

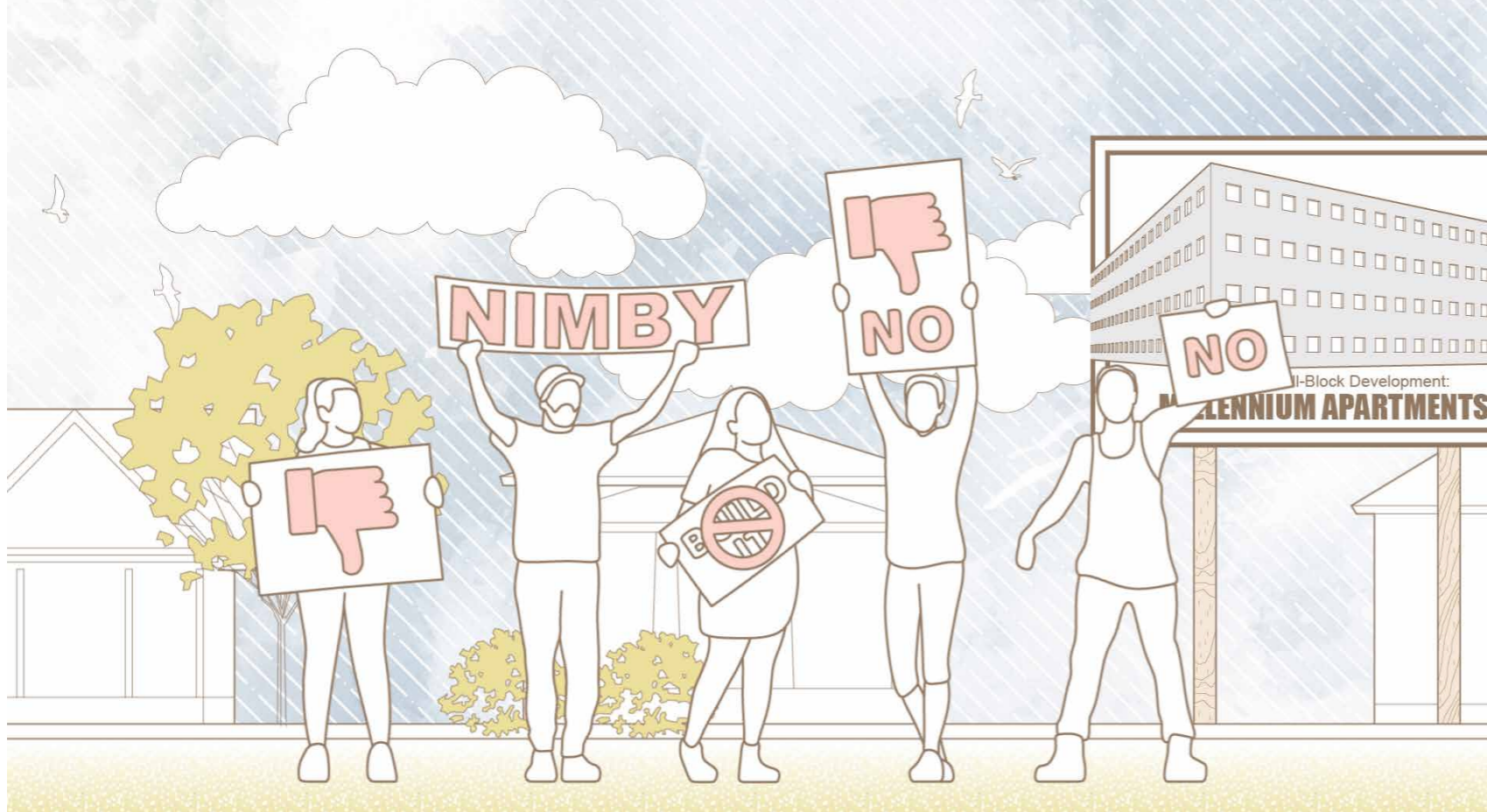


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Gimby

*Platform for
DIY Urbanism*



YIMBY (Yes-In-My-Backyard) Platform for Do-It-Yourself Urbanism

Kristopher T Swick

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Project initiated: August 2020
Booklet assembled: May 2021

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College of Environmental Design
Master of Architecture Thesis

Additional thanks to Christopher Calott, Shannon Jackson, Morten Jensen, Marcel Sanchez Prieto, Luisa Caldas, friends & family

Most icons based on those sourced from theNounProject.com and some other illustrations sourced from Dimensions.com

INTRODUCTION

At YIMBY, we believe that communities oppose new development because they are excluded from its design and ownership, as they are confronted with formulaic proposals that paper over local character and diversity.

YIMBY invites local residents to envision and participate in the future of their own communities, empowering them to design new developments while connecting them with incentives and financing that can support their vision. The application is loaded with design elements that enhance quality-of-life while adding commercial value, including public amenities, green spaces, and shared amenities.

BUILD | EXPLORE

Build the Future

DESIGN PARAMETERS

ELEMENT: MODULAR UNIT, GREEN SPACE, SHARED AMENITY, PUBLIC AMENITY

TYPE: VERNACULAR EXPANSION, TOWN-HOUSE, MOD-BLOCK, FIGURAL

STYLE: [Icons]

URBANISM OPTIONS: Block-Sized Proposals, Merge Parcels, Divide Parcel

ENVIRONMENTAL IMPACT: GOLD LEED Score™ 65, PLATINUM WELL Score™ 88

VIOLATIONS: SHADES NEIGHBORS, BLOCKS VIEWS, OBSTRUCTS ACCESS, REMOVES TREES

PROPERTY LINE: LEFT SIDE, RIGHT SIDE, FRONT SETBACK

EXPERT HELP: Designer Options, Developer Modules, Pre-Approved Designs, GET HELP

COMMUNITY VALUES: Collective Visioning, Public Health & Safety, Affordability & Inclusion

DESIGN METRICS

AREA	AFTER	BEFORE	MAX	BONUS*
AREA	5,475 sq ft	3,058 sq ft	22,500 sq ft*	22,500 sq ft*
UNITS	3	2	3	5
FLOORS HEIGHT	45 ft	25 ft	45 ft	45 ft
FLOORS HEIGHT	3	2	-	-

COST: Construction: \$ 1,184,300 (\$ 260 per sq ft), Site Improvements: \$ 12,000, Building Improvements: \$ 22,000

VALUE: Sale value: \$ 3,027,675 (\$ 553 per sq ft), Rental rate: \$ 8,200 per month

PARKING VALUE: OFF-STREET PARKING: 7 REQUIRED, 5 CURRENT

FINANCING OPTIONS: Non-Profit Programs, City & State Programs, Private Financing, Crowdsourcing investment

COMMUNITY IMPACT

+1 Community Points, Designated Affordable

DENSITY-BASED AMENITIES:

- TIER 1 (20 units): Safety Stand multipurpose community space
- TIER 2 (40 units): Childcare Center neighbor-staffed daycare
- TIER 3 (60 units): Cafe & Co-working Space privately-funded business
- TIER 4 (120 units): Library, Media, & Art Center municipally-funded rec center

214 E Avenue 40 Los Angeles, CA 90031

BUILT IN 1890 1,418 sqft | 1 UNIT 3 BED | 2 BATH

7,500 sqft | 2 UNITS RD2-1-HPOZ ZONE

BACK + SUBTRACT FORWARD

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INTERFACE YIMBY includes a game-like desktop interface that aims to simplify the design process and integrate a range of pertinent considerations. It is stocked with modules crowdsourced from a diversity of architects & designers. Design proposals are assessed against current conditions and corresponding zoning limitations and users are invited to learn how to work

around or contest these regulations. YIMBY also connects residents with more expansive visions for their community, PLUS expert guidance and financial support. All ideas are assessed for their sustainability and contribution to the community so that the expansive vision enabled by YIMBY is laden with support for a better collective future.

EXPERT HELP

DESIGNER OPTIONS
(with content like Houzz.com)
1. Learn how to work with a designer
2. Browse & connect with designers
3. Explore similar projects

DEVELOPER MODULES
Explore off-the-shelf DIY units, Accessory Dwelling Unit (ADU) and Tiny Home builders, including:

PRE-APPROVED DESIGNS
Browse backyard home designs that have been pre-approved by local authorities, similar to the Pre-Approved Standard Plans Program from the LADBS:

Values are estimated based on public record and Zillow.

Parcel & zoning information gathered from county tax assessor & planning databases.

UPZONE!
To overcome zoning restrictions, gather with your neighbors to demand a more equitable city!

For a more diverse cityscape, YIMBY is stocked with modules crowdsourced from diverse architects & designers.

Explore larger visions to remake your city!

DESIGN PARAMETERS

ELEMENT TYPE

- MODULAR UNIT
- GREEN SPACE
- SHARED AMENITY
- PUBLIC AMENITY

STYLE

- VERNACULAR EXPANSION
- TOWN-HOUSE
- MOD-BLOCK
- FIGURAL

URBANISM OPTIONS

- Block-Sized Proposals
- Merge Parcels
- Divide Parcel

DESIGN METRICS

	AFTER	BEFORE	MAX	BONUS*
AREA	5,475 sq ft	3,058 sq ft	22,500 sq ft	22,500 sq ft
HEIGHT	3	2	3	5
FLOORS	45 ft	25 ft	45 ft	45 ft
COST	3	2	-	-

*Construction: \$ 1,194,300 (\$ 290 per sq ft)
Site Improvements: \$ 12,000
Building Improvements: \$ 22,000

MARKING VALUE
Sale value*: \$ 3,027,675 (\$ 553 per sq ft)
Rental rate*: \$ 8,200 per month

PARKING
OFF-STREET PARKING: 7 REQUIRED 5 CURRENT

MORE INFO ABOUT ZONING | CONTEXT REGULATIONS

- EXPERT HELP: Designer Options, Developer Modules, Pre-Approved Designs
- GET HELP: IN-NEIGHBORHOOD
- FINANCING OPTIONS: Non-Profit Programs, City & State Programs, Private Financing, Crowdsourcing Investment

COMMUNITY VALUES

COLLECTIVE VISIONING
YIMBY is founded on the belief that participation is the key to overcoming NIMBY-ism AND is also an essential ingredient in building the best environment for humans:

1. Dwelling is an intrinsically human activity that involves the development of a productive symbiosis between human and home.* This connection is disrupted by overly formulaic and reductive mass housing projects that provide ill-fated one-size-fits-all solutions for overly complex communities.
2. A pluralist city is best suited to a pluralist society, in which diversity is so expansive that no one design can meet all requirements. So, the diversity of our communities should be reflected in the diversity of design preferences that compose our built environment.

PUBLIC HEALTH & SAFETY
YIMBY proposes that densification is laden with benefits to public health and safety, because it invites increased investment from governmental and private sources plus local homeowners. The BUILD interface is dedicated to assessing the performance of user's design proposals, addressing their environmental performance and impact, effect on adjacent structures, and provision of public amenities and affordable housing.

AFFORDABILITY & INCLUSION
YIMBY prioritizes the provision of affordable housing and illustrates the local financial and zoning programs. In addition to inviting all residents, including renters, to design the future of their own environment, YIMBY integrates their voice in the embedded proposals for new governmental assistance programs. Lastly, the application stipulates a Right-to-Return for all removed rental housing.

FINANCING OPTIONS

NON-PROFIT PROGRAMS
Non-profit architecture and development companies can help connect you with local financing and incentive programs to support the provision of affordable housing. This includes The Backyard Homes Project from LA-Más.

PRIVATE FINANCING
For-profit companies offer to facilitate a streamlined process for design, permitting, and construction, along with their own in-house design team and financing support, including Housable and United Dwelling.

CITY & STATE PROGRAMS
Local government provides tax and other financial incentives for affordable housing, and special allowances for low-income housing development via the 'Density Bonus.'

CROWDSOURCE INVESTMENT
Platforms like Small Change allow you to crowdsource funding from multiple private investors, like Kickstarter for real estate development. You can choose your profit expectations and social mission to find investors.

The US Green Building Council LEED score assesses projects based on their environmental impact, sustainability and energy performance.

ENVIRONMENTAL IMPACT

SUSTAINABILITY

- GOLD LEED Score 45
- PLATINUM WELL Score 88

VIOLATIONS

- SHADES NEIGHBORS
- BLOCKS VIEWS
- OBSTRUCTS ACCESS
- REMOVES TREES
- PROPERTY LINE
- LEFT SIDE FRONT SETBACK
- RIGHT SIDE PROPERTY LINE

The USBC WELL score focuses on design features that affect the health and wellbeing of the building occupants.

