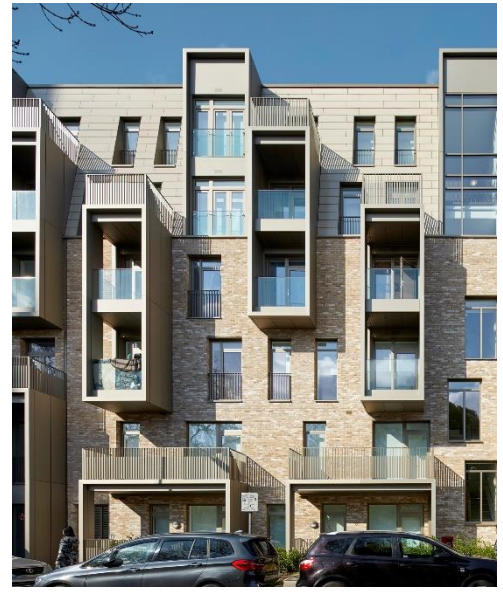


RECONCEPTUALIZING URBAN HOUSING



PALAZZO MORA, VENICE 20 MAY – 26 NOV 2023

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For Immediate Release
5 May 2023

Reconceptualizing Urban Housing Exhibition on liveable collective housing featuring women-led practices from around the globe

Venice, Italy - The global housing crisis has created an urgent need for housing worldwide, especially in urban centers where 80% of the world's population is housed. In the race to build more homes faster, many important factors are being overlooked including community, identity, and liveability. From city to city the context differs dramatically, but the problem is universal: How can urban collective housing be more liveable? How do we ensure that the design of housing will enhance inhabitants' wellbeing and quality of life?

How can urban collective housing be more liveable?

Reconceptualizing Urban Housing will be exhibited as part of the 6th edition of Time Space Existence, organized by the European Cultural Centre (ECC) during the Venice Biennale from May 20 to November 26, 2023. The exhibition brings together a group of women-led practices from around the globe with unique perspectives on collective housing, primarily in or near urban areas. The diverse range of projects exhibited not only feature a variety of approaches from Europe and North America, but also from developing nations such as Uganda, Malaysia and Mexico, exploring diversity in building typology, climate, and economic and cultural factors, while embodying a shared commitment to social and environmental sustainability.

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The selected projects showcase new thinking around housing - they take a bold approach to liveability, exploring the balance of communal and private, design for social connection, adaptability, identity and agency, optimization of natural light and ventilation, integration of landscaping and urban farming, and access to outdoor spaces, while remaining unique to each local context and demographic. Together and in different ways, they redefine what collective housing can be and how it can support liveability for its inhabitants.

Featured practices:

Adengo Architecture, Uganda

Alison Brooks Architects, UK

Dubbeldam Architecture + Design, Canada

Eleena Jamil Architect, Malaysia

Fernanda Canales Arquitectura, Mexico

Manuelle Gautrand Architecture, France

Mecanoo, The Netherlands

Meyer-Grohbruegge, Germany

Studio Gang, USA

- 30 -



Doreen Adengo



Alison Brooks



Heather Dubbeldam



Eleena Jamil



Fernanda Canales



Manuelle Gautrand



Francine Houben



Johanna Meyer-Grohbrügge



Jeanne Gang

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Adengo Architecture Uganda

Adengo Architecture is a Ugandan research-based architecture practice founded in 2015 by the late Doreen Adengo. Providing architecture, interior design and urban planning services, the practice is grounded in multidisciplinary collaboration, working on research projects with institutions, organizations, and individuals from different fields to find new ways to communicate about design, in Kampala and nationally. Their advocacy mission is focused on communicating the value of design in African cities, making the case that architects and urban planners can improve people's everyday lives and help cities develop more sustainably. The studio is known for its commitment to social housing and focuses on affordable and sustainable projects in Uganda that are locally built. Their housing schemes are a response to the rapid urbanization in the African continent, aiming to address Uganda's housing crisis by advocating to the substantial local population who build their own homes.

