

ANKARA YILDIRIM BEYAZIT UNIVERSITY
FACULTY OF ARCHITECTURE AND FINE ARTS
DEPARTMENT OF ARCHITECTURE

ARCH 301 ARCHITECTURAL DESIGN STUDIO II FALL 2026-2027

COMMON GROUND
COLLECTIVE HOUSING

“From Dwelling Unit to Collective Life”

Housing is one of the fundamental architectural environments in which individual life, family structures, social interaction and urban patterns are formed.

Collective housing requires architectural thinking beyond the design of individual dwelling units. It involves the organization of different dwelling types, circulation systems, shared spaces, landscape and open spaces within a coherent residential environment.

COMMON GROUND approaches housing as a system operating simultaneously at different scales. Students are expected to move continuously between the dwelling unit, the building, the building group and the settlement.

The studio investigates the relationship between individuality and collectivity, privacy and interaction, repetition and variation, density and open space. Rather than producing a collection of repetitive apartment blocks, students are expected to develop a residential environment that responds to different household structures and patterns of contemporary urban life.

Particular emphasis will be placed on housing typologies, dwelling diversity, unit aggregation, spatial hierarchy, public and private relationships, shared spaces, pedestrian circulation, environmental conditions and the relationship between residential development and its urban context.

ARCH 301 aims to develop students' ability to establish architectural systems in which individual dwelling units become components of a larger spatial, social and urban organization.

Project Site

The project site will be located on a selected area along Eskişehir Road in Ankara.

Eskişehir Road is one of the major development corridors of Ankara and contains residential developments, educational institutions, office buildings, commercial uses and major transportation infrastructure.

The studio will investigate how a new collective housing environment can respond to this rapidly developing urban condition while creating a distinct sense of place and community.

Students are expected to analyze the project site together with its wider urban context.

Particular attention should be given to:

- Relationship with Eskişehir Road
- Existing and proposed urban connections
- Pedestrian accessibility
- Public transportation
- Vehicle access
- Surrounding building densities

- Building heights and urban scale
- Existing residential patterns
- Noise generated by major traffic routes
- Sun orientation and daylight
- Prevailing environmental conditions
- Views and visual relationships
- Existing vegetation and landscape characteristics
- Potential connections with surrounding neighborhoods
- Opportunities for public and shared open spaces

The exact boundaries and detailed site information will be announced by the studio instructors.

Studio Objectives

This studio aims to develop students' understanding of collective housing as both an architectural and urban design problem.

Students are expected to investigate how different dwelling units, circulation systems, collective spaces, open spaces and building groups can form a coherent residential environment.

The studio aims for students to:

- Investigate different collective housing typologies
- Understand the relationship between dwelling unit, building and settlement
- Develop dwelling types responding to different household structures
- Explore repetition and variation as architectural strategies
- Investigate different methods of unit aggregation
- Understand density as a spatial design parameter
- Establish relationships between public, shared and private spaces
- Integrate collective spaces into residential environments
- Develop meaningful relationships between buildings and open spaces
- Organize pedestrian and vehicle circulation systems
- Respond to environmental conditions such as orientation, daylight, noise and landscape
- Integrate basic structural principles into housing design
- Develop architectural decisions simultaneously at unit, building and settlement scales
- Establish a coherent architectural language across different scales
- Communicate architectural ideas through drawings, diagrams, models and verbal presentations

Learning Outcomes

Upon successful completion of this studio, students are expected to be able to:

- Define collective housing as an architectural and urban design problem
 - Analyze different household structures and patterns of domestic life
 - Translate different user requirements into dwelling configurations
 - Develop multiple dwelling unit typologies
 - Establish relationships between different dwelling types
 - Combine dwelling units through appropriate horizontal and vertical aggregation strategies
 - Develop architectural relationships between dwelling units, circulation and shared spaces
 - Organize clear public, shared and private spatial hierarchies
 - Understand and manipulate residential density through architectural decisions
 - Design meaningful relationships between buildings and open spaces
 - Develop coherent pedestrian, vehicle and service circulation systems
 - Respond to environmental and contextual characteristics of the site
 - Integrate basic structural principles into building organization
 - Develop architectural decisions across dwelling, building and settlement scales
 - Communicate architectural ideas clearly through drawings, diagrams, models and presentations
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Architectural Program

The architectural program outlined below serves as a guiding framework.

