

Siedlung Halen: How to live together

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Abstract

"Might distancing itself be a thing to reconsider life."

- Ben Ware, *The Earth seen from the Moon*, Junho 2020.

When one thinks about the notion of home, one tends to think about private life and personal space: the walls that surround the room(s) and the closest people or objects that contain one's memories. For some, home even translates the words community or neighbourhood. For the architect, a home implies a housing project, which in turn implies to imagine a shape for a single unit and thus to imagine an association of units. However, there's no ideal shape to build, rather there's a great number of typologies and systems of organisation.

The siedlung concept alongside the cooperatives movements are once again at the centre of the housing debate. We intend to research the formal aspects of this housing model, including the communities raised by adopting so. For that, we go through the modern movement until some late and contemporary examples/derivations. The purpose is to consider the final result/form of the settlement but also to consider the development process that led to successful projects - as sustainable and long living structures.

With Atelier's 5 Siedlung Halen as a starting point, this paper tries to emphasize the factors that contributed to its resistance and adaptability over time. At first, it seems hard to compare a scenario of the post war with today, however, we do share the need for a more sustainable and long last design. Therefore, we must select carefully the existent tools to ensure a better future for our cities and to be aware on how to change our lives.

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