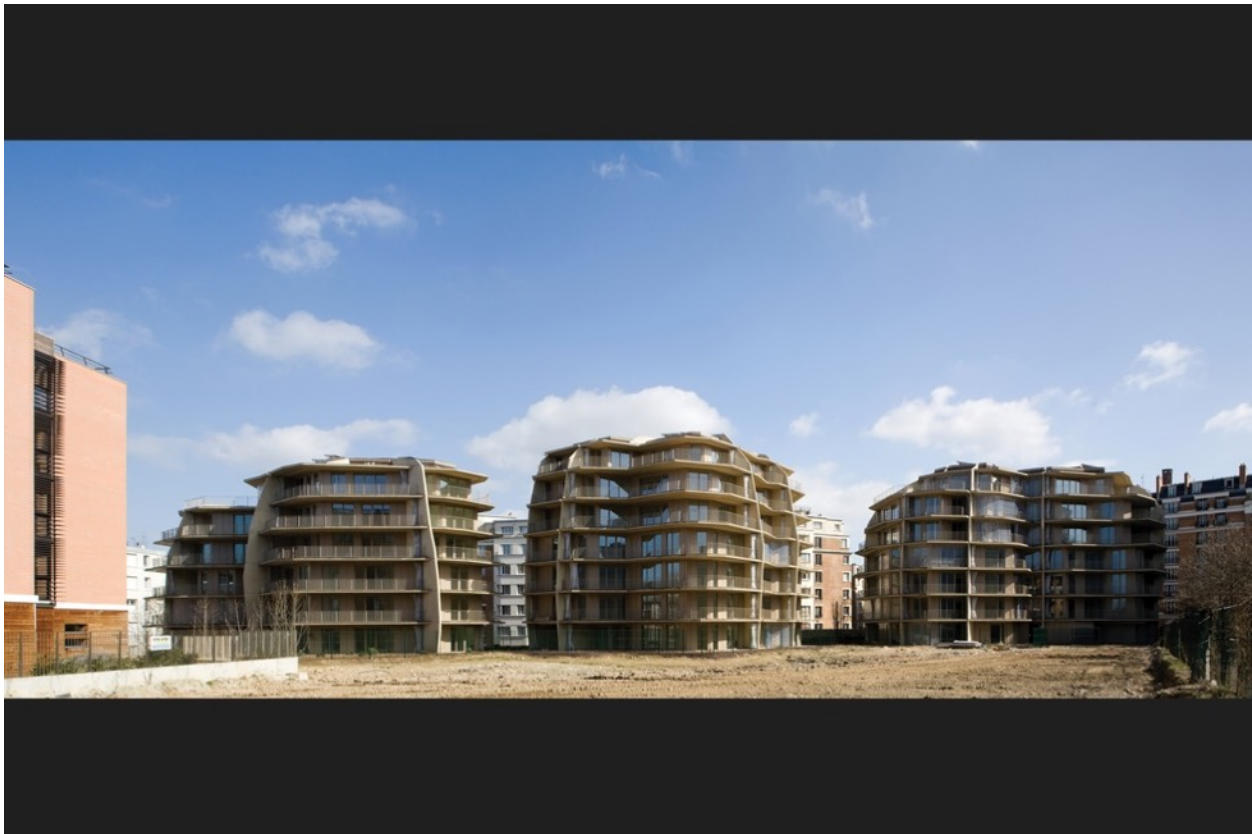


Reading Response 5: Sociability

The Herold Social Housing Project, Paris, France



Source: <https://www.architectural-review.com/today/public-housing-by-jakobmacfarlane-architects-paris-france/8601176.article>

Completed in 2008, Paris' 100-flat Herold Social Housing Project addresses multiple societal concerns at once. Not only does it seek to refresh and evolve the spirit of social housing, but it is also designed to be an environmentally-conscious and accessible set of buildings (Slessor). Designers MacFarlane and Jakob approached the problem with environmental concerns and novel family dynamics in mind from the start; the result is housing comprised of rooms which flow into each other, with no two flats being the same thanks to the unconventional footprint of the buildings. With flats all being unique and the buildings themselves standing out from the surrounding area, the space exudes a sense of quirky originality that causes residents to connect more closely with their living spaces. No longer are residents confined to industrial, mazelike gray monoliths. An exterior of shifting planes causes walls to appear to expand and shrink, as if the building is a living organism (Kim).



