

A Book Review:

***NEW HOUSEHOLDS, NEW HOUSING* by Karen A. Franck and Sherry Ahrentzen, Editors. New York: Van Nostrand Reinhold, 1989, 330 pages.**

Marjorie Inman

The housing needs of an increasing number of non-traditional households and other contemporary housing issues are skillfully addressed in New Households, New Housing. This book is an important reference for architects, planners, developers, and others concerned with these contemporary housing design issues.

Contributors to this book present their approach to the physical design, developmental process, social characteristics, and management process involved in more than 50 case studies of contemporary and historic housing in the United States, Canada, and Europe. The book focuses on housing designed for shared and collective living, single-parent families, and low-income single people. Also targeted is housing for integrated households such as combinations of single-parent families who share housing with single persons or couples. The elderly who share housing with younger people or handicapped individuals. Included in the book are the special concerns of affordability, security, easy access to social and support services, reduced homemaking responsibilities, convenient child-care services, opportunities to interact with other residents, and other housing amenities that enhance daily life.

Contemporary housing issues covered in the book include:

1. Material on transitional and long-term housing for single-parent families, addressing specific needs;
2. Information on effective design and management of single-room occupancy units;
3. Information on shared and collective housing in the U.S., including design ideas and examples.
4. Historical cases of collective housing appropriate for accommodating contemporary needs;
5. Examples of Danish and Swedish collective housing that could be adopted elsewhere.

New Households, New Housing is a unique collection of ideas and information that could serve as a useful reference for anyone in a profession serving the field of housing.

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