Students are expected to develop a coherent residential program according to their design strategies, user analyses and density decisions.

The project should not be understood as the repetition of a single standard housing unit. Diversity of household structures and patterns of domestic life should be reflected in the architectural organization..

1. Dwelling Units

The residential proposal must include all of the following dwelling types:

1+1 Dwelling Unit
2+1 Dwelling Unit
3+1 Dwelling Unit
4+1 Dwelling Unit
Duplex Dwelling Unit

Students are expected to develop each dwelling type as a specific architectural response to different household sizes and patterns of living.

The units should not be created simply by increasing or decreasing the floor area of a standard plan.

Each dwelling type should consider:

- Entrance sequence
- Living areas
- Dining areas
- Kitchen organization
- Sleeping areas
- Wet areas
- Storage
- Furniture and everyday use
- Privacy relationships
- Daylight
- Natural ventilation
- Orientation
- Flexibility
- Private outdoor spaces
- Relationship with collective circulation
- Basic structural organization

Duplex Dwelling Units

Duplex units should be used as an opportunity to investigate domestic space through both plan and section.

Students should explore:

- Vertical relationships between living spaces
- Internal circulation
- Separation or interaction between living and sleeping zones
- Spatial continuity between levels
- Double height spaces where appropriate
- Terrace or garden relationships
- Position of duplex units within the overall housing system
- Influence of duplex units on building mass and facade organization

Duplex units may be located at ground level, upper levels or other strategic locations according to the

architectural concept.

2. Collective Residential Spaces

Shared spaces should contribute directly to collective life and should form an integral part of the residential environment.

Possible spaces may include:

- Community rooms
- Shared gathering spaces
- Multipurpose rooms
- Shared working areas
- Children's activity spaces
- Common terraces
- Shared gardens
- Social and recreational spaces
- Indoor and outdoor meeting spaces

The number, scale and character of these spaces should be determined according to the design concept and proposed resident profile.

3. Circulation and Transition Spaces

Circulation should be considered as part of architectural and social experience rather than only as a technical requirement.

Students should investigate:

- Building entrances
- Entrance halls
- Vertical circulation
- Horizontal circulation
- Access galleries where appropriate
- Shared halls
- Transitional spaces
- Relationships between circulation and collective spaces
- Relationships between circulation and open spaces

4. Service and Support Spaces

- Technical areas

- Storage
- Waste collection areas
- Maintenance spaces
- Bicycle storage where appropriate
- Management spaces where required
- Service access where necessary

5. Open and Semi Open Spaces

Open spaces should establish spatial continuity between buildings and contribute to collective residential life.

Possible components may include:

- Shared gardens
- Courtyards
- Children's play areas
- Pedestrian streets
- Small squares
- Seating areas
- Gathering spaces
- Semi open spaces
- Green areas
- Landscape buffers
- Transitional spaces between public and private areas
- Outdoor recreational spaces

Open spaces should not be treated as residual spaces between buildings.

6. Access, Vehicle Circulation and Parking

Students should develop coherent strategies for:

- Pedestrian access
- Vehicle access
- Emergency access
- Service access
- Parking

- Bicycle circulation
- Relationship between parking and residential spaces

Pedestrian movement and spatial quality should be prioritized within the residential environment.

Stage 1: Preliminary Work – Reading Housing, Collective Life and Site

This stage establishes the analytical and conceptual foundation of the project.

Students are expected to investigate collective housing through precedent studies, housing typologies, user profiles, dwelling patterns and analysis of the project site.

a. Case Studies

Students will analyze selected examples of collective housing.