Adengo's work is multi-disciplinary, ranging from the design of furniture and buildings to research and advocacy, focusing on both the urban and regional scales. Their work has been exhibited widely, including at the Royal Academy in London. The late Doreen Adengo has helped produce exhibits and workshops exploring Ugandan urbanism and architecture at the Goethe-Zentrum Kampala and the Architecture Museum of the Technical University Munich. Sady, Adengo passed away at age 45 in July 2022 after a long illness. The practice continues to build on her legacy in academia, practice and advocacy.

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Alison Brooks Architects UK

Alison Brooks Architects is recognized as one of the UK's most influential and internationally acclaimed design practices. Led by founder Alison Brooks, the practice employs cultural research as both catalyst for community engagement and for new forms of architectural expression. Their portfolio demonstrates commitment to the project of generous, inclusive city-building supported by a uniquely sculptural design language. This approach is embodied in their wide-ranging portfolio of built works ranging from large scale masterplans and mixed-use developments to higher education buildings, public installations, private houses, exhibition designs, and public buildings for the arts.

Alison Brooks Architects consider the design of housing as the social project of architecture and its most important form of civic building. Their housing projects range in scale from masterplans to private housing, with a focus on mixed income housing projects that create diverse neighborhood realms. Through these projects, they advocate for community building, designing for increased social engagement and fostering a sense of civic pride to promote inclusiveness and social diversity. Fusing an appreciation of history with formal and material invention, their studio's unique design approach brings new expression and civic identity to a diverse clientele. This has led to over seventy awards for design quality, including 2020 Dezeen Architect of the Year. Alison Brooks Architects remains the only UK practice to have won the UK's three most prestigious awards for architectural excellence: the RIBA Stirling Prize, the Manser Medal (twice), and the Stephen Lawrence Prize.

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Dubbeldam Architecture + Design Canada

Dubbeldam Architecture + Design is a Canadian multidisciplinary architecture studio committed to advancing an architectural and social agenda through design research and built work that enriches the human experience. Founded by Heather Dubbeldam, a fourth-generation architect, the studio has developed a reputation for innovative, beautifully crafted, and environmentally responsible projects that embody the spirit of place and people. The studio's portfolio includes sustainable architecture and interiors in many sectors including workspaces, hospitality, mixed-use, and residential, as well as landscape design and architectural installations. Recipient of over 80 awards and honours, including the Professional Prix de Rome in Architecture, the studio's projects have also been widely published.

Dubbeldam are recognized as advocates for progressive design and planning that exemplifies best practices in social and environmental sustainability, climate-positive developments, and urban resilience, disseminating this research through blogs, public speaking, and dialogue with policy makers. Dubbeldam's research in housing is through the development of Missing Middle housing typologies and pilot projects, focusing on the gap between single family dwellings and apartment buildings. Their built work in housing engages with midrise and missing middle-scaled multi-unit dwellings, created to expand housing options in established residential neighbourhoods and address the restrictive zoning policies in many urban centers in Canada.

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Eleena Jamil Architect Malaysia

Eleena Jamil Architect is a Malaysia-based architectural practice founded in 2005 and led by Eleena Jamil. The practice has an established reputation for sensitively built projects that successfully engage with Asian cities and their nuances. Jamil's projects are informed by a desire to root them to place, bringing a specificity and richness of expression to each project. The studio's focus is on research-based, design-led architecture that is rooted in context and engaged with local communities. Their projects explore the experiential potential of building form, materials, and construction methods, through the use of local materials and processes. This develops an approach that is not only focused on environmental and economic sustainability, but also social sustainability.

Eleena Jamil Architect works with a diverse group of private, public, and third-sector clients on community libraries, education buildings, workplaces, private houses, and residential projects, applying traditional Malaysian building techniques to modern designs. Utilizing timber structures, Jamil proposes to build permanent housing in urban areas using local materials such as bamboo as a permanent construction material, and explores sustainable passive strategies for ventilation and lighting for affordability. The practice's projects have been widely published in the international press and have been shortlisted for awards such as the Dezeen Award, World Architecture Festival Award, Habitus House of the Year Award, the LEAF Award and the American Architecture Prize.

