

TWO FRONT DOORS



We believe the key to successful intergenerational living is to enable people to live together and apart at the same time, and for all to feel part of one vibrant community.

The benefits of sharing everyday life with a separate or an extended family should not come at the cost of losing privacy. A framework for sharing space should acknowledge the variety of arrangements in which intergenerational living can take place, allow for degrees of openness to one another as well as a buffer zone.

We've looked at traditional multigenerational living of Transylvanian villages and its mark on the built environment: typically houses come in pairs here, a larger one and a smaller one sharing an enclosed courtyard, barn and stables but with separate entries. Typically the youngest child inherits the farmstead and when married, the elderly parents move to the smaller house to make room for the new family in the larger house. At other stages of family life the small house could be occupied by adult children before they leave the nest.

Here, a high rise housing development in Edmonton, a linked small and large apartment can share a room and a terrace while maintaining their autonomy – 2 front doors.

Depending on the specific needs of inhabitants, the terrace can be completely separated and the shared room can become an extra space for either unit. The room could be an extension of the living room, a shared home office, guestroom or nursery. It could be accessed from one of the units, from both or only from the terrace. Stacking vertically, the linked units increase and decrease in size, providing a mix of tenures which are stepped to form tiered terraces at the lower levels. This creates a colonnade to the conventional street elevation and a human scale to the community roadway. At ground floor level, live/work units face the roadway which also hosts community facilities, local businesses and event spaces. Between the units, the alternating communal courtyards and linked unit gardens add pockets of space off the roadway, creating a vibrant community streetfront.

