



THE STREET

The buildings stand one beside the other. They form a straight line... The parallel alignment of two series of buildings defines what is known as a street. The street is a space bordered, generally on its two longest sides, by houses; the street is what separates houses from each other, and also what enables us to get from one house to another, by going either along or across the street. In addition the street is what enables us to identify the houses... Contrary to the buildings, which almost always belong to someone, the streets in principle belong to no one.

-Georges Perec "The Street," in *Species of Spaces*

Streets structure the sequence in which we approach housing but also the interface between housing and the rest of the city. The street also mediates our relationships to extended family, friends and most importantly strangers. However, first and foremost streets are formal arrangements; the specific feeling of a street is not just its relation to program and circulation but the way that the material aggregation of those things create the negative of public and semi-public space.

Yet what is the street and what is essential to it? In the crucible of densification commensurate with urban growth, how can we preserve the qualities of the street in new contexts? And in a case where the existing density is not sufficient to make a street, how can our new urban form create a street inwards and upwards within the stuff of housing.

This studio will look at circulation to and within housing from "the street" as a conceptual framework. We will be studying the morphology of idiosyncratic streets around the world, including but not limited to the following: the Beijing hutong, Toronto laneway, London mews, Tokyo roji, Bangkok soi, Montreal walk-up, Brooklyn stoop, Parisian arcade, Athenian stoa, Marakkech souq, Roman loggia and etc.

We will use these urban morphologies as the basis for transforming and hybridizing housing types. The accumulation of living units and their programmatic adjacencies against "streetscape" will be the springboard for transforming social thresholds in dense urban living. As such, our street concept will not merely result in a novel form of interior circulation, but will require a new idea of aggregation, unit plan and even our approach to the envelope.