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Fernanda Canales **Arquitectura** Mexico

Fernanda Canales Arquitectura, based in Mexico City and founded by architect Fernanda Canales, is an architecture practice engaged in design, urban planning, and research focused on redefining the connection between housing and the city. Canales' ongoing research explores the tension between private and public space in Mexico, regarding the home as an extension of public space rather than a standalone structure. Their research also explores the sustainable renewal of existing or abandoned structures, mixed-use and multi-purpose buildings, and community-centric design. This informs the practice's built work, resulting in buildings that weave into the existing built fabric, utilizing simple materials, natural light, cross-ventilation, and establishing safe environments. Canales' projects centre on re-densification of Mexico's urban centres as an alternative to urban sprawl. The practice has completed a range of projects exploring the benefits of collective living and the value that each building can offer the city, challenging the desire for single-family dwelling, and reframing the concept of informal housing to validate a typology that accounts for 70% of Mexico's buildings.

Fernanda Canales was recognized by The New York Times as one of the ten female figures changing the landscape of leadership in the world, and her practice's work has been supported by the Graham Foundation and exhibited at The Royal Academy of Arts in London, the ifa-Gallery in Stuttgart and the Venice Biennale. Canales is author of several publications on architecture and housing in Mexico.

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Manuelle Gautrand Architecture France

Manuelle Gautrand Architecture is a Paris-based architecture firm founded by Manuelle Gautrand in 1991. The studio aspires to design innovative and sensitive architecture for people and cities. Avoiding clichéd architectural forms, they aim to find the unique DNA of a city and its site, defining a sense of place with a contextual approach and developing projects that bring beauty and poetry to their place. This approach is represented through the firm's varied portfolio which ranges from mixed-use developments to museums, hotels, housing, sporting complexes, and transportation hubs located both in France and globally. Manuelle Gautrand Architecture has received many awards, including the 2017 European Prize for Architecture awarded by the European Centre for Architecture and the Chicago Athenaeum.

Manuelle Gautrand Architecture designs housing projects at all scales, exploring infill and liveable density in cities. The studio's new housing models are based on made-to-measure units, focused shared and communal spaces, and integrated greenery or planted landscapes used for urban agriculture. The studio actively engages in the effort against climate change and pollution. The design of each project is considered as an opportunity to develop a tailored approach to sustainable solutions specific to their site and context. This creates a sensitive yet scientific approach to the use of locally sourced, low-carbon materials, while also emphasizing bioclimatic and passive systems for lowered energy consumption.



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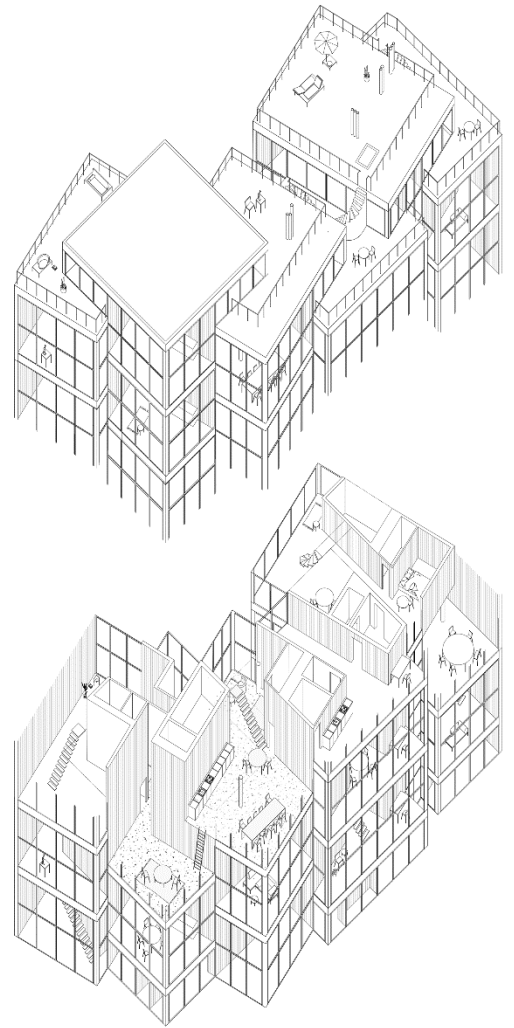