- Collective Visioning
- Public Health & Safety
- Affordability & Inclusion

COMMUNITY IMPACT

+1 Community Points

DESIGNATED AFFORDABLE

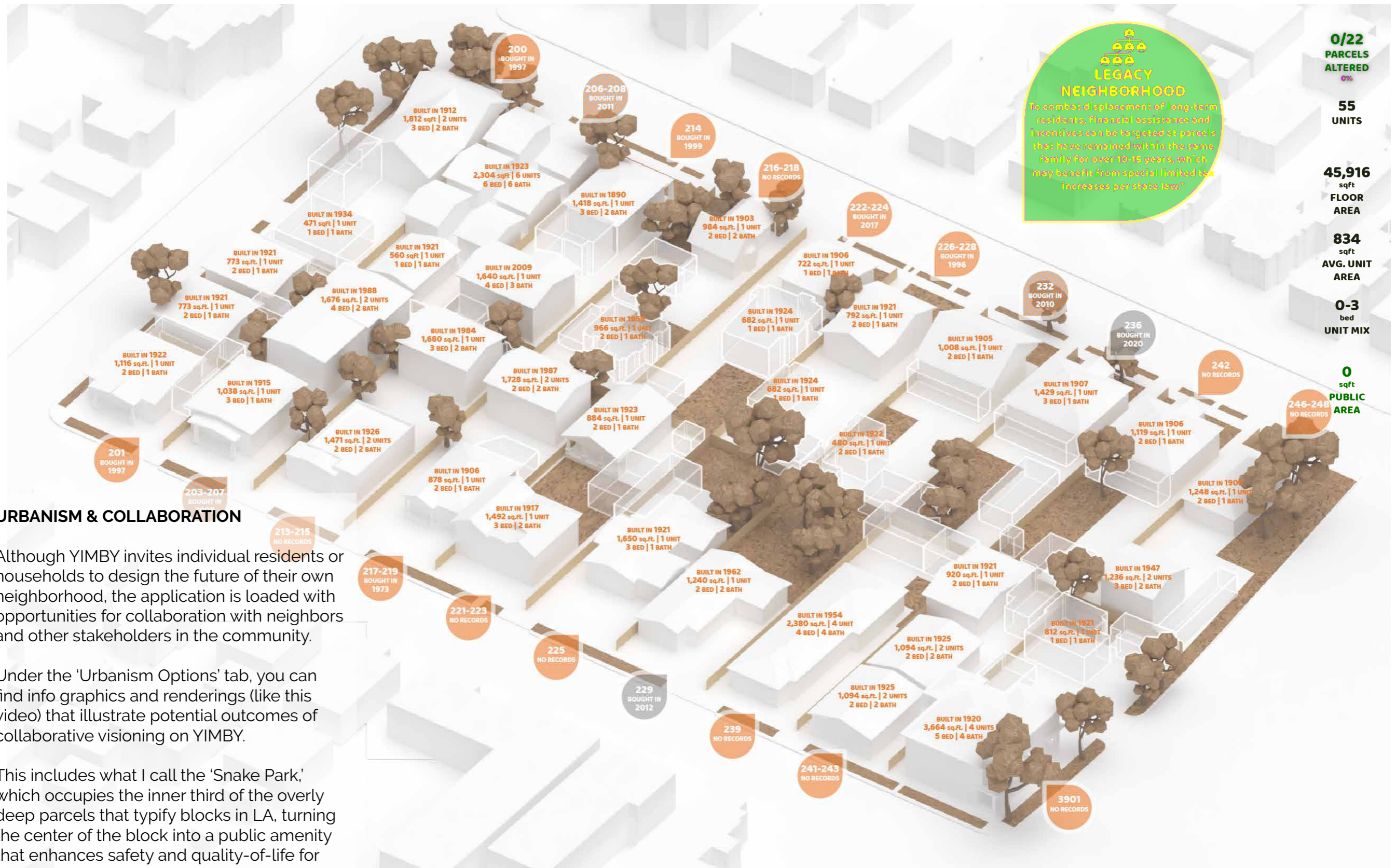
DENSITY-BASED AMENITIES:

- TIER 1 (10%): Safety Stand, multipurpose community space
- TIER 2 (20%): Childcare Center, neighbor-staffed daycare
- TIER 3 (30%): Cafe & Co-working Space, privately-funded business
- TIER 4 (40%): Library, Media, & Art Center, municipally-funded rec center

ALL RIGHTS RESERVED BUILDING SOURCE

COMMUNITY POINTS
This score attempts to quantify a proposal's overall impact to the community and its environment.

YIMBY proposes to expand investment in lower-income or 'legacy' neighborhoods via targeted low-cost loans and grants for densification plus the establishment of hyper-local block-based community land trusts, endowed by the government and philanthropy. These collective Funds would be controlled by current homeowners AND renters to combat displacement, and could be used to build park space, affordable housing, or other public amenities.

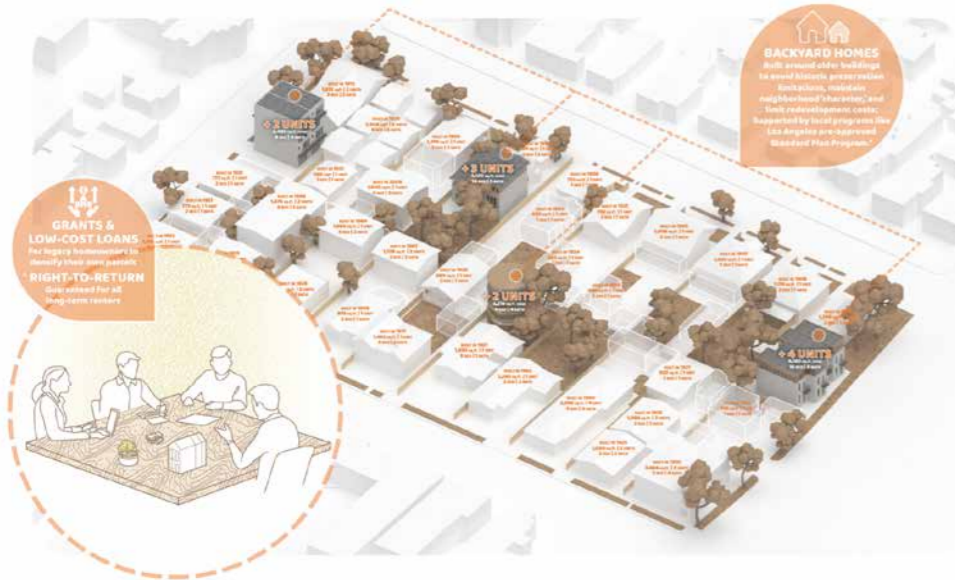


URBANISM & COLLABORATION

Although YIMBY invites individual residents or households to design the future of their own neighborhood, the application is loaded with opportunities for collaboration with neighbors and other stakeholders in the community.

Under the 'Urbanism Options' tab, you can find info graphics and renderings (like this video) that illustrate potential outcomes of collaborative visioning on YIMBY.

This includes what I call the 'Snake Park,' which occupies the inner third of the overly deep parcels that typify blocks in LA, turning the center of the block into a public amenity that enhances safety and quality-of-life for surrounding residents.



