that 2) the culture of form as developed by the West presents itself as a typological repertoire redolent with certain properties, upon which all significant future development must be based. *perpetual*

The corollary to this counterthesis from a pedagogical point of view is that architectural education and design practice should be typologically based and the nature of the relevant type form should be allowed to establish the generic parameters of the problem from the outset. Under such circumstances the problem would be constrained by three factors: by typological parameters, specific criteria, and by programmatic requirements.

The Perimeter Block: The perimeter block as a generic form of city development has a relatively short history in the evolution of 20th century architecture, enjoying a certain popularity as a received type from the earliest New York tenement block prototypes developed by Andrew Thomas and Ernest Flagg to the last perimeter blocks built in Amsterdam South in the mid-30's. The subsequent triumph of the open city model with its emphasis on articulate form and its insistence on absolutely standard criteria for orientation, ventilation and access affectively eliminated the perimeter block from the urbanists' repertoire. The cumulative experience of the past forty years, however, has now brought us to re-examine the more traditional forms of city

development and to ask whether the street or the perimeter block may yet be absolute elements essential to the satisfactory articulation and definition of the human settlement.

Marcus Garvey Park Village Extension: The basic design task of this nine-week program is to design a prototypical residential block to be used for the future extension of Marcus Garvey Park Village, which is a UDC development of some 625 units completed in Brownsville, Brooklyn, some two years ago. The subject can thus be seen both as a criticism and as a further development of that which has already been built on the site.

Parameters for the Residential Perimeter Block: The prototypical block must be designed to comply with the following parameters:

1. The block is to be based on the typical New York City 800 feet by 200 feet city block; the dimensions being from the back of the sidewalk.
2. The prototypical housing units of which it is composed must be considered as forming an integral whole for the extent of one typical block.
3. The built-up street frontage must be maintained as a continuous form on all four sides of the block, with the exceptions given under items (5) and (8) below.
4. Cars must be parked on the lot and under cover. The parking/unit ratio is given under the program.
5. The sidewalk may only be broken for vehicular access on the longer sides of the block. Such access may not be more than two driveway widths (of approx. 10 ft.) for each side.
6. Every dwelling must have a private outdoor terrace -- private in the sense that it cannot be immediately overlooked from any adjacent space at the same level. This terrace may be either adjacent to or on top of the dwelling to which it pertains.
7. As far as possible, roof surface should be utilized as private open space.
8. All public access stairs must eventually give access to both the interior semi-public garden area and to the covered parking within the block.
9. As large a semi-public space as possible must be left in the centre of the block for recreational use by both adults and children. This space must contain a creche and a communal swimming pool, both items being for the exclusive use of residents of the block.

Specific Criteria and Recommendations: Space Standards, Structure, Orientation and Storage:

1. The space standards for all units is to accord with standards outlined in the booklet Space in the Home. The one exception to this is the living space itself (i.e., living and dining) which should be extended by 20% over the recommended areas.
2. As far as possible, the units should be planned on a 3'4" module. It is suggested that students consider the use of some sort of tartan grid in which a distinct articulation occurs between the width of the servant and served bays.
3. Storage walls should be incorporated into the design as much as possible.
4. Care should be taken that no living rooms are designed where sunlight is definitively excluded; that is to say, living rooms may in the main face north but if they do so, some provision must be made for sunlight to enter the space for at least five hours a day.
5. It is suggested that some form of load-bearing cross wall structure be employed wherever possible.

Programmatic Requirements: The block is to be designed to provide a standard of 50 units per acre within its own limits. These units are to be made up as follows: 50% 3-bedroom, 25% 2-bedroom, 12,5% 4-bedroom, and 12,5% 1-bedroom. Of these last item, at least 2/3 are to be old persons' dwellings situated close to the public entrances, to the internal gardens, and as close to ground level as possible. The minimum parking requirements are 1 car for each of the 4, 3 and 2 bedroom dwellings.

Schedule and Presentation Requirements: The following pencil presentation is required for review on November 2nd and 3rd.

1. Typical plans and sections for all levels for one 800 x 200 foot block showing the position of all unit types, parking bays, service cores, access ways, etc. Scale: 1/16" = 1'
2. Rough draft of all typical apartment units at the scale 1/8" = 1'

The following ink presentation is required for final review on December 14th and 15th.

1. Typical plans, sections and elevations of the entire block, including, in addition to the items required for the interim review, the following: landscaping, creche and swimming pool. Scale: 1/16" = 1'
2. Typical plans and sections of all units at the scale 1/8" = 1'
3. Model of an entire block at the scale 1/16" = 1'

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