

H O U S I N G B L O C K C O U R S E

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Title : HOUSING LAYOUT DESIGN I

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Abstract : The paper outline aims to briefly highlight the major design factors (socio-economic and cultural) and guidelines that need to be taken into account, and some of the possible skills and techniques essential for housing layout design at the site planning stage of housing development process.

HOUSING LAYOUT DESIGN I

1. INTRODUCTION

Housing is one of the basic needs of the people in both the urban and rural areas. The provision of housing is a complex process which needs to take into account the socio-economic, cultural, physical, environmental and political aspects. It is the responsibility of the designer to comprehensively integrate these various aspects when dealing with any housing development project to solve the housing problems in any given context. In the process of finding appropriate solutions to the housing problems the designer is frequently faced with the challenge to efficiently design housing layouts for given projects. The situation is more challenging when dealing with a low cost housing project since the financial constraints are often numerous. It is in view of this challenge that the designer needs to be equipped with adequate skills and techniques to find appropriate design solutions for housing layouts.

The aim of this brief outline along with the one titled Housing Layout Design II is to briefly highlight the major design factors and guidelines that need to be taken into account, and some of the possible skills and techniques essential for housing layout design at the site planning stage of housing development process.

2. SITE PLANNING

This section outlines a brief overview of the state of the art.

"Site planning is the art of arranging the external physical environment to support human behavior".

(Lyuch, 1971).

The site for a housing project is one of the most critical aspect of the dwelling environment. Careful planning requires the designer to work as part of an interdisciplinary team consisting of architects, planners, engineers, quantity surveyors and land surveyors, amongst other.

The site planning process begins with the understanding of the people for whom the site is being planned and for what purpose or intended use. The following are the main stages of the process:-