4/22
PARCELS ALTERED

62
UNITS
+17 UNITS

59,244
sqft
FLOOR AREA
+15,528 sqft

955
sqft
AVG. UNIT AREA
+121 sqft

0-4
bed
UNIT MIX
+multi-generational

0
sqft
PUBLIC AREA



7/22
PARCELS ALTERED

72
UNITS
+17 UNITS

69,552
sqft
FLOOR AREA
+23,338 sqft

966
sqft
AVG. UNIT AREA
+131 sqft

0-4
bed
UNIT MIX
+multi-generational

0
sqft
PUBLIC AREA



10/22
PARCELS ALTERED

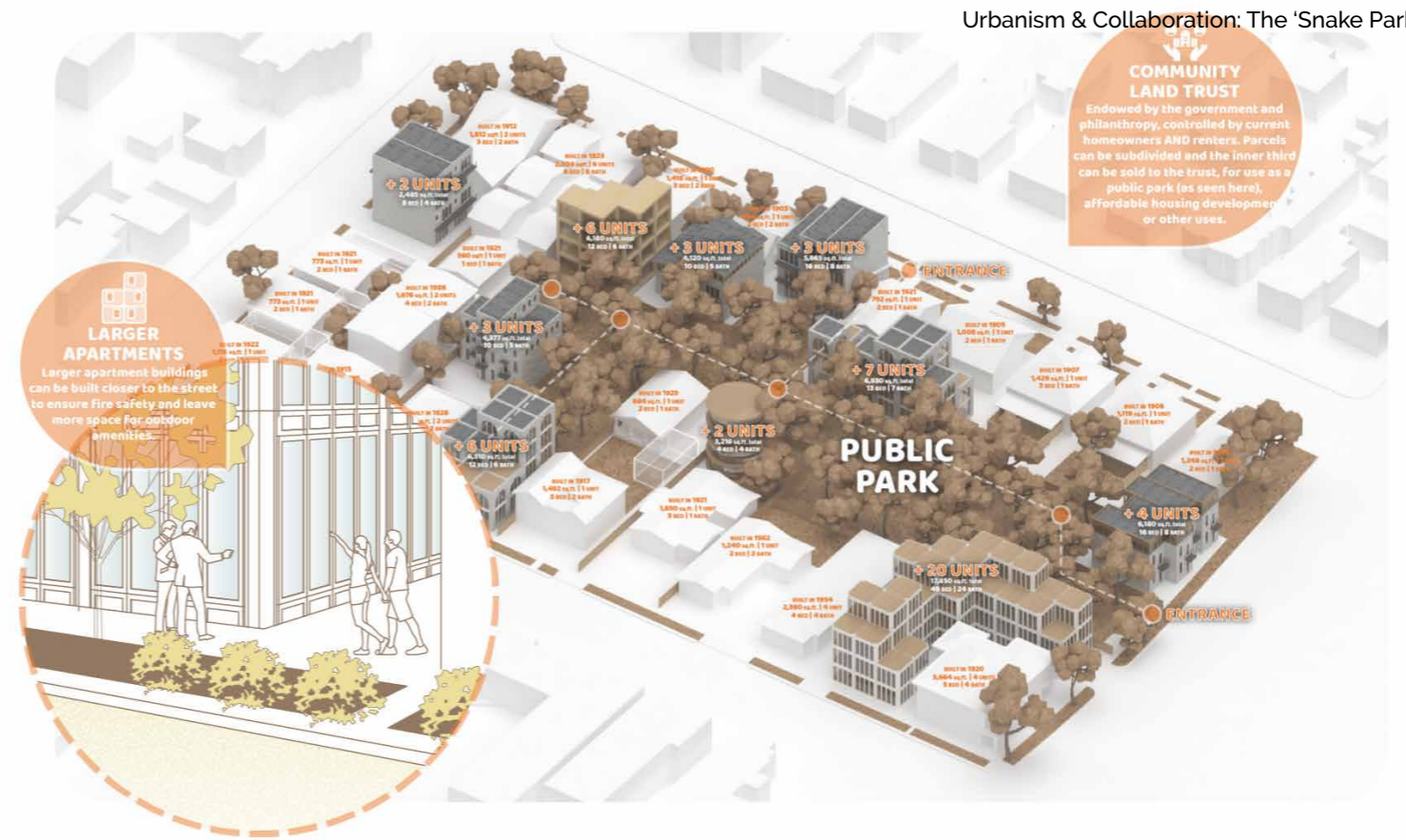
88
UNITS
+33 UNITS

86,809
sqft
FLOOR AREA
+40,853 sqft

986
sqft
AVG. UNIT AREA
+131 sqft

0-4
bed
UNIT MIX
+multi-generational

0
sqft
PUBLIC AREA



14/22
PARCELS ALTERED
64%

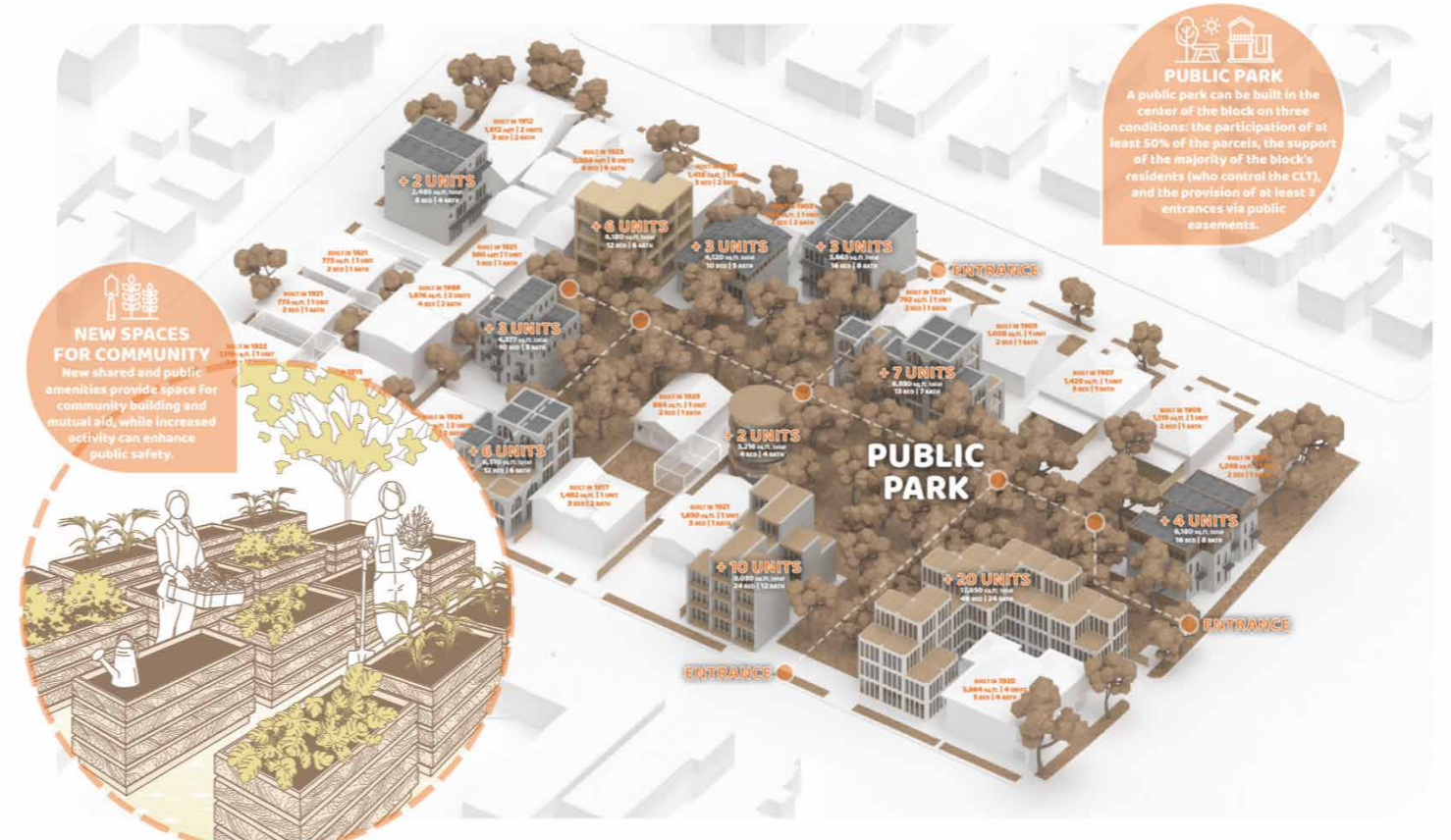
92
UNITS
+37 UNITS

94,974
sqft
FLOOR AREA
+49,058 sqft

1,032
sqft
AVG. UNIT AREA
+197 sqft

0-4
bed
UNIT MIX
+multi-generational

27,000
sqft
PUBLIC AREA



16/22
PARCELS ALTERED
72%

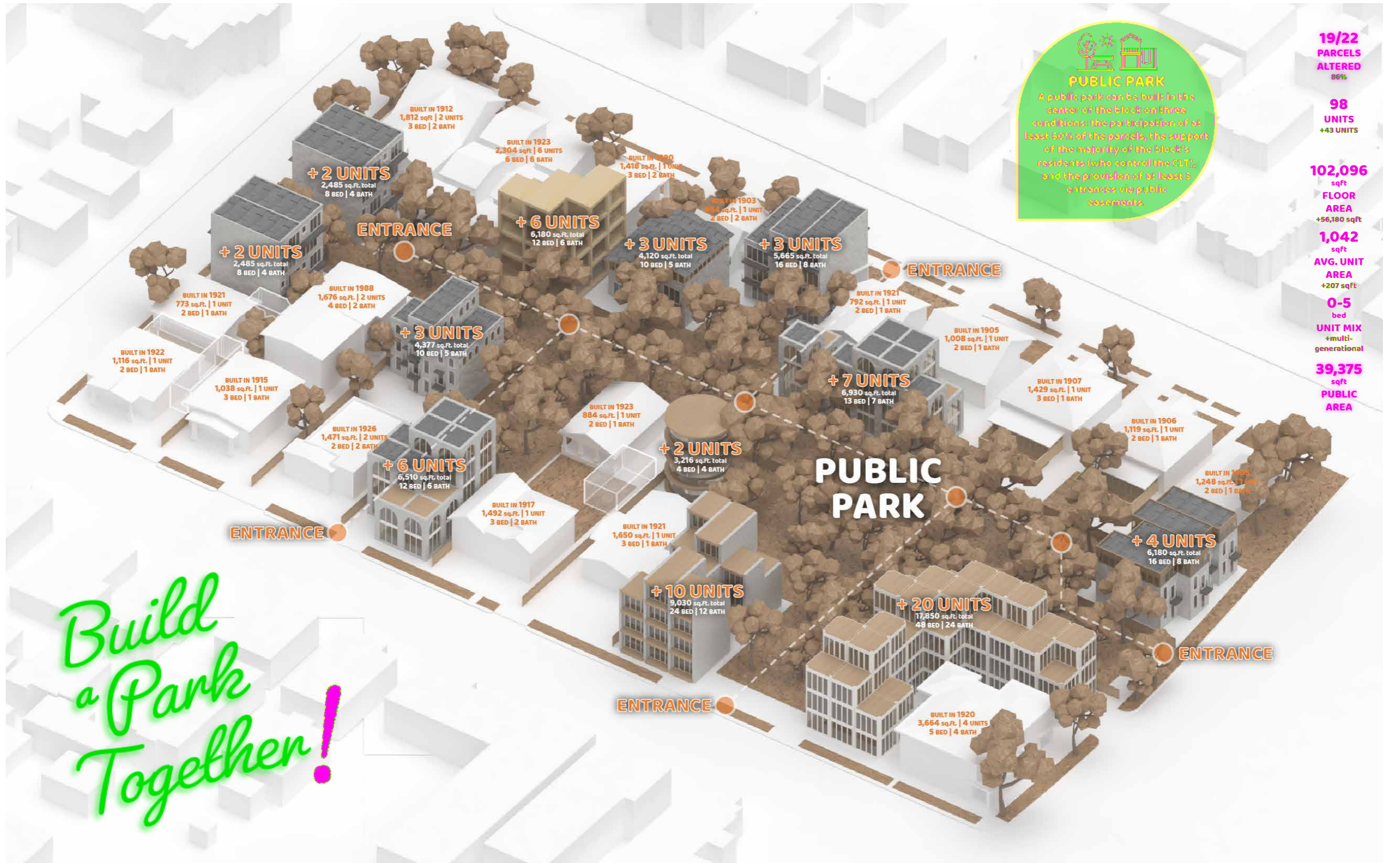
97
UNITS
+42 UNITS

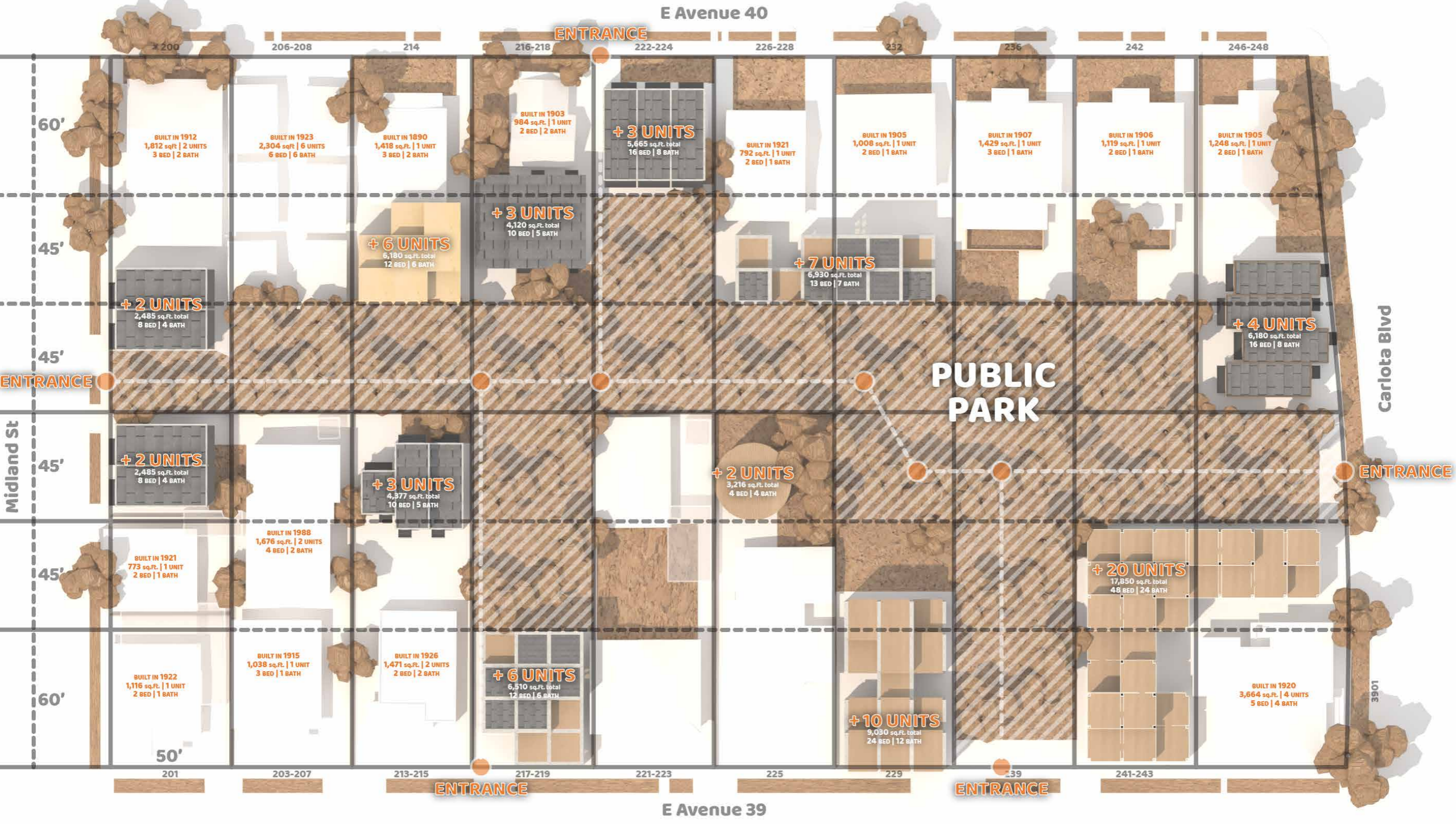
100,384
sqft
FLOOR AREA
+54,468 sqft

1,035
sqft
AVG. UNIT AREA
+200 sqft

0-5
bed
UNIT MIX
+multi-generational

36,000
sqft
PUBLIC AREA

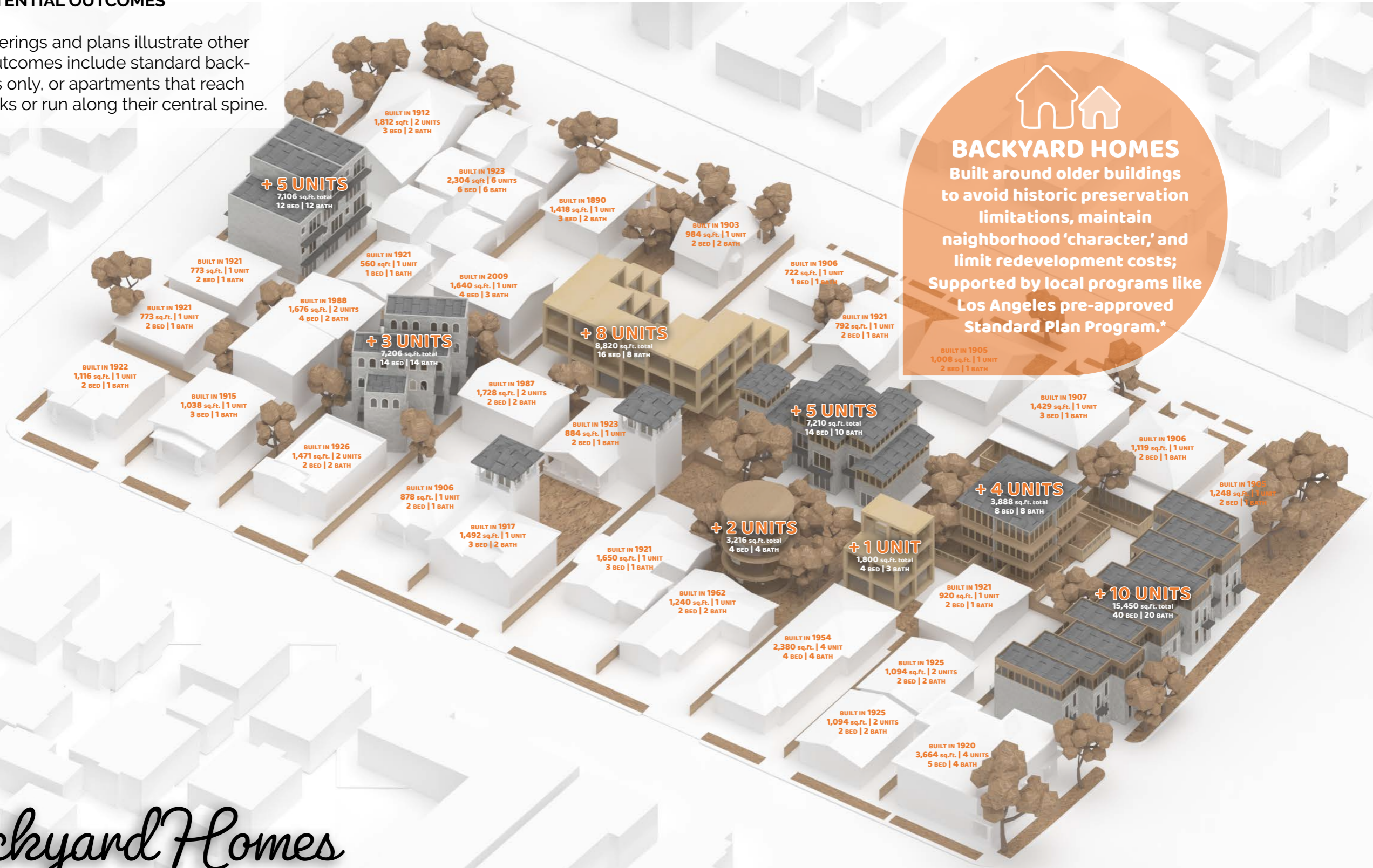




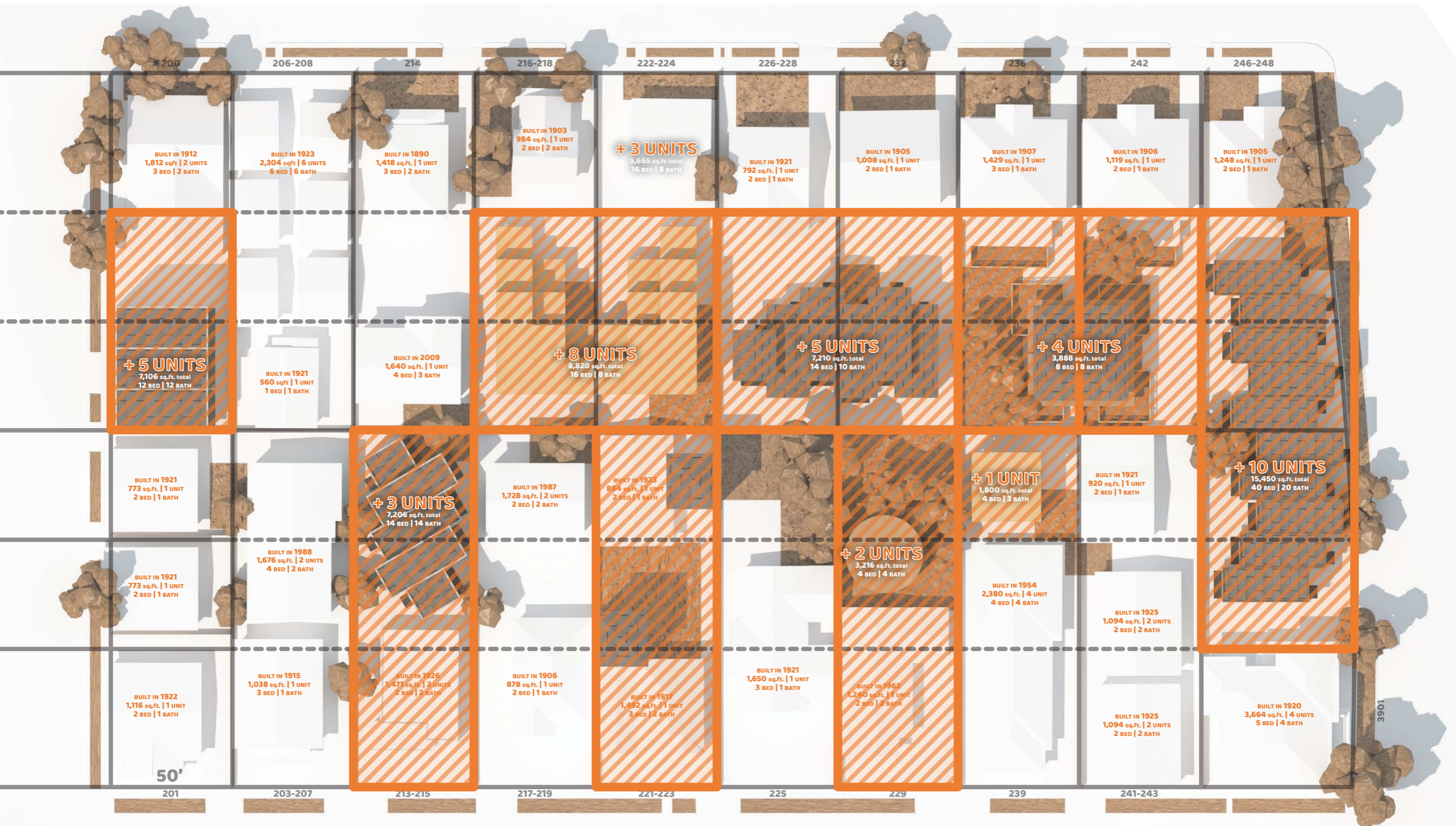


OTHER POTENTIAL OUTCOMES

These renderings and plans illustrate other potential outcomes include standard backyard homes only, or apartments that reach across blocks or run along their central spine.

