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URBAN OUTDOORS

SOCIAL INTERACTION + THE OUTDOORS: ABSTRACT

Outdoor space has been linked to many benefits seen in a person's physical, mental, and social health (Kellert, 2005), therefore, residential settings must include well designed outdoor spaces to support and promote the well-being of its occupants. Studies in the realm of healthcare have shown that visual and physical access to a natural habitat reduces stress and improves patients' recovery (Ulrich, 1999) and that interaction with the younger population improves elders' perceived quality of life (Taylor + Repetti + Seeman, 1997). Both the aging population and members of younger generations have shown to benefit from social interactions fostered by the addition of outdoor space to living environments (Marcus, 2000), proving access to outdoor space can greatly impact social health within inter-generational living. The social relationships necessary to sustain inter-generational communities can be greatly enhanced through the addition of outdoor space. This study is intended to explore the integration of a variety of outdoor spaces at various levels of scale in the design of inter-generational living in order to support social interaction between residents. It is hoped that through the implementation of design criteria discovered through research, a socially integrated, inter-generational population can be promoted.

THE USER

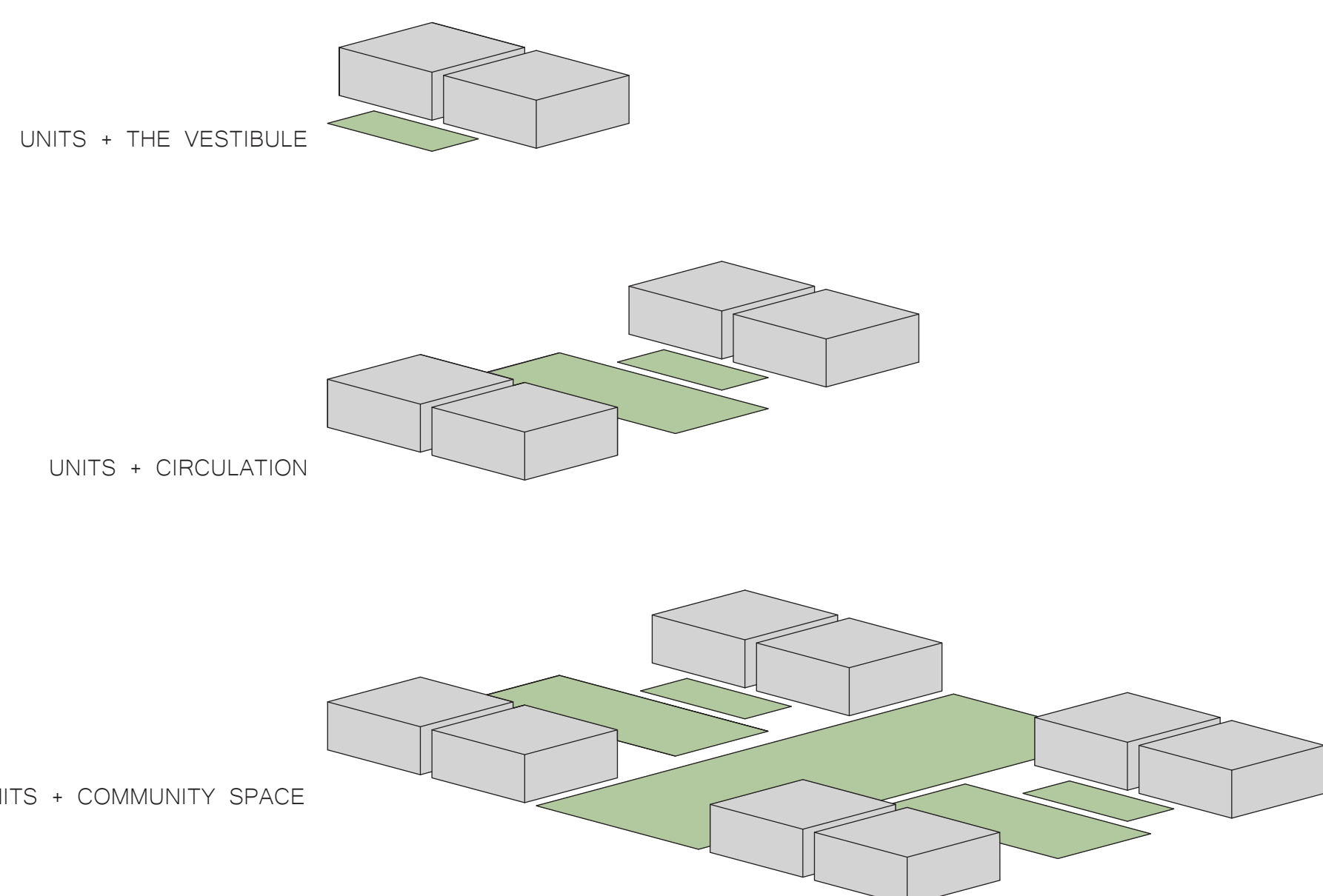
YOUTH	OUTDOORS	ENCOURAGES PHYSICAL ACTIVITY PROVIDES RECREATIONAL SPACE
WORKING PARENTS		PROVIDES SPACE FOR RELAXATION CONVENIENT RECREATIONAL SPACE
BABY BOOMERS		ENCOURAGES SOCIAL INTERACTION ENCOURAGES PHYSICAL ACTIVITY

OBJECTIVE

To discover socially beneficial aspects of various types of outdoor space and integrate them into design guidelines for inter-generational living. Used in combination with other aspects vital to inter-generational design, this process will result in a beneficial living experience for a wide variety of users.

ARCHITECTURAL STRATEGY

To encourage social interaction, spaces such as entry ways, vertical and horizontal circulation and primary gathering spots will be located in the realm of outdoor space.



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ARCHPLAN AG ARCHITECTEN, Wohnfabrik Solinsieme, Image, 2000

JERDE PARTNERSHIP, Namba Parks, Image, 2003

LYCS ARCHITECTURE, CEIG Research Center, Image, 2011

DILLER, SCOFIDIO, + RENFRO, High Line, Image, 2009

INTER-GENERATIONAL LIVING

Inter-generational living is a multi-faceted lifestyle centered on the ideas of cooperation, interaction, and exchange. The sharing of responsibilities, regular social interaction, and the exchange of knowledge and ideas between members of multiple generations are imperative to a successful inter-generational lifestyle.

PRECEDENT STUDY



RIGHT:
Wohnfabrik Solinsieme, St. Gallen, Switzerland
ARCHPLAN AG ARCHITECTEN

THE VESTIBULE

Locating entry ways in shared courtyards ensures social interaction between residents and provides a more intimate outdoor space.



LEFT:
Namba Parks, Osaka, Japan
Jerde Partnership

CIRCULATION

By placing necessary functions, such as circulation, in the outdoor realm, social interaction between residents will be encouraged.



COMMUNITY SPACE

The creation of public outdoor space that is directly accessible from public and residential interior space fosters social interaction among residents and the general public by providing space in which a wide variety of activities can occur.

CONCLUSION

The study of the role of outdoor space in social interaction is a key component in the development of a successful inter-generational living situation. The design of outdoor space must be carefully considered in order to take advantage of its many benefits. As studies have shown, outdoor space has the inherent ability to foster a variety of social interactions, improving relationships between residents of an inter-generational facility, as well as providing a catalyst for interaction with the general public. The health and quality of life of inter-generational residents can be increased through the application of this research during the design process, alongside other components key to successful inter-generational living. The culmination of this research will be a project in which the ideals of inter-generational living are realized through the use of a variety of outdoor space.