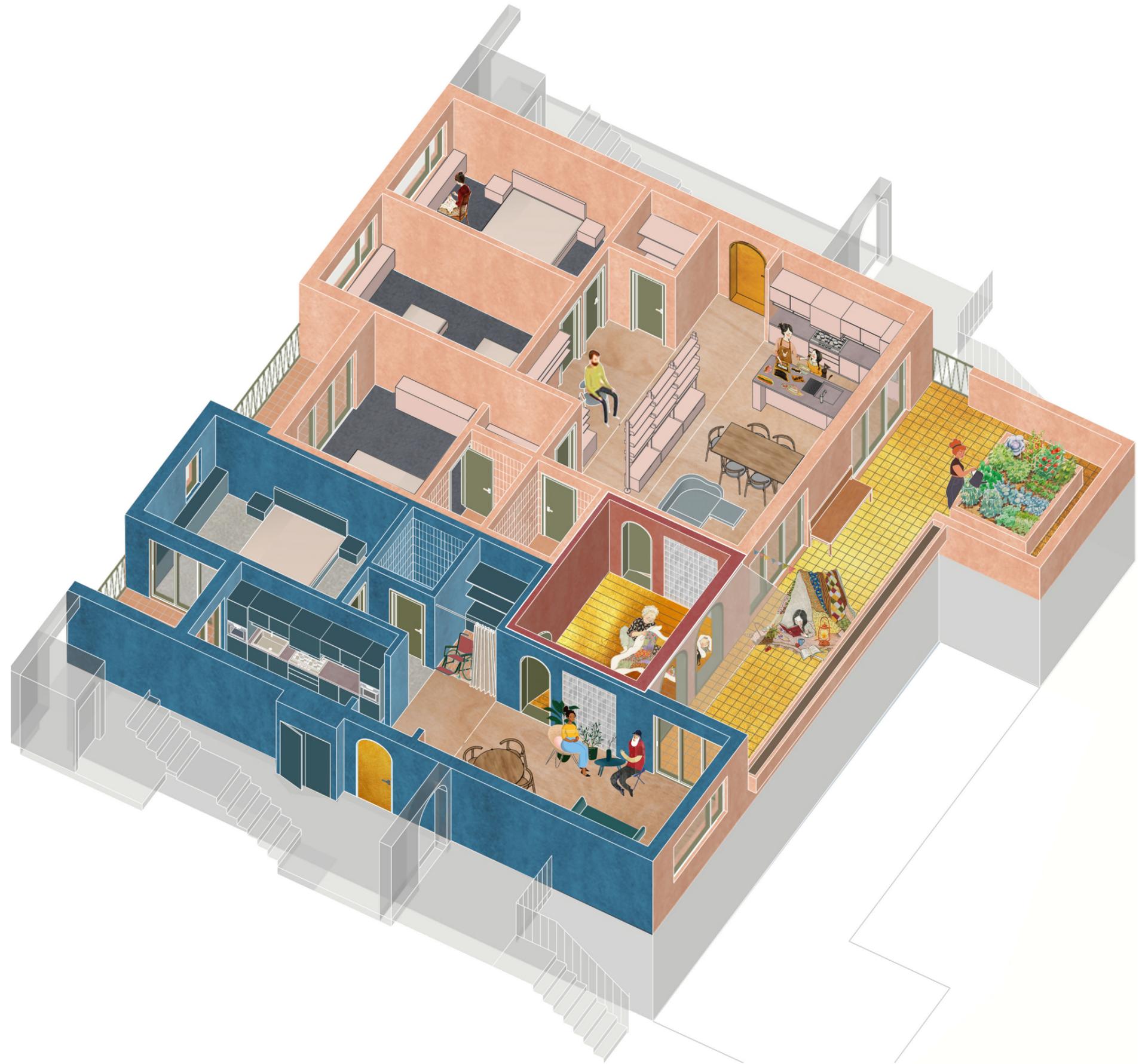
FLEXIBILITY AND ADAPTABILITY OF THE LINKED UNIT



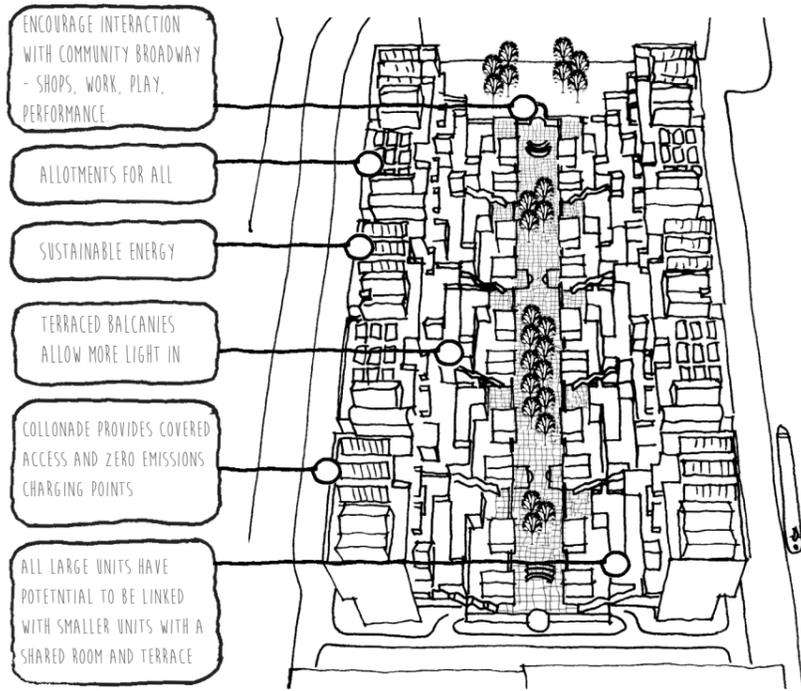
LIVING TOGETHER AND APART



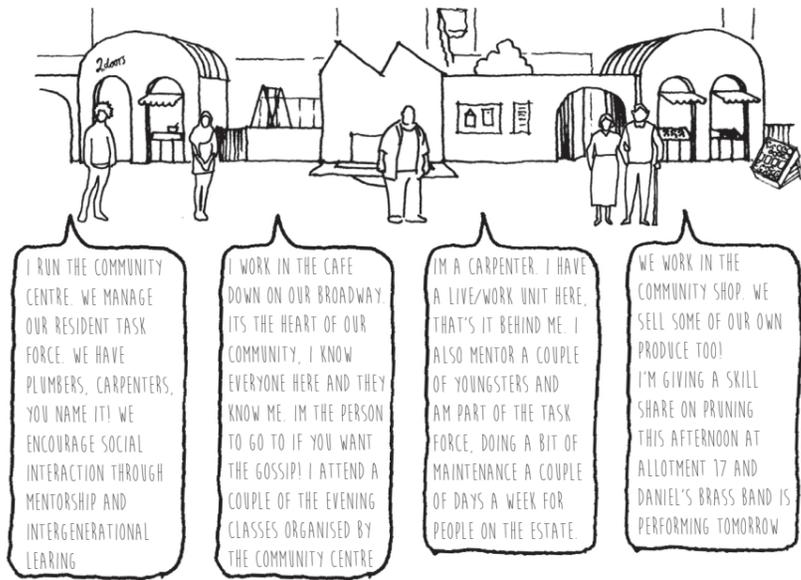
WERE THE CORBACI'S. WE HAVE A LINKED UNIT HERE AT 2 FRONTS. ITS GREAT FOR US. I CAN BE RIGHT NEXT TO MY PARENTS, WHO ARE LESS ABLE NOW AND THEY CAN BE RIGHT NEXT TO THE KIDS. WE HAVE A SHARED ROOM WHICH WE HAVE SET UP AS A SNUG, BUT IT COULD BE A BEDROOM, STUDY OR WHATEVER IT NEEDS TO BE. OUR SNUG ACTS AS A BUFFER BETWEEN THE TWO APARTMENTS AND WE RETAIN OUR PRIVACY WHEN WE NEED. WE CAN OPEN IT RIGHT UP FOR CELEBRATIONS, WHEN I NEED TO HELP OUT MUM AND DAD OR WHEN WE WANT THEM TO WATCH THE KIDS FOR A FEW HOURS AFTER SCHOOL. MY SON ALSO USES IT TO PRACTICE THE CELLO IN. MUM WILL USUALLY WANT TO BE THERE LISTENING IN!



116 MIXED TENURE LINKED UNITS



COMMUNITY TASK FORCE AND INTERGENERATIONAL LEARNING



THE PRIVATE, THE SHARED AND THE COMMON