Mecanoo The Netherlands

Mecanoo, officially founded in Delft in 1984, is led by Francine Houben and comprised of a multidisciplinary staff of creative professionals from 25 countries. The team includes architects, interior designers, urban planners, landscape architects as well as architectural technicians and support staff. Mecanoo has extensive experience designing and realizing buildings that create vibrant end-user spaces. Each project uses an interdisciplinary approach, combining the disciplines of architecture, urban planning, landscape and interiors in a non traditional way to uniquely respond to the practice's philosophy of People, Place, Purpose, and Poetry. Their wide-ranging portfolio includes housing, educational, cultural, religious, hospitality buildings, and master planning, with a focus on complex, multifunctional buildings and integrated urban developments. Understanding that over time the functions of buildings change, Mecanoo creates buildings that are prepared for (un)predictable change.

Mecanoo's housing projects exist mainly at the urban scale, including mixed-use and fully integrated, complete communities that include housing, workspaces, schools, daycares, sport facilities, retail, and commercial spaces, with a focus on the human scale and the individual. Their social housing philosophy centers on the development of affordable living spaces defined by flexibility, the right balance of private and communal spaces, mixed housing types, and connection with the environment and identity.

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Meyer-Grohbruegge Germany

Meyer-Grohbruegge is an architecture and design office based in Berlin, founded in 2015 and led by Johanna Meyer-Grohbrügge. The studio's approach is focused on questioning the status quo and developing new forms and typologies for architecture projects. Meyer-Grohbruegge's design ethos balances intuition with pragmatism, which involves a process of exploring varied spatial forms for cultural and social constructs. The practice seeks to find simple architectural expressions for complex problems through an approach of "reduction": reduction of form, material, and resources.

Through a variety of projects ranging from art galleries and collections, residential and office buildings, exhibition and furniture design, the studio seeks to create unique relationships between people and their built environment, exploring different ways of living and working together. The studio prioritizes sustainability and considers size, materials, and openness as equally important as functional aspects. Their recent projects aim to create buildings with an open-frame construction that can accommodate the varying needs of occupants, rather than a singular program. Meyer-Grohbruegge's housing projects explore the tension between communal and private, openness and intimacy, exploring the possibilities of communal living. Their live-work projects blur the lines between private and public, allowing these spaces to expand beyond their boundaries, resulting in an ongoing reconsideration of current definitions of community.

