In the city, living with nature is always constructed. In O.M. Ungers IBA Berlin No. 1 housing project he assembled 48 units made up of a variety of different types all set behind a uniform facade. Access to the residential units made possible by passing under the building and entering through a central courtyard into one of four corner staircases. Each resident traveled from the street through the courtyard to reach their apartment, and from their home had a view of it and the street. Despite the total number of units, no more than four units are accessible from any stairwell. Thus despite a large building, intimate connections between neighbors can occur. These interactions are always undertaken in relation to the grided facade or to nature. Furthering the importance of being in the presence of nature, the corner units which have privileged views of two streets, only have this view through a designed winter garden. The roof terrace is a shared space. Living with nature despite its urban location was a central philosophy and informed the architectural response.

Students will work through architectural and natural elements in their designs for the studio. We will explore material constraints of concrete, brick, and timber frame construction as they intersect greenhouses. As living requires a variety of sizes of rooms we will look at compression, expansion, through montage of making of physical spaces. How can living spaces exist inside and outside? How do intimate spaces connect to nature? How do collective spaces connect to nature? How can nature and light be used to create comfort? Are walls translucent or opaque throughout the day? Does housing need to have hierarchy? The studio precedent will be OM Ungers IBA Berlin, and we will also reference, Luis Barragán Casa Ortega and Casa Barragan; Mario Pani CUPA; Le Corbusier La Tourette and Pessac; Lacaton Vassal Paris Housing; Farshid Moussavi La Defense; Lina Bo Bardi’s Casa de Vidro, and other examples in NYC and Miami.