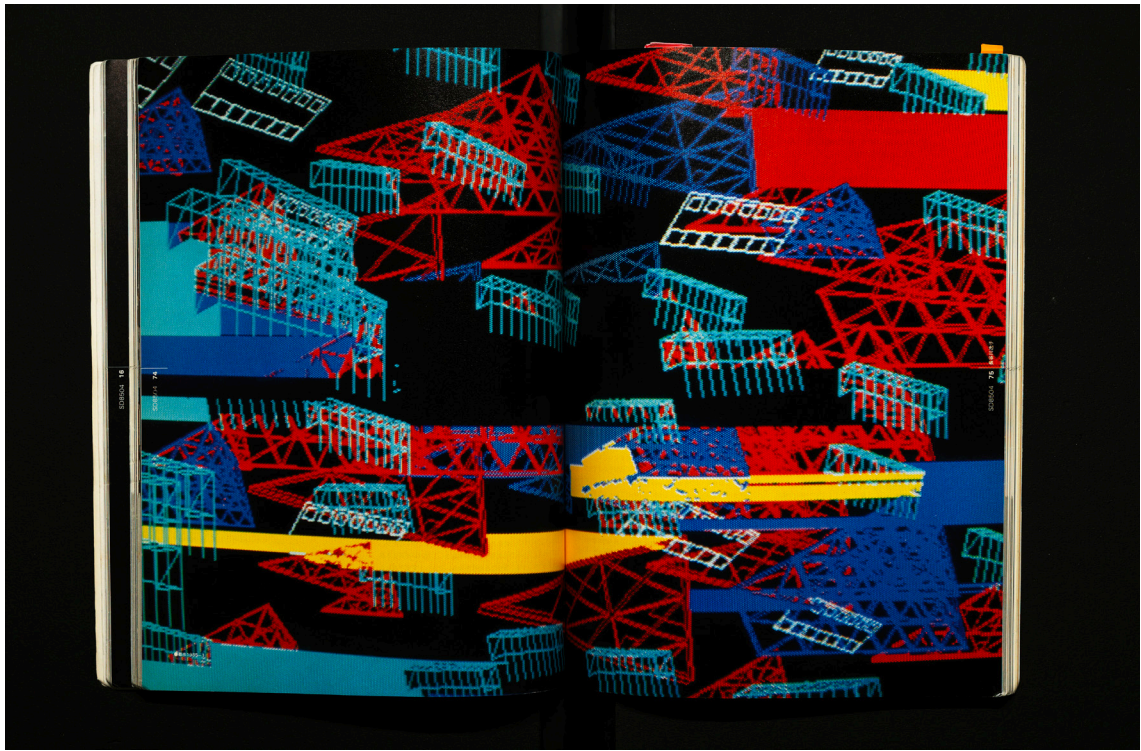


good housing.



Topic, context, economies.

The aim of the semester is to propose alternatives forms of housing in conditions as close as possible to that of actual practice, and to make virtue out their concrete limitations. Low budgets and narrow-minded norms will become opportunities, all participating in shaping the possibility of something that could be called good housing.

The context of contemporary Portuguese public housing will be used to develop these proposals. Briefs and sites of competitions of the recent past are to be taken as starting points.

Multiplicity, ambition.

The semester will sail against the idea that an academic exercise has to be reductive, and that the complexities of the whole cannot be grasped at once by a project.

Through precise and multi-faceted projects, we will thus reduce to minimum the distances between what is good for each inhabitant, what is good for the neighbors, what is good for the urban setting, what is good according to the givens of a brief, what is good in terms of sustainability, in terms of economy, in terms of beauty, in terms of construction, or in terms of the sensible distribution of spatial resources. Perhaps that the only unlimited and equally spread resource is architectural intelligence.

Housing as choreography. Housing as act.

No lens is ever neutral, passive, or objective. Starting from plans inevitably leads to a different project than doing it from collages or details. The way one furnishes or not a perspective is similarly charged with implications and meanings.

One of the objectives of the semester is to shape clear standpoints regarding this necessary state of failed objectivity. Throughout the development of the work, representation will be problematized as a set of tools allowing to rethink the conditions of intelligibility of a given problem – here collective housing. A wide array of so-called « modes of representation » will be experimented with, selected, used and distorted, according to specific intents, ultimately shaping the projects themselves and their focus.

Studio.

In groups of two or three, the aim of the studio is to conceive projects of collective housing.

Regular studio-wide and desk discussions will be complemented by a field trip, and a series of external interventions, altogether providing additional insights into the challenges at hand.

Evaluation is done in several moments throughout the semester, each with an increasing weight into the overall assessment, in order to best take into account the trajectory and progression.