Each case study should investigate:

- Housing typology
- Dwelling unit organization
- Different dwelling types
- Unit aggregation
- Building form
- Density
- Circulation
- Public and private relationships
- Collective spaces
- Building and open space relationships
- Landscape
- Structural organization
- Facade organization
- Architectural language

Case studies should be communicated primarily through architectural drawings and diagrams rather than descriptive text.

b. Housing Typology Research

Students should investigate different forms of collective housing including:

- Linear housing
- Point blocks
- Courtyard housing

- Cluster housing
- Terraced housing
- Gallery access housing
- Mixed housing configurations

The purpose is not to reproduce existing examples but to understand their underlying spatial principles.

c. Dwelling Type Analysis

Students are required to analyze architectural examples of:

- 1+1 dwelling units
- 2+1 dwelling units
- 3+1 dwelling units
- 4+1 dwelling units
- Duplex dwelling units

The comparative analysis should consider:

- Spatial organization
- Unit dimensions
- Household structure
- Privacy
- Circulation
- Daylight
- Orientation
- Relationship with outdoor space
- Structural organization
- Methods of aggregation

d. User and Household Analysis

Students should investigate:

- Different household sizes
- Different family structures
- Daily routines
- Individual and shared activities

- Privacy requirements
- Changing patterns of domestic life
- Flexible use of domestic space

These analyses should be translated into architectural user scenarios rather than remaining as written descriptions.

e. Site Analysis

Students are expected to investigate:

- Wider urban context
- Land use
- Transportation networks
- Public transportation
- Pedestrian access
- Vehicle access
- Surrounding building scale
- Building heights
- Existing densities
- Sun orientation
- Environmental conditions
- Noise
- Views
- Existing vegetation
- Topography where applicable
- Existing pedestrian patterns
- Opportunities for public and collective spaces
- Relationship with Eskişehir Road

f. Site Model

Scale: 1/1000 or 1/500

The site model should demonstrate:

- Site boundaries
- Surrounding urban fabric

- Building masses
- Major roads
- Pedestrian connections
- Topography where applicable
- Significant landscape elements

Stage 2: Conceptual Design – From Dwelling Unit to Settlement

At this stage students are expected to transform their analyses into a coherent collective housing strategy.

Design decisions should be developed simultaneously at three interrelated scales:

Dwelling Unit
Building and Building Group
Settlement

Students should avoid treating these scales as independent design problems.

a. Housing Strategy

Students should develop:

- Main settlement concept
- Density strategy
- Housing typologies
- Distribution of dwelling types
- Building heights
- Mass and void relationships
- Open space hierarchy
- Collective space strategy
- Pedestrian network
- Vehicle circulation
- Landscape strategy

b. Dwelling Unit Studies

Scale: 1/50

Students are required to develop all five dwelling categories:

- 1+1
- 2+1
- 3+1

- 4+1
- Duplex

Each dwelling type should demonstrate:

- User scenario
- Spatial hierarchy
- Furniture
- Privacy
- Flexibility
- Daylight
- Orientation
- Natural ventilation
- Private outdoor space
- Relationship with circulation
- Basic structural logic

c. Unit Aggregation Studies

Students should investigate how different dwelling types form larger architectural organizations.

Studies should demonstrate:

- Horizontal aggregation
- Vertical aggregation
- Combination of different unit types
- Circulation systems
- Building entrances
- Collective spaces
- Structural logic
- Relationship between dwelling organization and facade
- Relationship between different units and building mass

d. Site Plan

Scale: 1/500

The site plan should demonstrate:

- Overall settlement organization
- Building positions
- Building heights
- Density
- Open space hierarchy
- Pedestrian circulation
- Vehicle circulation
- Parking
- Main entrances
- Shared spaces
- Landscape
- Relationship with surrounding urban fabric

e. Building Plans and Sections

Scale: 1/100

Plans and sections should demonstrate:

- Dwelling organization
- Different dwelling types
- Circulation
- Collective spaces
- Vertical relationships
- Building entrances
- Relationship between buildings and open spaces
- Basic structural organization

f. Concept Models

Models should investigate:

- Density
- Mass and void relationships
- Building heights
- Unit aggregation
- Open space relationships

- Overall settlement character
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Stage 3: Final Design - Collective Living Environment

At this stage the project should be developed as a coherent architectural and urban proposal.

Students are expected to demonstrate consistency between dwelling unit design, building organization, collective spaces, circulation, landscape and settlement strategy.

a. Site Plan

Scale: 1/500

The site plan should demonstrate:

- Overall building organization
- Building heights
- Density
- Open space hierarchy
- Landscape
- Pedestrian circulation
- Vehicle circulation
- Parking strategy
- Public and collective spaces
- Building entrances
- Relationship with the surrounding urban context

b. Site Sections

Scale: 1/200

Site sections should demonstrate:

- Relationships between different building groups
- Building heights
- Open spaces
- Landscape
- Topography where applicable
- Relationship with surrounding urban fabric

c. Building Plans

Scale: 1/100

Selected building groups should be developed in architectural detail.

