

## A Summit on Communal Housing (Chicago, 19–20 Oct 23)

University of Illinois at Chicago / 1100 Architecture + Design Studios, 845 West Harrison Street, Oct 19–20, 2023

[arch.uic.edu/events/home-collective-summit-communal-housing](https://arch.uic.edu/events/home-collective-summit-communal-housing)

Alexander Eisenschmidt, University of Illinois at Chicago

"At Home with the Collective: A Summit on Communal Housing."

Registration for the summit is free and open to the public, but space is limited.

This 2-day summit will gather speakers from around the world, local stakeholders and activists, as well as city officials who have radically rethought established norms of living, models of homeownership, and the formal, programmatic, material, and legal parameters of housing. Our ambition is to generate new knowledge that can confront the current crisis and speak to the potential of collective housing as a productive challenge for architecture.

While housing could be described as one of the primary forms of architecture and one of today's most crucial tasks, spatial practices have been slow in rethinking established forms of living and the politics and economies surrounding it. Indeed, escaping the pervasive models of profit-based homeownership seems increasingly difficult when dominated by neoliberal market values. This summit, therefore, posits a radical shift from house to housing and from the individual to the collective as a mechanism to refocus housing as a community-building, solidarity-building, and city-building project.

Organized and chaired by Associate Professor Alexander Eisenschmidt.

Thursday, October 19

10:00 Alexander Eisenschmidt Introduction

10:15 Form & Urbanism

Neeraj Bhatia (The Open Workshop), San Francisco and Toronto, Canada  
"Forming Life in Common"

Meng Yan (Urbanus), Beijing, China  
"Mini, Hybrid and Collective: Alternative Urban Dwelling in Chinese Megacities"

Martino Tattara (Dogma), Brussels, Belgium  
"An Architectural Quest for Communal Housing: Ideas on Typology, Property, Construction, and the City"

11:30 Respondents: Sarah Dunn, UIC Architecture (UrbanLab) + Jaime Torres Carmona (Canopy Architects)

12:30 Break

1:30 Home & Refuge

Golnar Abbasi, Rotterdam, Netherlands and Tehran, Iran  
"Domesticities of Displacement, Extraction, and Revolution"

Sandi Hilal (DAAR), Bethlehem, Palestine  
"Learning from Living Room"

Andrew Herscher, Ann Arbor, Michigan  
"Humanitarianism's Housing Question"

2:45 Respondents: Clare Lyster, UIC Architecture (CLUAA) + Julie Dworkin (Chicago Coalition for the Homeless)

3:45 Value & Property

Hilary Sample (MOS), New York City  
"Housing and Communal Gardens"

b+ (Arno Brandlhuber & Olaf Grawert), Berlin, Germany  
"Legislating Architecture: The Demolition Drama"

Felipe Vera, Chile, "Reimagining Housing in Times of Uncertainty"

5:00 Respondents: Grant Gibson, UIC Architecture (CAMESgibson)

Friday, October 20

10:00 Exchange & Community

Ivonne Santoyo-Orozco, New York City  
"Housing and Social Reproduction"

Zvi Efrat, Tel-Aviv, Israel  
"Amateurism and Total Design: The Architecture of the Kibbutz"

Cristina Gamboa, (Lacol), Barcelona, Spain  
"Cooperative Housing as Infrastructures for Sustainable Living"

11:15 Respondents: Penelope Dean, UIC Architecture (Flat Out) + Laura Weathered (Near North-west Arts Council)

12:15 Break

1:15 Organization & Advocacy

Lahbib El Moumni (MAMMA), Casablanca, Morocco

"From Paper to People: The Living Transformation of Casablanca's Historic Homes"

Valeria Esteves (CCU), Montevideo, Uruguay

"Cooperative Housing: Collective Homeownership and Assisted Self-Management Experience"

Christopher Hawthorne, New Haven

"Housing the Third Los Angeles"

2:30 Respondents: David Brown, UIC Architecture + Kathleen Day (Preservation of Affordable Housing)

3:30 Roundtable with Chicago Public and Cultural Leaders

5:00 Party

Reference:

CONF: A Summit on Communal Housing (Chicago, 19-20 Oct 23). In: Arthist.net, Sep 24, 2023 (accessed Dec 15, 2025), <<https://arthist.net/archive/40110>>.