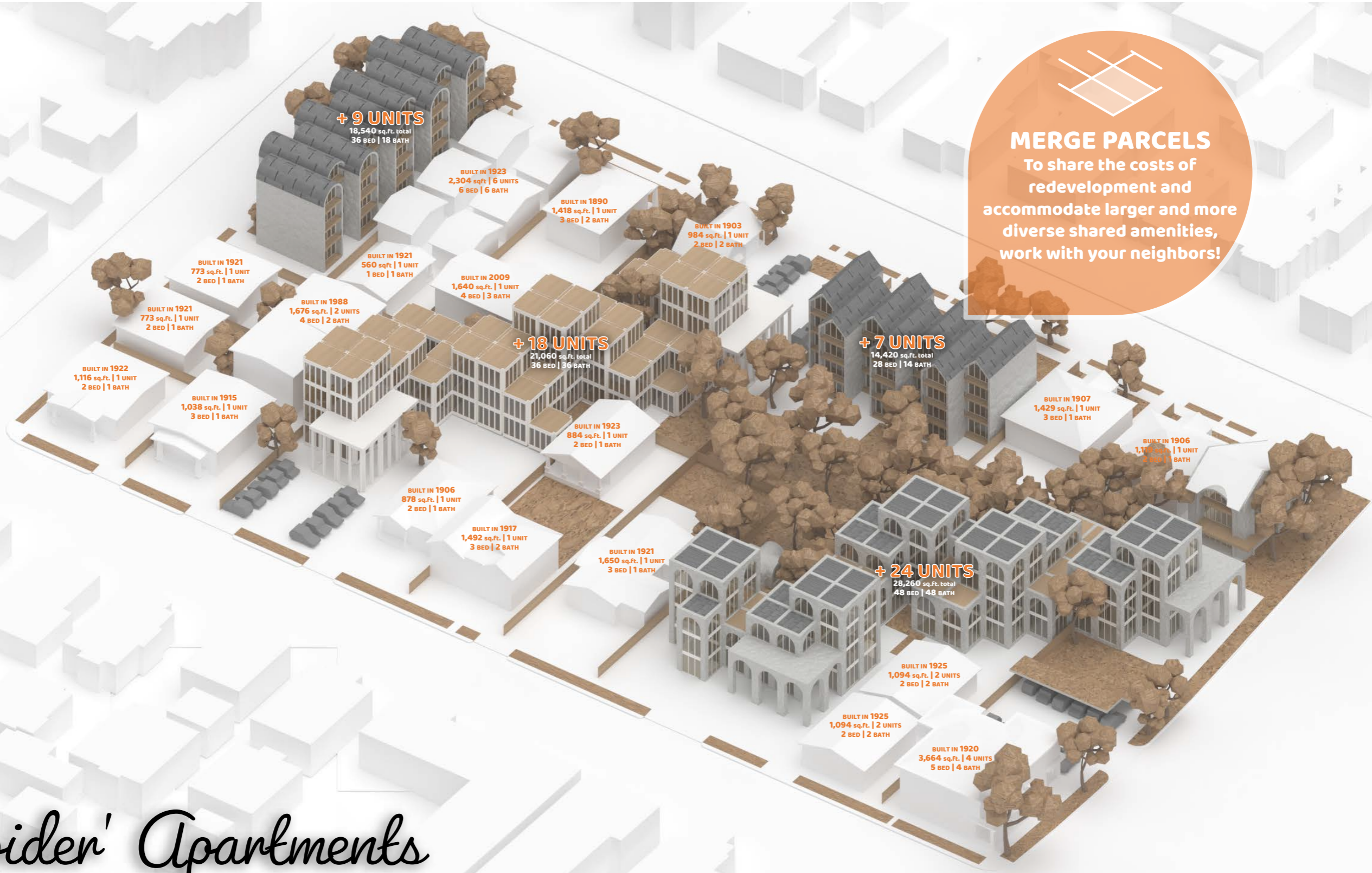


Backyard Homes





MERGE PARCELS
To share the costs of redevelopment and accommodate larger and more diverse shared amenities, work with your neighbors!

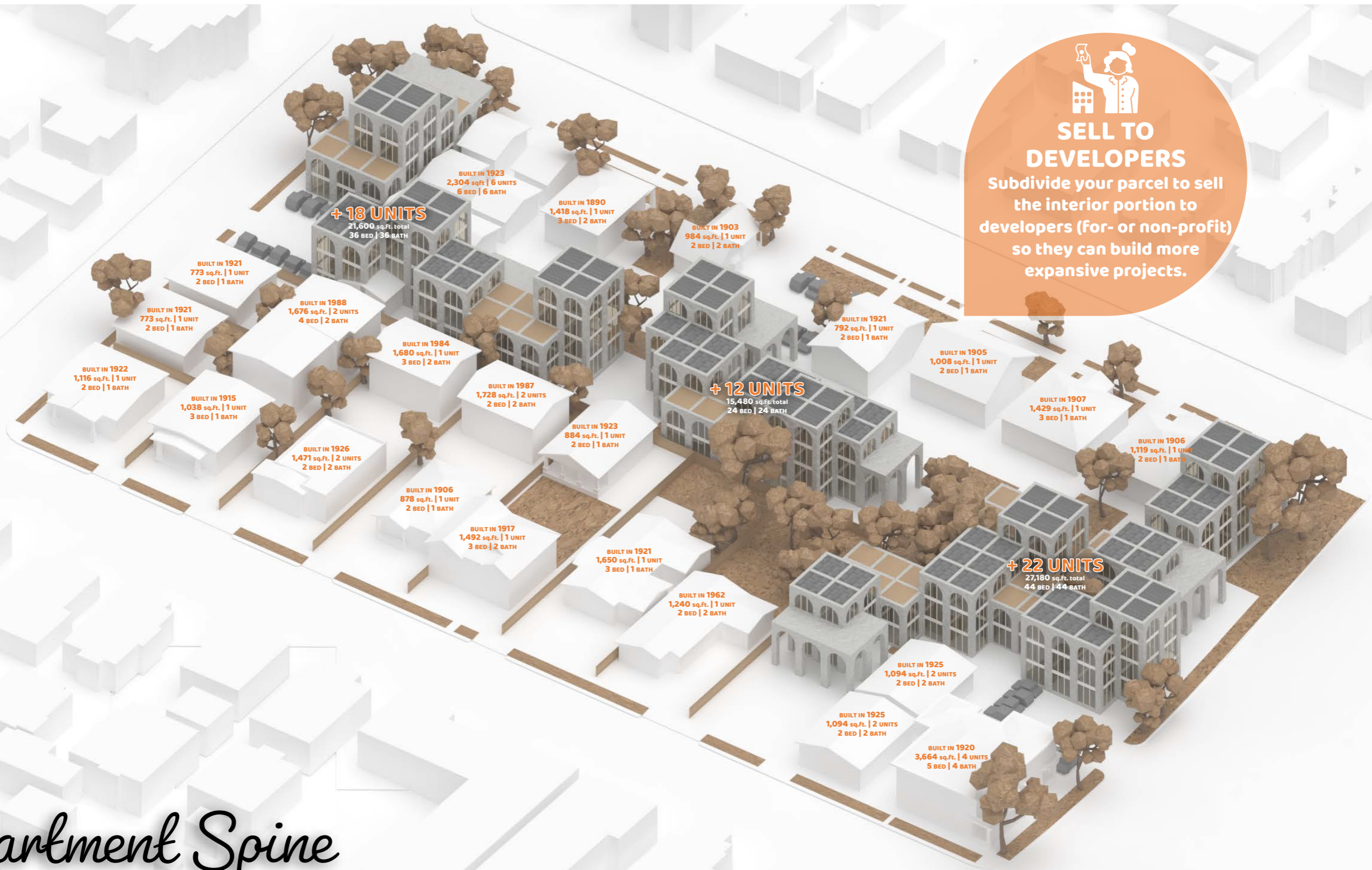


'Spider' Apartments





SELL TO DEVELOPERS
Subdivide your parcel to sell the interior portion to developers (for- or non-profit) so they can build more expansive projects.



Apartment Spine





1



2



3



4



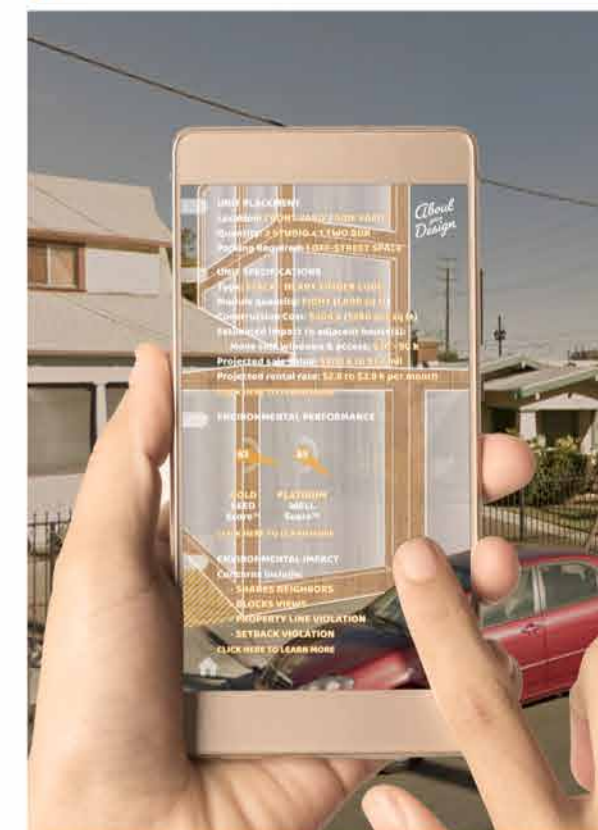
5



6



7



8

COMPANION AR INTERFACE & SOCIAL NETWORK

The ambition is to pair this game-like interface with an augmented reality capability, in which users can get a more immersive sense of their proposals and those of their neighbors. All are invited to comment and support these visions, and Community Points are awarded to popular projects that provide public and shared amenities.

AD: Midland St Townhouses
Check out these apartments,
coming soon!

OPEN HOUSE
Tuesday July 4th
4:00 – 5:00 pm

"I hope this gets built!
It's awesome!"

+1 COMMUNITY POINTS
GREEN SPACE

+0 COMMUNITY POINTS

+2 COMMUNITY POINTS

+3 COMMUNITY POINTS
GREEN SPACE PUBLIC AMENITY

"This monstrosity
shadows my whole
house ! DOWN VOTE !"

+1 COMMUNITY POINTS

"The open house
was a blast...these
people are fun AF"

"Neighbors! Anyone
interested in investing for
part ownership? We can't
afford the project ☹"

BUILT

"This project shades
my patio, which makes
it like an outdoor living
room. We love it!"

+1 COMMUNITY POINTS

+3 COMMUNITY POINTS
GREEN SPACE

"We love sharing
the new outdoor
meeting room with
our neighbors!"

"Can you add a sheared
observation deck??
...just an idea!"

+2 COMMUNITY POINTS
PUBLIC AMENITY

AD: RC Architects
Check out the
renovations we helped
your neighbor install !