Plans should demonstrate:

- Distribution of dwelling types
- Collective spaces
- Horizontal circulation
- Vertical circulation
- Building entrances
- Structural organization
- Relationship between interior and exterior spaces

d. Dwelling Unit Plans

Scale: 1/50

Final solutions for all required dwelling types should be presented:

- 1+1
- 2+1
- 3+1
- 4+1
- Duplex

Plans should demonstrate:

- Furniture
- Spatial organization
- Openings
- Storage
- Wet areas
- Kitchen organization
- Private outdoor spaces
- Structural logic

e. Sections

Scale: 1/100

Selected architectural sections should demonstrate:

- Relationships between dwelling units
- Vertical circulation
- Collective spaces
- Natural light
- Relationship between building and landscape
- Spatial character

At least one section should clearly demonstrate the duplex dwelling unit and its relationship with the overall building organization.

Selected areas may be developed at 1/50 scale.

f. Elevations

Scale: 1/100

Elevations should demonstrate:

- Relationship between dwelling organization and facade
- Openings
- Balconies
- Terraces
- Private outdoor spaces
- Material decisions
- Repetition and variation
- Relationship between different dwelling types
- Overall architectural language

g. Perspectives

Perspectives should communicate significant residential experiences such as:

- Pedestrian street
- Shared courtyard
- Building entrance
- Collective space
- Landscape
- Relationship between housing blocks and open spaces
- Selected dwelling interior where appropriate

h. Final Model

Scale: 1/500

The model should demonstrate:

- Overall settlement strategy
- Density
- Mass and void relationships
- Building heights
- Collective spaces
- Landscape
- Relationship with surrounding urban context

Studio Principles

- Collective housing should not be approached as the repetition of a standard apartment block
- The dwelling unit and settlement should be designed as components of the same architectural system
- 1+1, 2+1, 3+1, 4+1 and duplex dwelling types are compulsory components of the project
- Different dwelling types should respond to different household structures and patterns of living
- Dwelling diversity should influence building organization and settlement character
- Density should be treated as an architectural design parameter
- Repetition should be balanced with meaningful variation
- Public, collective and private spaces should establish a clear spatial hierarchy
- Collective spaces should support social interaction and shared residential life
- Open spaces should be designed as architectural components
- Pedestrian movement should be prioritized within the residential environment
- Vehicle circulation and parking should be integrated without dominating the settlement
- Plan, section, mass and landscape should be developed simultaneously
- Environmental conditions should inform orientation, building form and open space organization
- The design process is considered as important as the final architectural product.

Studio Rules:

- Students are responsible for reading and understanding the AYBU Associate and Undergraduate Education and Examination Regulations.

- ARCH 301 Architectural Design Studio III is the third stage of the architectural design studio sequence.
- ARCH 301 is a non exam course. Students are evaluated according to their design process, studio participation and architectural production throughout the semester.
- The semester will be divided into stages corresponding to different phases of the architectural design process.
- Project development will be monitored through regular studio critics, discussions and presentations.
- Students are expected to attend studio regularly and actively participate in critics.
- Students must bring the required drawings, models and design studies to each studio session.
- Unless otherwise announced, architectural drawings are expected to be produced by hand.
- Instructors reserve the right to deny critic or jury participation when required work is incomplete, insufficient or has not been submitted on time.
- Attendance will be recorded during studio hours.
- Students must attend at least 80 percent of studio hours.
- Students who do not meet the attendance requirement will receive an NA grade and will not be permitted to attend the Final Jury.
- Participation in the Preliminary Jury is compulsory.
- Participation in the Final Jury is compulsory.
- Participation in all announced and unannounced sketch problems is compulsory.
- Course communication, announcements, assignments and additional materials will be shared through AYBUZEM.
- Requirements concerning physical and digital submissions will be announced during the semester.
- Submission of required materials before the Preliminary Jury and Final Jury is a condition for participation in the respective jury.

