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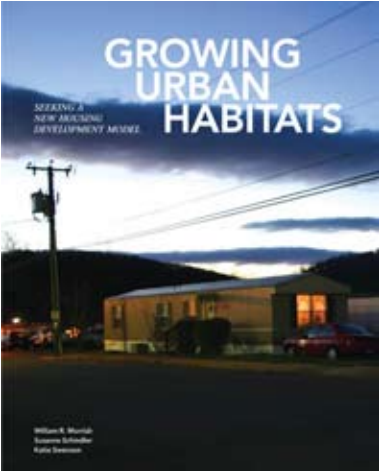
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BOOK

Growing Urban Habitats  
Seeking a New Housing Development Model

AUTHOR

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DESIGN	Joana Mühlenbrock

## Growing Urban Habitats

*Seeking a New Housing Development Model*

Growing Urban Habitats documents and expands on Urban Habitats, an international design competition organized in 2005 by Habitat for Humanity of Greater Charlottesville and the Charlottesville Community Design Center. At stake was the equitable redevelopment of Sunrise, a local trailer park. The goal was to find the most innovative, yet feasible, higher-density housing models, all without displacing the current residents.

A how-to guide and source book, Growing Urban Habitats draws from case studies selected from both the Urban Habitats submissions and contemporary housing projects throughout the United States. Included are designs by Anderson Anderson; Koning Eizenberg; Office dA; Onion Flats; Zoka Zola; and many more. Their work makes Growing Urban Habitats a rich resource for designers, as well as housing developers, city officials, community groups and residents.

In re-examining static notions about housing, the authors pay particular attention to the role of language. "Housing," for instance, has taken on a negative connotation in North America. Frequently paired with "affordable" or "multi-family", it is used to describe low-income, government-assisted dwellings, considered inconsistent with the American Dream. The authors challenge these biases and long-standing preconceptions now embedded in the language we use. As a result, Growing Urban Habitats rephrases questions and renames issues. By doing so, the authors reveal opportunities for housing design that is respectful of the current residents and sustainable for generations to come.

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