APPENDIX

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19 (A) Townhouse Prototype

26 (B) Introduction to the Problem

27 (C) Selected Research Precedent

28 (D) Selected Vernacular Precedents

30 (E) Industry Background & Competitive Analysis

31 (F) Selected Architecture Precedents

33 (G) Selected Application Precedents

34 (H) Market Analysis

35 Conclusion

Gimby

Platform for
DIY Urbanism



38'

17.5'

x5 total
Townhouse Apartments
1,265 square foot each
2 bedroom / 2 bath

x1 townhouse
Accessory Dwelling Unit

42.5' Total Height

2 bedroom
2 bath
600 sq ft
9 ft ceiling

main living
space
665 sq ft
10 ft ceiling

townhouse
layers

x2

EXISTING
Attached Bungalows
890 square foot each
2 bedroom / 1 bath

x1

Super-Low-Income Apartment
1,330 square foot
10 ft ceiling
3 bedroom / 2 bath

x3

Private Workspaces
665 square Foot
10 ft ceiling
0.5 bath

6701 N Figueroa St, LA Development Proposal

7,160 square foot parcel
RD 1.5-1 multifamily residential zoning
8 x total units, including:
1 x Super-Low-Income Family unit
1 x ADU

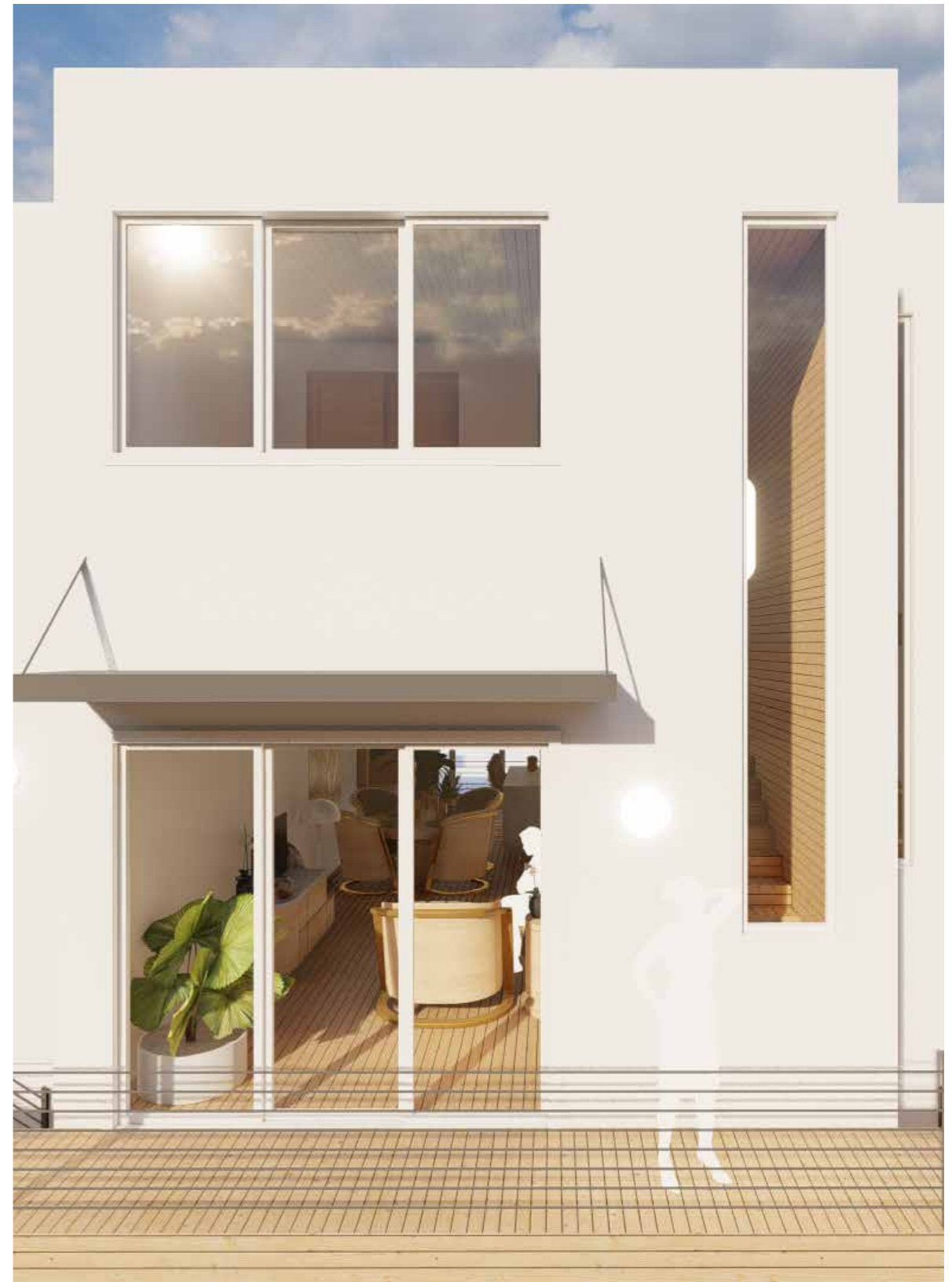
4th Floor
2 bedroom
2 bath
600 sq ft
9 ft ceiling



3rd Floor
FLEXIBLE
main living space
665 sq ft
10 ft ceiling



MAIN LIVING SPACE
16'2" x 36'8"
(includes stairs)



FRONT VIEW



BACK VIEW



MAIN LIVING SPACE

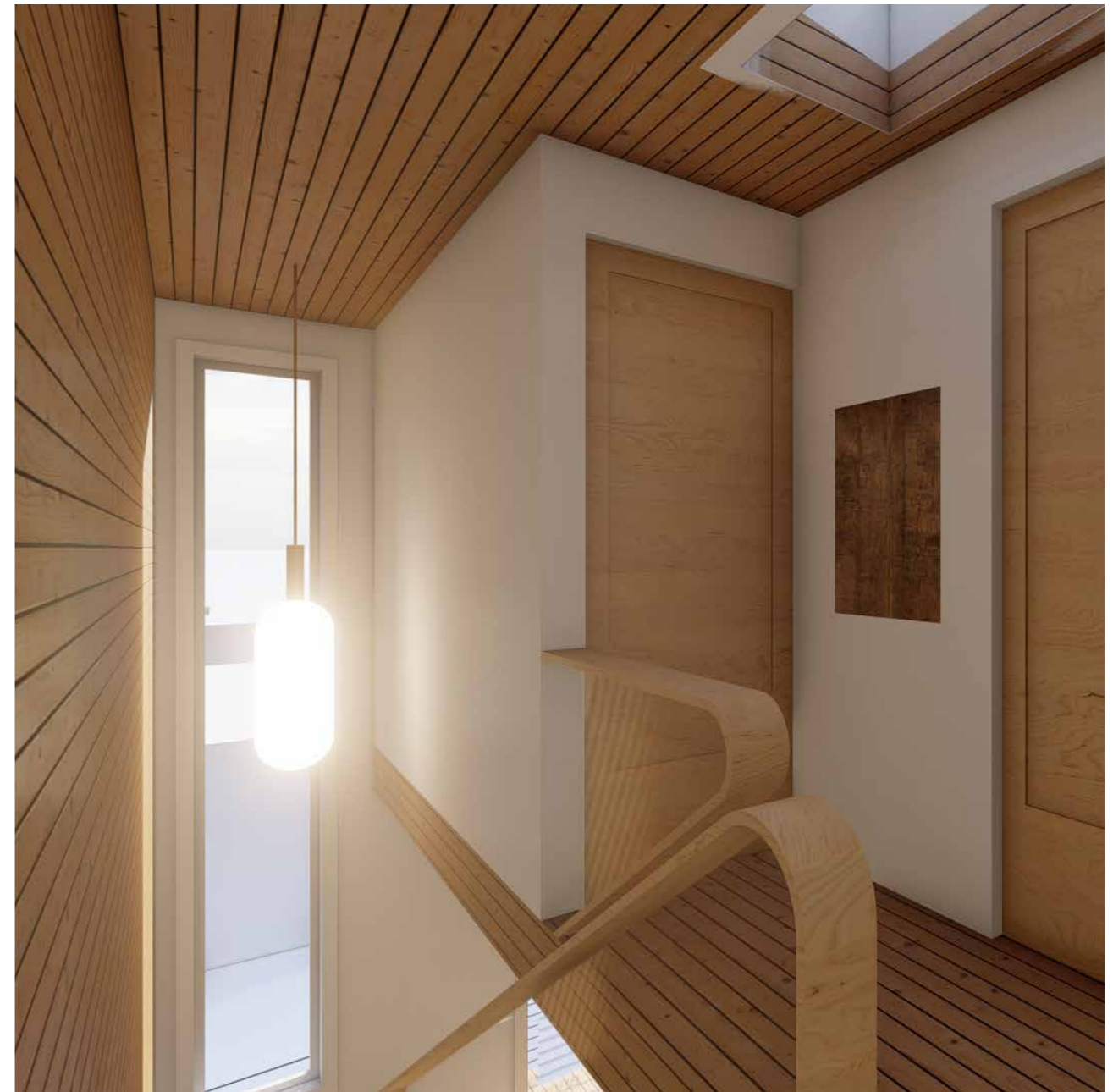




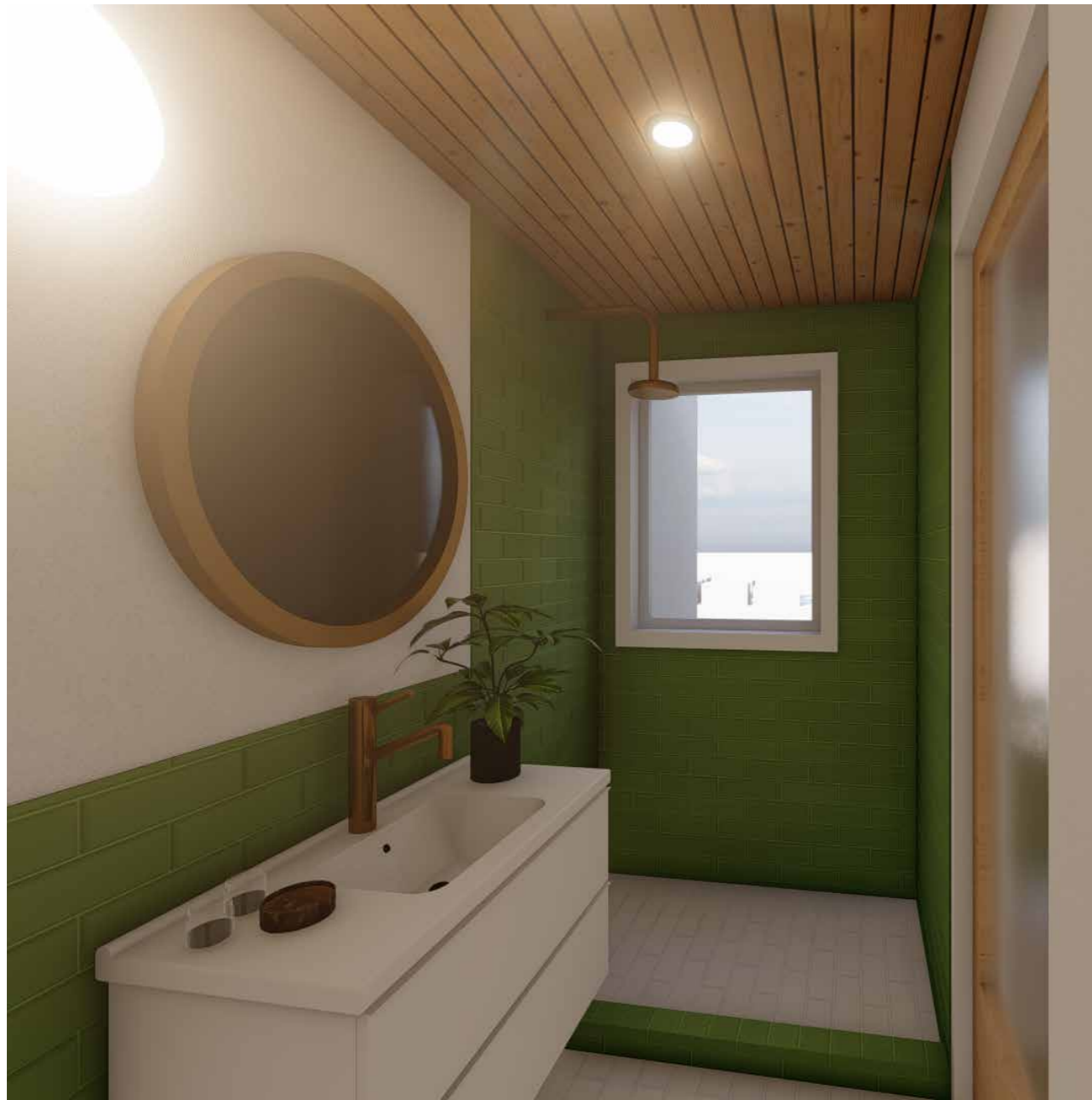
SHARED BATHROOM



SECONDARY BEDROOM



STAIRWELL



PRIMARY SUITE BATHROOM



PRIMARY BEDROOM

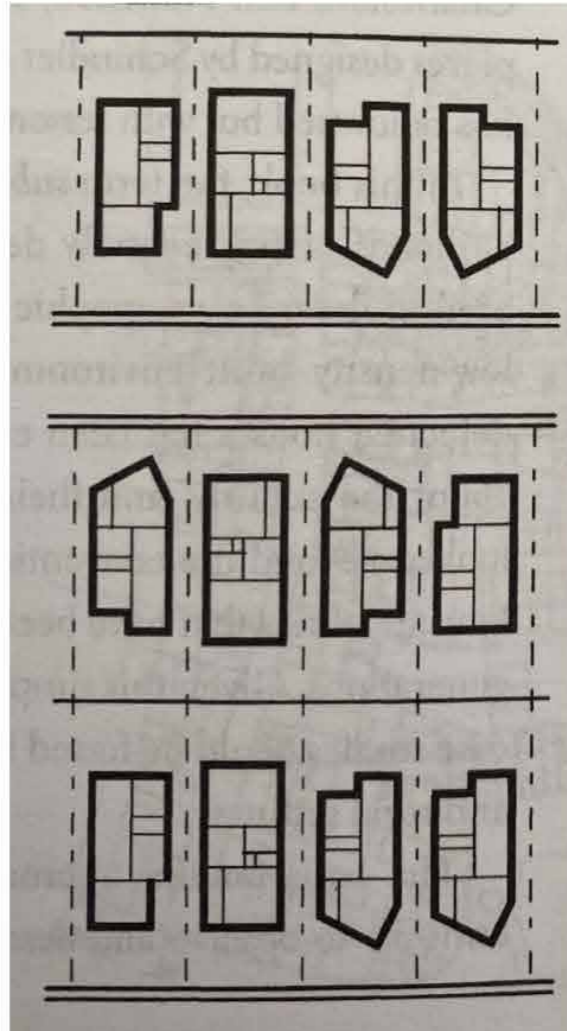
INTRODUCTION TO THE PROBLEM

- (1) This is an over-simplification of the complexities behind the different 'parts of the problem.' This proposal addresses a *selection* of pertinent issues at the intersection of design and 'community-based' activism. To be clear, NIMBY-ism is most directly grounded in a history of racist housing policy and discrimination.
- (2) "San Francisco resident Sonja Trauss, 35, a former maths teacher, says the housing shortages facing many big western cities are not financial, technical or due to any kind of material shortfalls. 'The cause of our current shortage is 100% political,' wrote Trauss in 2015, in an internet post that helped her build an army of followers to speak at public hearings, send letters and drum up support for housing on the internet."
- (3) In the early 1960's, N. John Habrakan theorized *An Alternative to Mass Housing*, in which he criticized the mass housing projects built across postwar Europe and North America. I assert that his critiques have held into the current housing crisis. Habrakan claimed that this type of project "reduced the dwelling to a consumer article and the dweller to consumer," negating the value of the process by which the dweller makes their own dwelling. The process of housing, as he proposes, is the result of the interdependency established by the dweller and their dwelling, which is inherently stifled by any one-size-fits-all technocratic solution imposed by governmental or corporate fiat. He argued that one size could never fit all, as the act of dwelling is an inherently human process that is as idiosyncratic and complex as we are. Although we may be reduced into demographic categories for marketing and product design research, that reduction sets aside the nuances of complex human interrelations that actively shape the environment that we inhabit.
- (4) The industries dominating architecture and development have become distanced from consumers (and occupants of these spaces) as a result of the commodification of space-making and the growth of anti-professional biases, which are arguably grounded in some truth.
- (5) From the song "Little Boxes" by Bay Area-native Malvina Reynolds, copyright 1962 Schroder Music Company:

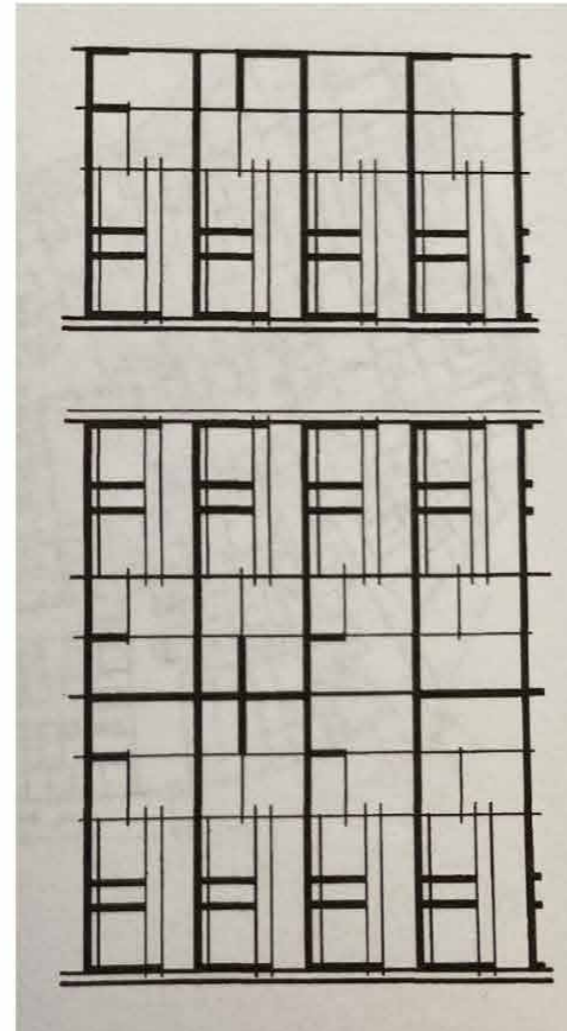
<p>Little boxes on the hillside, Little boxes made of ticky tacky,¹ Little boxes on the hillside, Little boxes all the same. There's a green one and a pink one And a blue one and a yellow one, And they're all made out of ticky tacky And they all look just the same.</p>	<p>And they all play on the golf course And drink their martinis dry, And they all have pretty children And the children go to school, And the children go to summer camp And then to the university, Where they are put in boxes And they come out all the same.</p>	<p>And the people in the houses All went to the university, Where they were put in boxes And they came out all the same, And there's doctors and lawyers, And business executives, And they're all made out of ticky tacky And they all look just the same.</p>
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VOLUMETRIC



FABRIC



RENEE CHOW

"Two paradigms of detached housing"

SELECTED RESEARCH PRECEDENT

Suburban Space: The Fabric of Dwelling _ Renee Chow

"With suburban design subsumed by marketing and with a culture of architects increasingly uninterested in the mundane everyday, the architectural profession either has been thwarted or has withdrawn from the suburban housing debate" (1)

"In the division of work into manageable design tasks, suburban design focuses on house, street, and lot subdivision. This promotes dwelling in insular, self-contained, bounded spaces with minimal connection, permeability, and openness." (13)

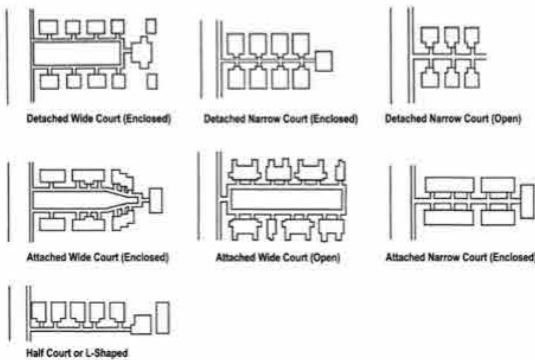
She identifies the strength of one of FLW early proposals for interconnected suburban development, "changing the form of dwelling, from dwellings characterized by spaces defined at their perimeter by four walls and a ceiling to dwellings characterized by spatial overlap and connection." (17)

In stating the intentions behind her book, Chow commits to avoiding "prescribing ways to design suburbs, since there is no universal method that is particular enough to encompass the diversity of people, places, and practices...it sees dwelling as both connected and secluded - so that public and private are seen not as oppositional but as reciprocal." (8)

She proposes "an alternative view of single-family detached housing that supports diverse choices of ways to live, that provides desired private outdoor space but does not waste it, and that allows opportunities for individuals and households to build their own sense of community, one that can change over time." (9)

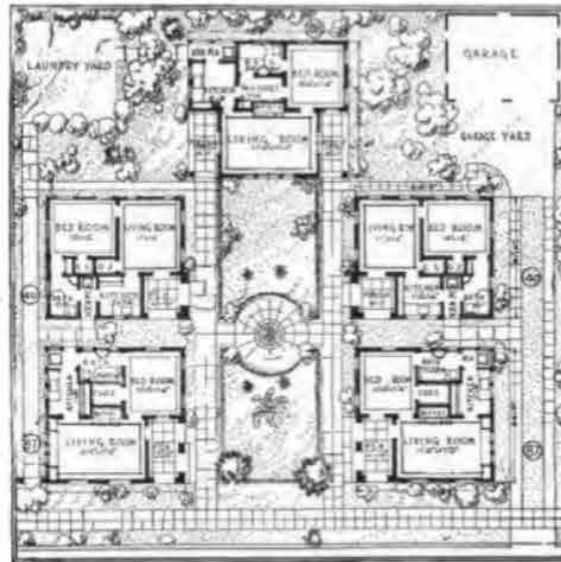
Chow, R. Y. (2002). *Suburban space: The fabric of dwelling*. Berkeley: University of California Press.

SELECTED VERNACULAR PRECEDENT: Bungalow Courts

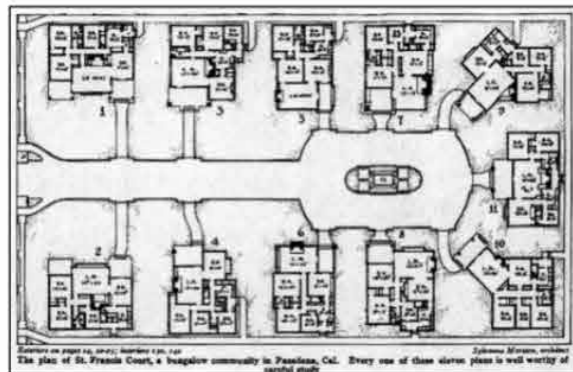


Sampling of Bungalow Court Plans

107



Detailed bungalow court plan, 1915 (*Ideal Homes in Garden Communities*, 76)



St. Francis Court site plan by architect Sylvanus Marston, 1908 (*Department of Geography, UCSB*)

SELECTED VERNACULAR PRECEDENT: Courtyard Apartments



Spanish Colonial Revival Corunna and Barcelona Apartments, 1932, 4615-4627 Los Feliz Blvd., (SurveyLA)



Spanish Colonial Revival Casa Laguna, 1928, 5200 Franklin Avenue, Los Feliz, City Historic-Cultural Monument No. 832 (www.casalagunaapts.com)

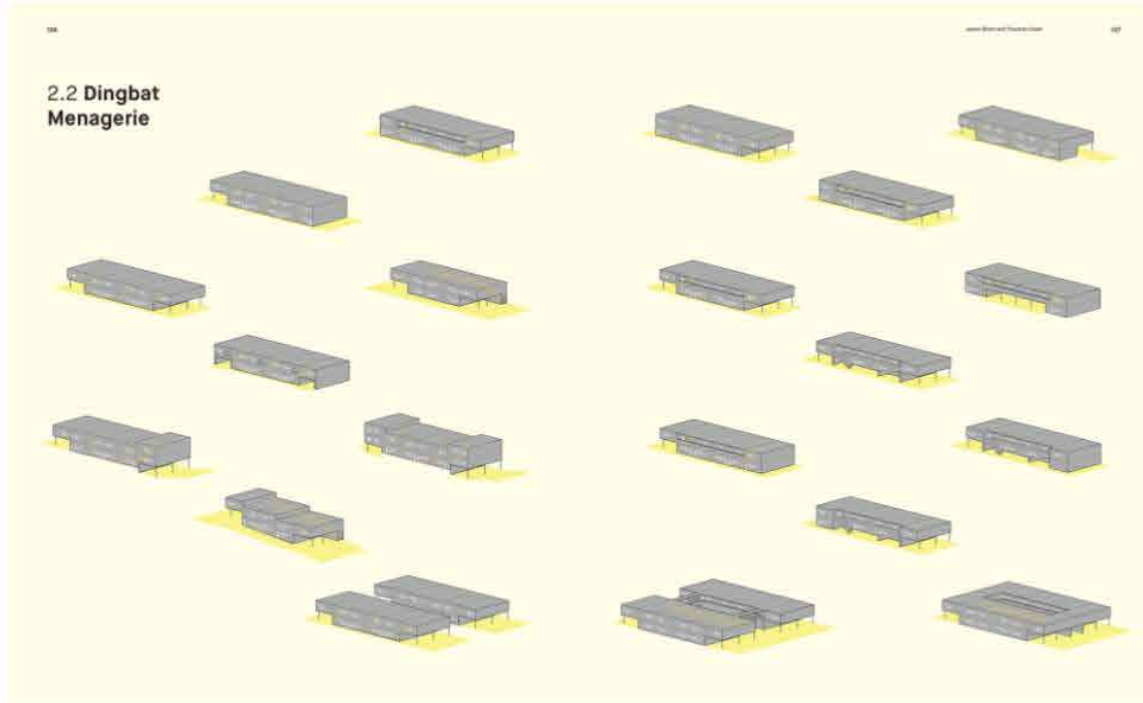


Spanish Colonial Revival Courtyard Apartment at 2135 W Fair Park Avenue, Eagle Rock, 1939 (SurveyLA)



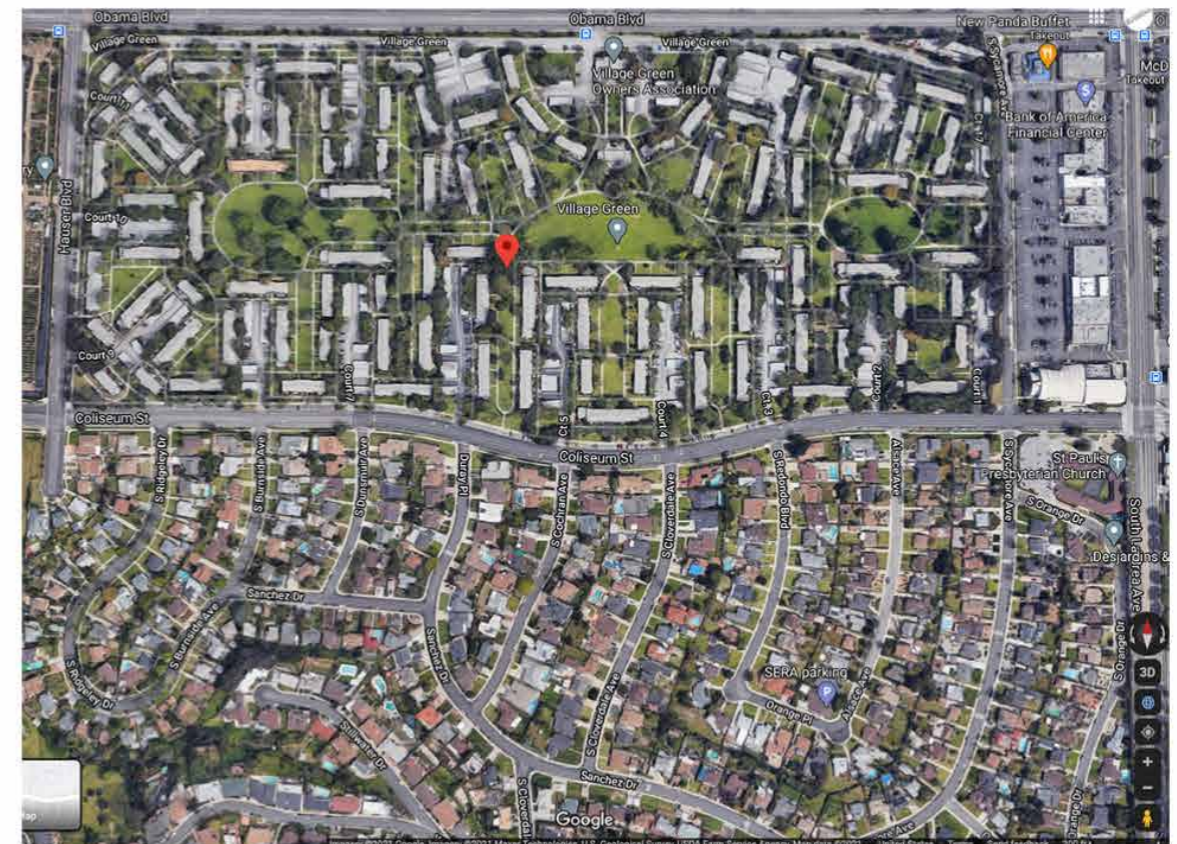
Aerial Diagram of U-Shaped, Double-L, and O-Shaped Courtyard Apartment Plans. (City of Los Angeles Office of Historic Resources)