Semester Schedule:

Important Note on Weekly Progress

The topics listed in the weekly schedule should not be understood as subjects that will be introduced or considered only during the corresponding week. They define the minimum level of project development expected to have been reached by that week.

By the beginning of each week, students are expected to have already considered the listed architectural issues within the specific context of their own projects, explored relevant alternatives, and developed preliminary or advanced design responses accordingly.

Architectural design is a continuous and iterative process. Therefore, issues such as dwelling typology, unit aggregation, circulation, density, collective spaces, environmental response, structural organization, landscape and architectural expression should be considered throughout the semester and progressively refined as the project develops.

Students are expected to attend each studio session with drawings, diagrams, models and other project specific studies demonstrating that the listed issues have already been investigated and that appropriate design solutions have been developed.

The weekly schedule therefore represents expected project progress and minimum design resolution, rather than a sequence of independent weekly subjects.

SYLLABUS			
WEEKS	DAYS	TOPIC	Min. Number of Presentations
1		Introduction and Project Brief Introduction to COMMON GROUND Collective housing as an architectural and urban problem Introduction to the project site Discussion of dwelling, building and settlement scales Explanation of semester stages and requirements	
2		Collective Housing Case Studies Housing typologies International and local collective housing examples Dwelling unit organization Unit aggregation Density Collective spaces Public and private relationships	Stage1 TWO
3		Site, User and Dwelling Analysis Site analysis Urban context Eskişehir Road relationship Environmental analysis Household profiles Analysis of 1+1, 2+1, 3+1, 4+1 and duplex dwelling units Housing scenarios	
4		Dwelling Unit Design Development of 1+1 dwelling alternatives Development of 2+1 dwelling alternative Development of 3+1 dwelling alternatives Development of 4+1 dwelling alternatives Development of duplex alternatives Privacy Furniture Daylight Orientation Private outdoor spaces	
5		From Dwelling Unit to Building Horizontal aggregation Vertical aggregation Combination of different dwelling types Circulation systems Building entrances Collective spaces	Stage2 TWO

		Structural principles Relationship between unit organization and building form	
6		From Building to Settlement Development of settlement alternatives Density studies Building heights Mass and void relationships Open space hierarchy Collective spaces Pedestrian circulation Vehicle circulation Landscape strategy	
7		Preliminary Design Development Development of 1/500 site plan Development of 1/100 building plans Development of sections Development of dwelling types Development of collective spaces Landscape strategy Preparation for Preliminary Jury	
8		PRELIMINARY JURY (requirements are to be announced in class)	
9		Jury Evaluation and Design Revision Discussion of Preliminary Jury feedback Revision of settlement strategy Revision of dwelling typologies Revision of building organization Development of open spaces Development of collective spaces	Stage3 FOUR
10		Collective Life and Architectural Organization Development of selected building groups Collective spaces Building entrances Circulation Relationship between dwellings and shared spaces Relationship between ground floors and open spaces Landscape development	
11		Housing and Environmental Response Orientation Daylight Natural ventilation Noise control Private outdoor spaces Facade development Relationship between environmental conditions and building form	
12		Architectural and Structural Integration Structural organization Circulation cores Building sections Parking strategy	

		Service spaces Detailed development of dwelling units Development of duplex sections Integration of architecture and landscape	
13		Settlement and Architectural Character Coordination of site plan, plans, sections and elevations Development of facade language Repetition and variation Material decisions Development of perspectives Development of final model	
14		Final Critics Comprehensive review of settlement strategy Review of all dwelling types Review of building groups Review of collective spaces Review of landscape Review of circulation Review of architectural representation	
15		Final Presentation Development Final architectural critics Drawing coordination Model completion Presentation organization Final control of 1+1, 2+1, 3+1, 4+1 and duplex units Preparation for Final Jury	
	To Be Announced	FINAL JURY (requirements are to be announced in class)	

Grading Policy:

Architectural design education requires continuous participation in the design process. Attendance alone is not considered sufficient.

Students are expected to document the development of their projects throughout the semester, regularly present their work and receive critics from studio instructors.

There will be one Preliminary Jury and a number of scheduled or unscheduled sketch problems according to studio requirements.

STAGES EVALUATION : %20

PRELIMINARY JURY : %20

FINAL JURY : %60

wish you a successful semester ☺