

Interstitial Space *to promote* Social Health

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This project proposes a new model of living, one of cooperation interaction, and exchange that facilitate mutual support and relationships which benefit both individuals and their communities (Generations United, 2). This project, an urban intergenerational living facility, proposes that space can and should be designed in a way that facilitates social health.

Significance

These is desirable because, in the words of Dr. John Wallis Rowe M.D, "Maintaining close relationships with others, and remaining involved in activities that are meaningful and purposeful, are important for wellbeing throughout the life course" (Rowe). In addition, to making people's

lives happier and healthier in general, this project hypothesizes that those strong social ties to the people we live closest to have the potential to make people feel safer, more comfortable, like they belong, and to make people more active and be a resource to the other community members.

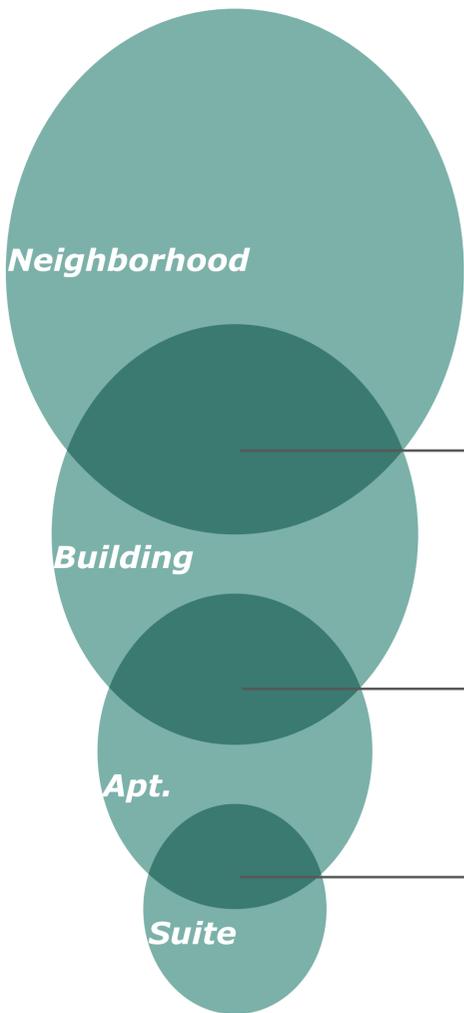
Methods

The project first attempts to identify, through literature review, the characteristics that encourage and allow people to occupy a space that doesn't exclusively belong to them, thus providing the potential for social interaction.

Vikas Mehta in his article , Lively Streets, does something very similar and makes a useful distinction between macro-scale, like population density, destinations, paths, economic factors, etc. that are affected by planning and programming decisions, and micro-scale characteristics that live on the design level (Vikas, 166). Then, once identified, the way these characteristics have been used in precedent was examined. The future intent of this knowledge being to bring everything together in a new design.

Precedent *in Interstitial Space* Design

From the Students of Studio 108



Active Entrance

EXAMPLE

A Senior Residence in Zurich

The entire ground floor of this project is semi-public, with a variety of spaces designed for lingering and interaction.

"Street" Corridor

EXAMPLE

Miss Sargfabrik, Vienna

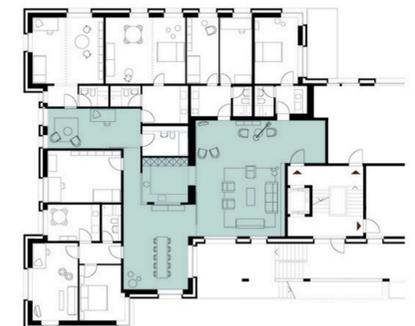
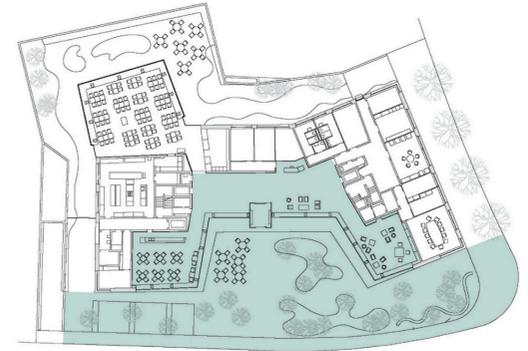
The outdoor path to each apartment varies in width to create little nooks where people can stop and be out of the way.

Cluster Housing

EXAMPLE

Kraftwerk 2, Zurich

The apartments in this house share common living, cooking, and dining space with their immediate neighbors.



Interstitial space, or spaces in-between, was identified as the location of these characteristics. In terms of ownership, interstitial space occurs at the borders of what belongs to an individual and what belongs to a greater community, which is a very layered organization, and thus happens at many scales. By definition, interstitial spaces are places of connection and separation both for space and people; it all depends on the way they are designed.

"With this respectful hesitation demarcating difference (knocking at a door), we provoke a life of community, of being together with others-in-difference. We celebrate the vital difference between self and other and thereby make possible a meeting" (Lang, 212)

Micro Scale Factors That Create Lively Space

Based on Literature Review

Seating



"Sitting space is most certainly a prerequisite. ... the most striking designs, cannot induce people to come and sit if there is no place to sit." - William Whyte, *The Social Life of Small Urban Spaces*, p. 28

Protection



"The essential conditions are that the setting must suggest and provide a refuge... such places hold an extraordinary power in conveying safety." - Grant Hildebrand, *Complexity and Order, Prospect and Refuge*, p 32.

Activities



"If you want to seed a place with activity, put out food." - William Whyte, *The Social Life of Small Urban Spaces*, p. 50

Environmental Comfort



"[The quality of the experience] can be much greater with sun. ... Absence of winds and drafts are as critical as the sun" William Whyte, *The Social Life of Small Urban Spaces*, p. 42,44

Prospect



"The ability to observe ... can have a pronounced effect in securing the environment for peaceful activities." - Oscar Newman, *Defensible Space*

Nooks



Providing dedicated areas adjacent to circulation provides the potential for people to stop without being in the path of flow.

Conclusion

The next step of this project will be to use these precedents and characteristics, among others to create design guidelines for a proposed intergenerational housing project in Seattle. This hypothetical project hopes to promote the benefits and potential of social interaction in the architecture, both at the planning and programming level as well as design.

"The sum of such casual, public contact at the local level ... is a feeling for the public identity of people, a web of public respect and trust, and a resource in time of personal or neighborhood need." - Jane Jacobs, *The Life and Death of Great American Cities* (Quoted by Vikas Mehta, *Lively Streets*, p. 116)

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