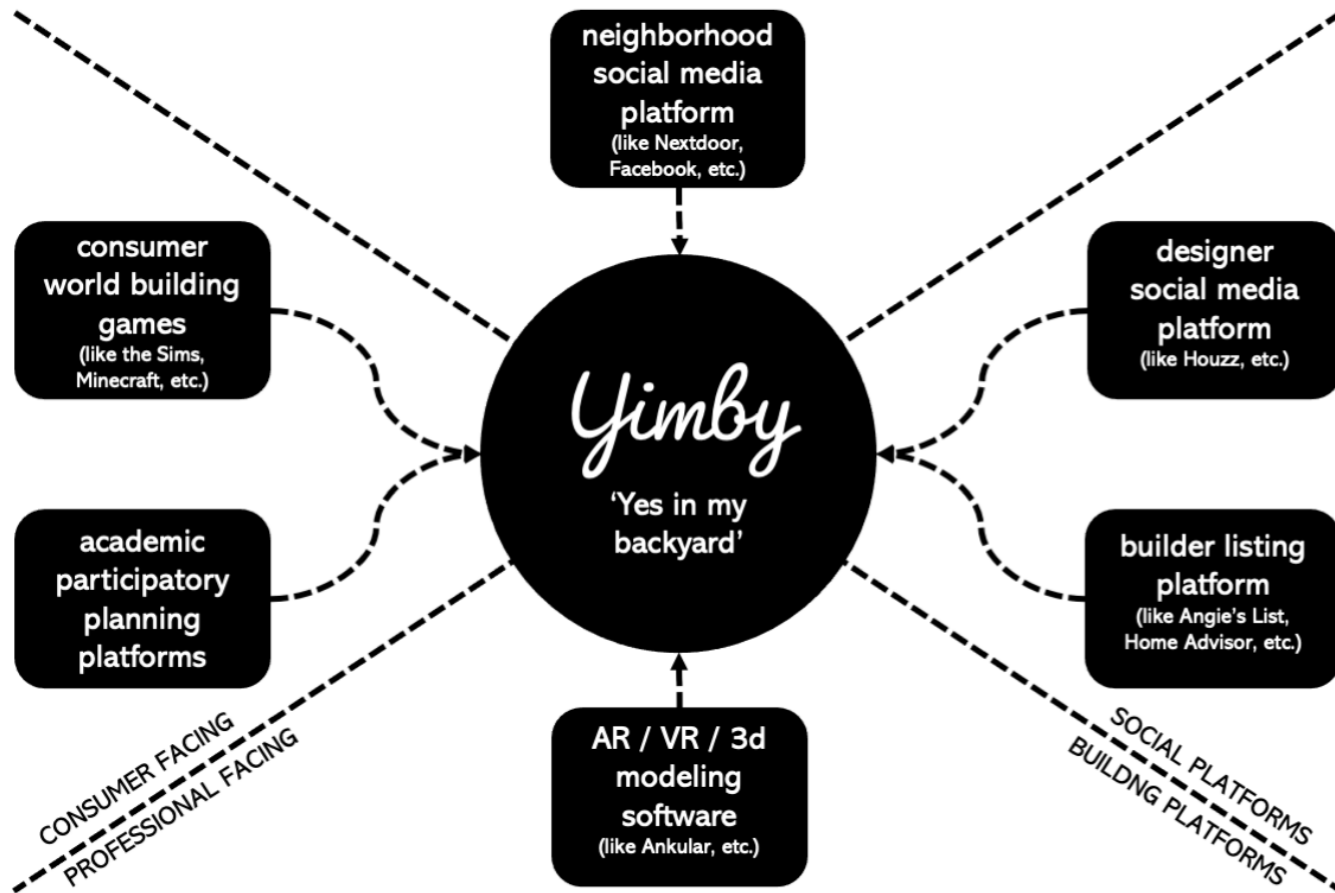
SELECTED VERNACULAR PRECEDENT: Courtyard Double Dingbats



Grant, T., & Stein, J. G. (2016). *Dingbat 2.0: the iconic Los Angeles apartment as projection of a metropolis*. DoppelHouse Press.

SELECTED VERNACULAR PRECEDENT: Culver City Village Green Apartments





INDUSTRY BACKGROUND & COMPETITIVE ANALYSIS

Yimby proposes to bridge across industrial segments to connect the public directly to stakeholders across the the building industry, in an effort to lower barriers to entry, both practical and political.

Although many professional design software are developed out of innovations pioneered (and payed for) by the video game industry, there are few, if any, examples of public-facing platforms that use the creative possibilities of video games in real world applications at the architectural scale.

In response to the emergence of augmented and virtual reality, software is advancing rapidly for the design industry. Applications that invite novice participation, however, are largely limited to the gaming industry or academic work, both of which do not address our actual built environment; they invite users to build within imaginary environments, removed from the constraints and possibilities of real life.

Pioneering projects from consumer goods companies have enabled users to arrange furnishings in their own homes, and clothing companies invite users to try on their clothing virtually. Designers advertise online (like on Houzz.com) while neighbors communicate amongst themselves (and advertisers) on the likes of Nextdoor.com. But seldom are all these threads gathered to re-envision the design and delivery of architectural services.

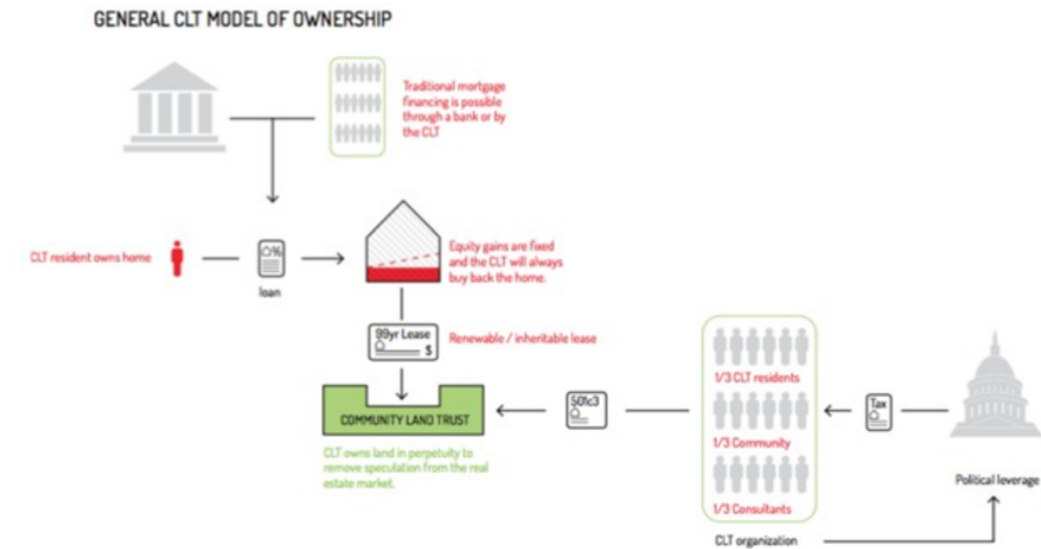
SELECTED ARCHITECTURE PRECEDENT

Do Not Disturb Occupants _ Marc Maxey and Ellen Donnelly

"Do Not Disturb Occupants" proposes an alternative approach to land ownership through the manipulation of property ownership, policy loopholes, tax dodges, political coups, and collective development strategies, mobilizing the agency of architectural research as the basis for housing advocacy.

Los Angeles, a region with one of the highest-value real estate markets in the country, will serve as a case study and be the focus of this paper. Many Los Angeles municipalities and their neighborhoods have historically high ratios of rental property to owner-occupied houses. The financial protocols of the past century, specifically the 30-year mortgage, enabled Los Angeles's sprawl through widespread homeownership. This financial instrument is responsible for many of the objects and materials of our built environment as mortgage underwriters adhered to Federal Housing Administration standards and specifications without considering lifecycle or environmental impact beyond the term of the loan. By proposing alternative methodologies for financing and owning architecture, this project re-imagines single neighborhoods, block by block, as repeatable micro-cities that redefine the role of citizenship, community, domesticity, and the economics of housing through material and performance in urban space.

The financial ecology of the neighborhood is transformed using a Community Land Trust (CLT) hybridized with a low-profit limited liability company (L3c) to combine lots, assemble land, erase property lines, and operate outside of the traditional real estate market. Decoupling ownership of buildings from land creates permanent affordability by removing real estate from the speculative market. The previous ideology of homeownership—a burden only justified by rising real estate prices—is replaced with a sustainable approach to building wealth through a community-led, design-driven lifestyle where best-use rather than highest-use governs development.



Using this alternative model of residential development, streets are reconsidered as shared community assets and their use redefined. As cities become less reliant on the automobile through increased mass transit, cycling, car sharing, and driverless technologies, many residential streets function as mere parking lots. With municipal support from the city, the street grid can be reimagined as building sites encouraging incremental development at different scales to enhance the qualities of urban experience. Cities are sites of constant change and policy must be revisited and reconsidered as economic, cultural and social situations shift. Architectural development, now reinstated under the logic of sharing, defies formerly defensive structures of NIMBY-ism and builds consensus through risk and reward. Do Not Disturb Occupants offers a radical new chapter in the city's history where economic necessity meets the uncanny, and all the neighbors are on board."

<https://brkt.org/issue/contents/all/491/do-not-disturb-occupants/46/bracket-on-sharing>





SELECTED ARCHITECTURE PRECEDENT

Open Building Institute

"AT THE HEART OF THE PROJECT IS A LIBRARY OF BUILDING MODULES—walls, windows, doors, roof, utility and functional modules, etc.—that can be combined to create a variety of structures: studios, homes, multi-family houses, greenhouses, barns, workshops, schools, offices, etc.

Our approach focuses on state of the art and ecological housing. This means that the system pays special attention to water-catchment, passive heating and cooling, photovoltaics, thermal mass, insulation, off-grid sanitation, and hydronic heat.

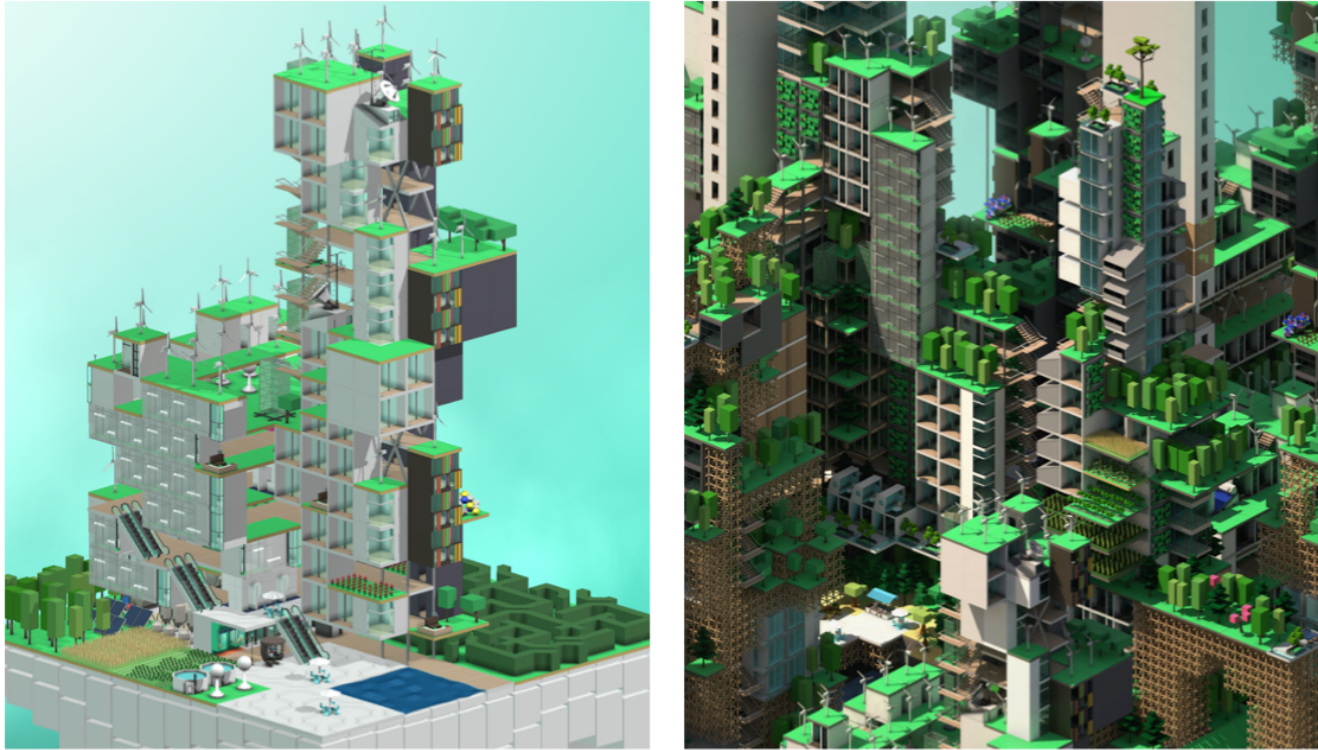
Designs and build instructions are contributed by designers around the world and are reviewed by experienced builders. A shared pool of designs means that each one of us does not have to reinvent the wheel. A greater number of designers means faster development. And the larger the number of contributions, the greater the diversity of approaches and solutions we can choose from.