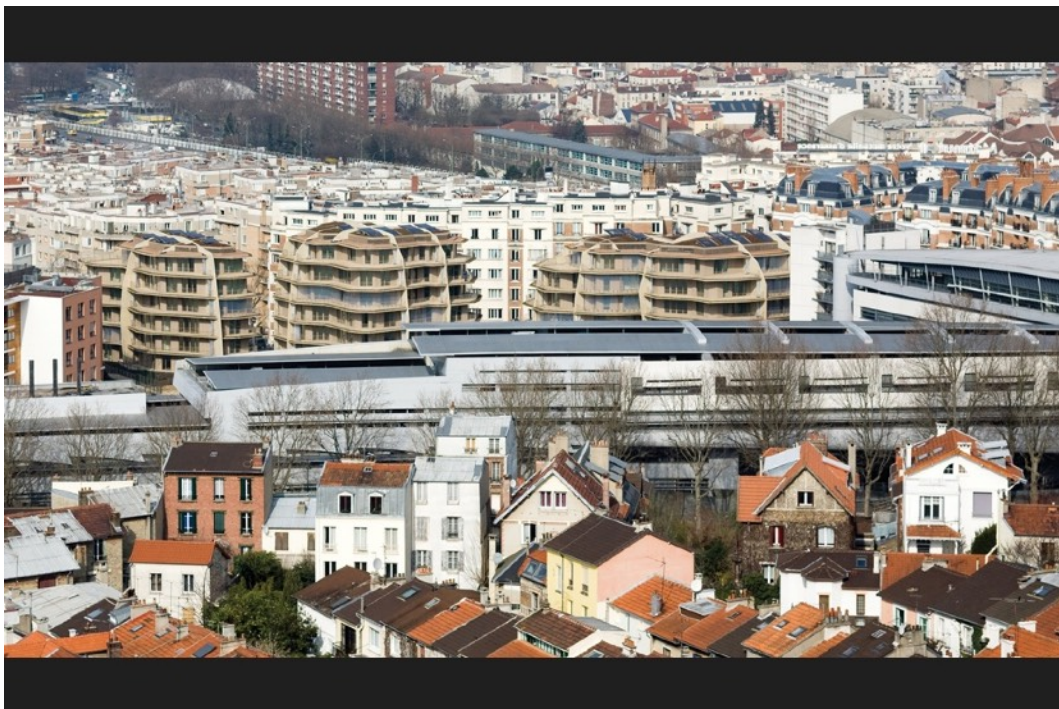
Source: <https://www.designboom.com/architecture/jakob-macfarlane-herold-social-housing/>

Speaking of living organisms, part of the buildings' environmental approach is to use "floor slabs... edged with porous stone tiles, automatically irrigated to encourage moss and plant growth" (Slessor). The aesthetic reflects the buildings' organic shapes and green building techniques, such as the inclusion of a solar-powered hot water supply system (Slessor). A parking structure underneath the plot provides a convenient place for the storage of residents' vehicles, keeping surrounding streets clear.



Source: <https://www.designboom.com/architecture/jakob-macfarlane-herold-social-housing/>

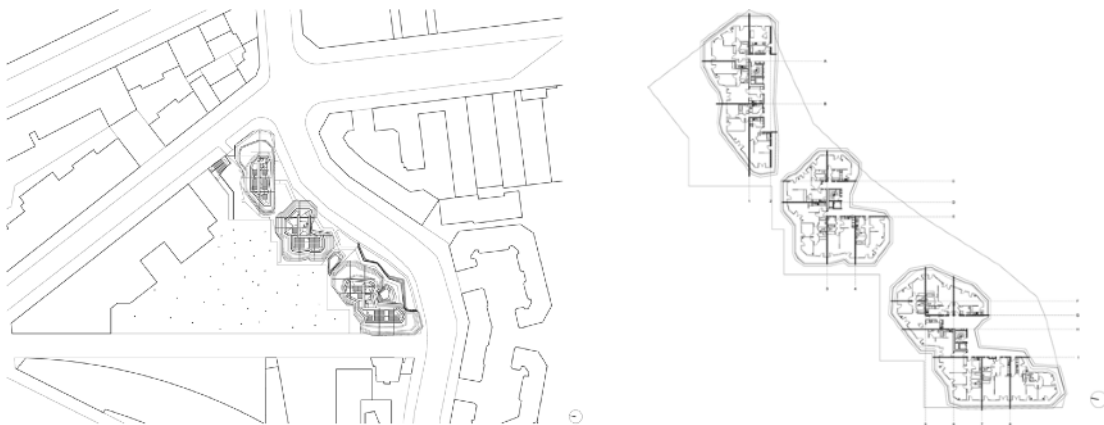
While designed to encourage sociality and play among residents, the structure is also designed with accessibility in mind, with ground floor units reserved for disabled residents. The ground floor also contains parking, shops, and easy access to the street, further promoting ease of life for residents on the ground floor.





Source: <https://www.architectural-review.com/today/public-housing-by-jakobmacfarlane-architects-paris-france/8601176.article>

The architects MacFarlane and Jakob had to work within many different restraints, including setback rules and molding the buildings around already existing vegetation. The result is a unique social housing community that stands out not only from its surroundings, but also in its social functions.



Source: <https://www.designboom.com/architecture/jakob-macfarlane-herold-social-housing/>

Works Cited

Kim, Erika. "Jakob + Macfarlane: Herold Social Housing." *Designboom*, 16 Oct. 2015, www.designboom.com/architecture/jakob-macfarlane-herold-social-housing/.

Slessor, Catherine. "Public Housing by Jakob+MacFarlane Architects, Paris, France." *Architectural Review*, 1 May 2009, www.architectural-review.com/today/public-housing-by-jakobmacfarlane-architects-paris-france/8601176.article.