

The UN estimates that 68% of the world population will live in urban areas by 2050. This, combined with the overall population growth could add 2.5 billion people to already overcrowded cities. Prompting many countries to face challenges in meeting the needs of their growing urban populations. Reconciling urban sprawl, verticality and the lack of housing will force us to adapt to greater density and new housing typologies. With more and more people moving into cities, understanding the key trends in urbanization will be crucial in implementing the Sustainable Development goals proposed by the UN. To address the housing crisis, and to become less car and carbon dependent, countries need to densify its job-rich metro areas so that more people can afford to live there and walk, bike, or take public transportation to get to work and back.

A sustainable set of solutions are needed that are designed to address a net positive approach to dwelling. The idea that technology will fix complex and systemic problems like climate change, poverty, the housing crisis, or healthcare is simplistic if we do not also change our existing models of living. Co-housing has the potential to be well suited to promote social, ecological, and environmental sustainability while providing an adaptive new dwelling typology. In its urban form it could be designed to add density to urban areas that are facing a housing crisis while solving other sustainable issues. This paper will present the functional elements needed to produce systemic interdependence within a housing typology to address the climate crisis, create a closed loop system and to add to the quality of life of its users. A housing typology with social justice at its center, that empowers work, commerce and culture should be a right globally and the future of dwelling.

The future of dwelling: urban co-housing in the time of climate change

Camilo Cerro
American University of Sharjah