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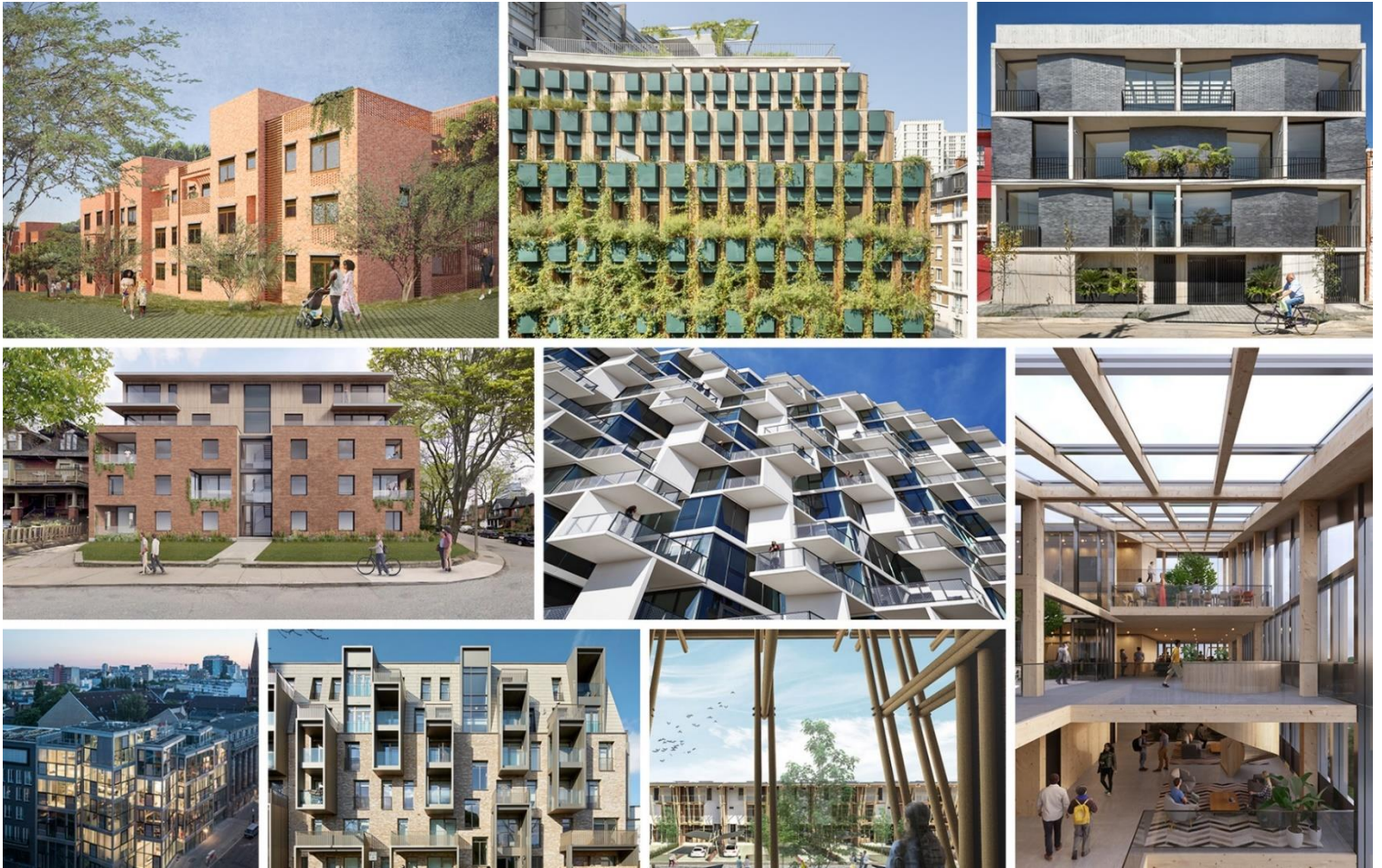
Studio Gang USA

Founded and led by Jeanne Gang, Studio Gang is an architecture and urban design practice headquartered in Chicago with offices in New York, San Francisco, and Paris. The studio works as a collective of architects, designers, and other creative practitioners, who use design as a medium to connect people with each other and their environment. A sustainability ethos is at the heart of the practice, paired with a design methodology defined by research and experimentation that includes frequent collaboration with a wide range of disciplines both inside and outside the traditional design fields.

This approach has produced award-winning projects that foster a sense of community and strong connection with the outdoors. Their innovative portfolio of housing projects, primarily in North America, consider how to sustainably grow cities and are designed to give rise to more resilient and vibrant cities. Intertwined with built work, the Studio also develops publications and exhibitions that push design's ability to create public awareness and effect change—a practice Jeanne calls “actionable idealism.”

A recipient of the National Design Award in Architecture and numerous other honors, Studio Gang's work has been exhibited internationally, and is contained in the permanent collections of the Centre Pompidou, the Canadian Centre for Architecture, the Cooper Hewitt Smithsonian Design Museum, and the Art Institute of Chicago.

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Exhibition Dates:

May 20 to November 26, 2023

Press previews:

May 18 & 19, 2023

Location:

Palazzo Mora, European Cultural Centre,
Venice, Italy

Entry: Free

Media Contact: Heather Breeze

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High res and web images:

<https://tinyurl.com/5dr2mcm4>

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