All modules and procedures are OPEN SOURCE—forever and with no exceptions. This means that everyone is free to use, modify and redistribute them. Our OSHWA-compatible license also ensures that you are free to profit from these designs—by using them, for example, in design and/or build contractor work.

The library is made available online in standard CAD formats compatible with open source software applications such as FreeCAD and Blender. The library can be directly imported into Sweet Home 3D—an open source interior design application. Once imported into the application, modules can be simply dragged and dropped to create a building design.

The modules on the library are designed specifically to be easily and quickly built by non-professional builders. A 4×8 ft insulated wall module, for example, takes a team of two people 1 hour to build."

<https://www.openbuildinginstitute.org>



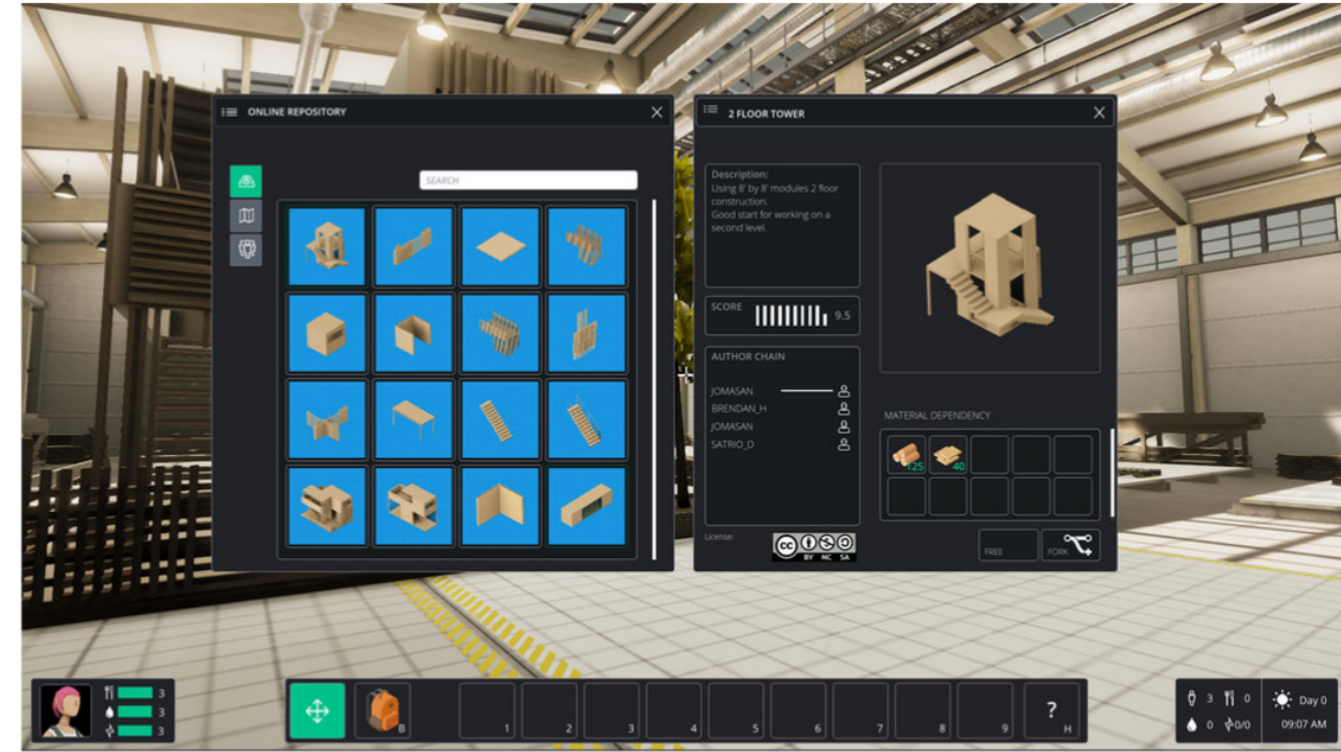
SELECTED APPLICATION PRECEDENTS

Plethora Project _ Jose Sanchez

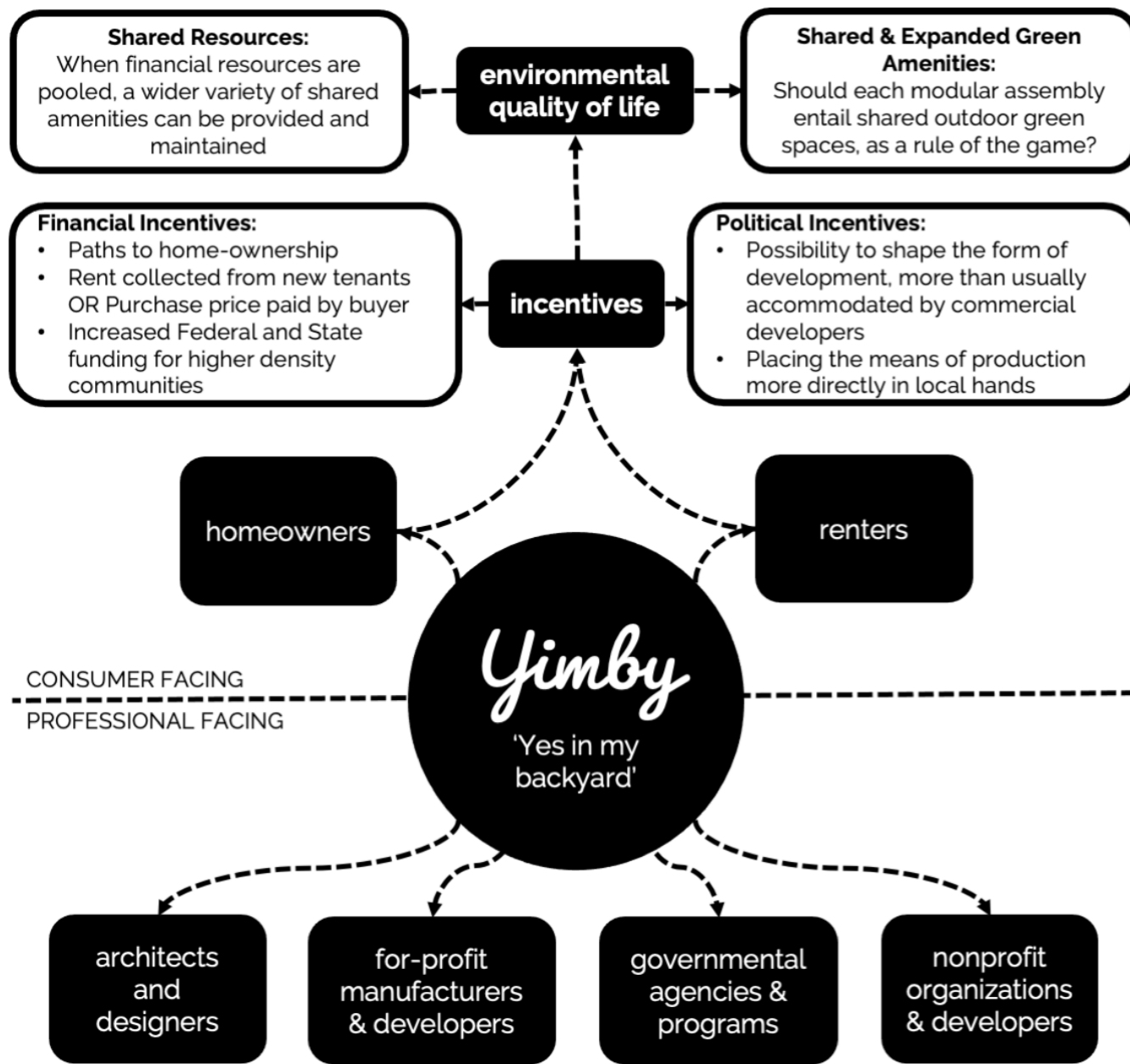
<https://www.plethora-project.com>

"**Block'hood** is a city building simulator video game that focuses on ideas of ecology, interdependence and decay. The game invites players to envision a neighborhood, by building structures out of a catalog of 200+ blocks. The player is challenged to maintain an ecological balance as each block placed will consume and produce resources of different kinds. Blocks that are not provided of their required input, will slowly decay and deteriorate to a point of collapse.

Player creations will attract inhabitants, both humans and animals, that will populate your neighborhood. It is the hands of the player to provide a positive environment for inhabitants to prosper. The game is both an educational and research initiative exploring the connection between games and architecture, contributing to a form of digital infrastructure for the ecological and systems thinking that is necessary in contemporary urbanism."



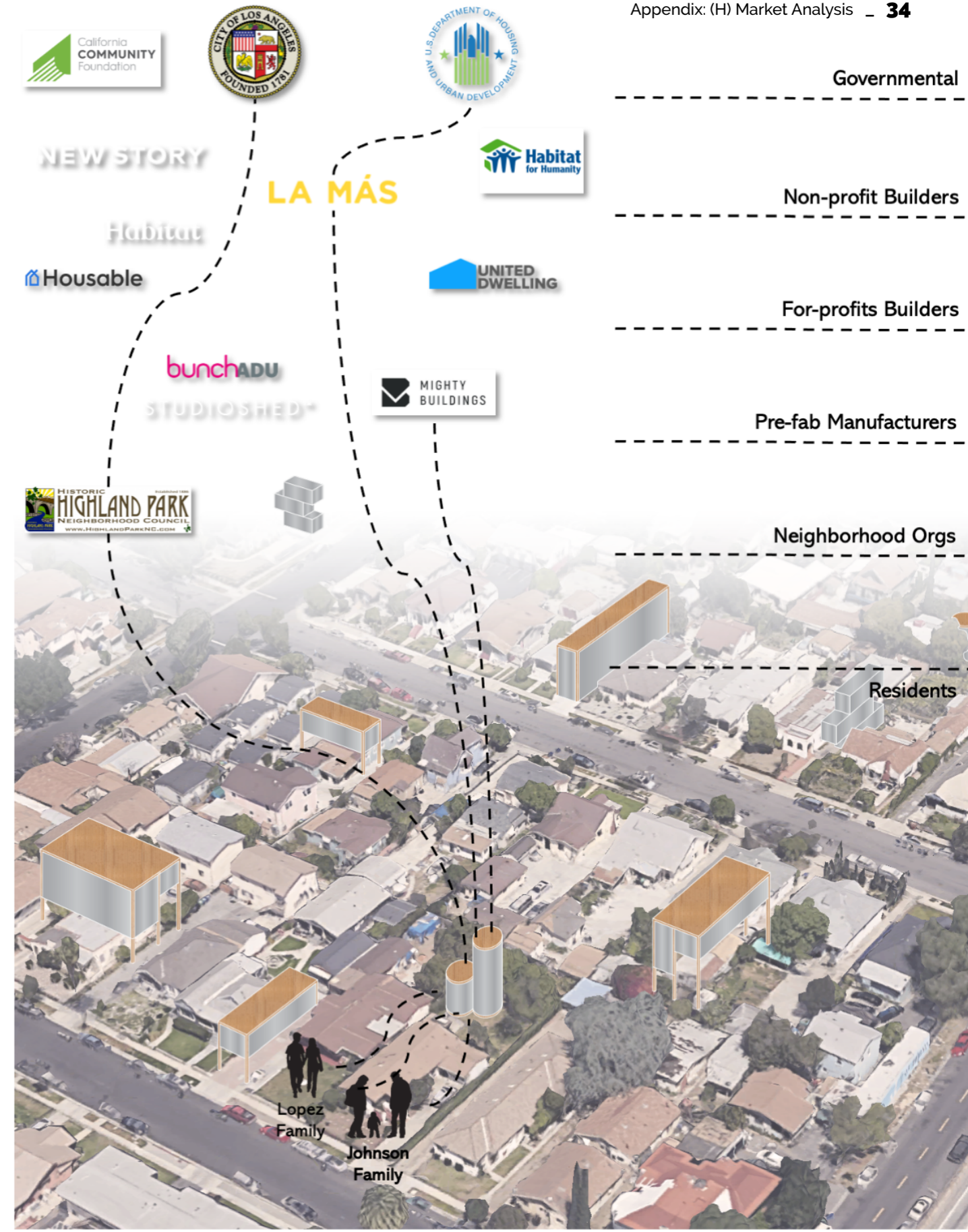
"**Common'hood** is a game about building a new habitat for you and your community. After an economic crash, many members of your neighborhood have been left behind without a place to live. Occupy the old abandoned factory and decide how do you want to live. The core Common'hood experience is a survival simulation where you grow your economy and your community. New characters will attempt to join your crew, and it will be in your hands to provide shelter, water, and food in exchange for their skills. Each character that joins your crew will have their own unique story, helping you understand what led them to end up without a home. By working together, you will be able to provide shelter and facilities to improve the life of your community. This will involve farming and researching technologies to improve the way you generate food and resources. Common'hood has been inspired by the Maker Movement and all DIY initiatives that attempt to take re-claim production with a hands-on approach. In Common'hood you will be able to design furniture, Tiny Homes, Architecture, farming rigs and all sorts of structures to improve your way of living. Nothing will be standard, all can be customized to your needs."



MARKET ANALYSIS

In bridging adjacent industries, Yimby proposes to gather a wide swathe of stakeholders in the building process, both consumer and service-providers. These connections are core to Yimby's goal of building political will and democratizing the design process; it is through these connections that a new spatial collectivity can emerge.

By gathering these different audiences, Yimby also diversifies the possible sources of revenue, to support this online community. Design consumers will be invited to use the application for free, while professionals and service-providers will pay for ads and commissions on services delivered through the application.





CONCLUSION

Ultimately, YIMBY is not a one-off design solution, it is a platform for participation and collaborative visioning that has the potential to harness local passions, often evident on websites like Nextdoor, to build a new collectivized urban vision that can engender support for much needed housing development and improve our urban quality of life.

Yimby

Platform for
DIY Urbanism