Columbia University
Graduate School of Architecture, Planning and Preservation
A4003: Core Studio 3, Fall 2017, "States of Housing"

Studio Statement, Jinhee Park

**'Micro Urbanism'**

As our cities rapidly densify it is undeniable that we now need new forms of urbanism to address new demands. How can a new conception of housing be conceived so that it not only provides efficient space and economical value but also provides flexibility for changing demographics and social values? Micro-Urbanism offers radical flexibility within existing cities in the face of rapid change caused by political, economic, and cultural forces. It reformulates relationships between the essential elements of a city at a finer grain. Instead of the broad generalist descriptions of housing, retail, culture, etc. that current modes of urbanism are based on, understanding spatial and programmatic relationships as *activities* at the micro scale opens up new possibilities of collaboration, environmental performance, and urban efficiency. This studio will aim to redefine value by new innovative terms that each studio member will invent guided by 10 principles below. Beginning from the human scale instead of the overall aerial view, we will generate 'fragments' that nonetheless have embedded in them new social/cultural/economic possibilities. In this case 'Micro' does not necessarily mean 'small,' instead it is about accommodating interrelated variables by breaking down to essential elements to maximize their effect. Now with rapid social adaptation to advanced technology, creating a sense of publicity and privacy can be handled in many other ways. Spaces can now hybridize. Commercial and institutional spaces are being used as surrogate living rooms calling into question of what is 'domestic.' Individuality and community is achieved not through generic space, but paradoxically through designing highly specific conditions.

### 10    Principles of Micro-Urbanism

**1. Physical / Perceptual** (define space by its quality rather than its quantity)
The pressure of real estate development artificial maps literal size onto the 'value' of space. Instead the role of perception can augment spatial experience and inhabitation.
**2. Owning / Sharing** (support ownership to create sharing)
when taken to the extreme, ownership creates programmatic redundancy and material and energy waste. Through gradations of privacy and publicity, new productive social relationships and interdependencies can be gained while at the same time decreasing the energy footprints.
**3. Contracting / Expanding** (use contraction to achieve expansion)
By contracting multiple programs into more intense alliances and overlapping patterns, space can be expanded rather than subdivided into smaller that in the end inhabit more volume.
**4. Timing / Programming** (program with time to avoid underutilized space)
Not all spaces must be used at all times. By aligning use and timing, spatial redundancy can be minimized.
**5. Division / Continuity** (divide with finer grain to create continuity)
Instead of broad descriptions of housing, retail, culture, etc. of modes of urbanism, understanding spatial and programmatic relationships as *activities* at the micro scale opens up new possibilities of collaboration, environmental performance, and urban efficiency.
**6. Local / Global** (be local to be global)
Alliances between local infrastructure, economies, and social relationships create momentum when viewed from the overall urban framework allowing the local to to create culture and resources rather than merely consuming it.
**7. Future / Past** (use the past to create the future)
Instead of tabula rasa urbanism that starts from a condition of erasure, existing conditions can be leveraged for their specificity into new infrastructures, spaces, and programs.
**8. Diversity / Density** (use density to create diversity)
Instead of density merely fitting more inhabitants into a smaller space, it can be utilized to gain programmatic and spatial diversity.
**9. Security / Amenity** (turn oppressive control into public amenity)
While the one-way gathering of information of the 'smart city,' threatens privacy, multi-way networks can turn the concept of security into a form of real and virtual public space and amenity.
**10. Curated Use / Mixed Use** (curate programs and activities to maximize synergies)
The concept of mixed-use as a general framework can be radically sharpened so that specific curation at the fine grain scale can create greater synergies socially and economically.