



PUARL + Building Beauty Virtual Symposium

“PATTERNS + BEAUTY + REALITY”

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CLUSTER 7: REFUGEES HOUSING, LIVING, AND LIVE-WORK

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[THE SUGAR IN THE MILK - A Refugee Pattern Language RPL Draft].

REFUGEE PATTERN LANGUAGE

Cluster 1: THE REFUGEE FAMILY

Cluster 2: LEAVING PLACE – ESCAPE JOURNEY

Cluster 3: WELCOME COUNTRY - ARRIVAL PLACE

Cluster 4: ARRIVAL CITY – Urban Life and Infrastructure

Cluster 5: REFUGEES IN NEIGHBORHOODS AND COMMUNITIES

Cluster 6: BUILDINGS, FACILITIES, NEIGHBORHOOD SUPPORT

Cluster 7: HOUSING, LIVING, AND LIVE WORK

7.1 ABSORBING REFUGEE HOUSING

7.2 CREATIVITY IN HOUSING REFUGEES

7.3 BEYOND SHELTER – RADICAL HOSPITALITY

7.4 THERAPEUTIC GREENS IN REFUGEE HOUSING CLUSTER

7.5 RAISING MINORS – *support for single parents and unaccompanied minors*

7.6 TRANSCENDED SPACE – *learning, working, and sharing*

7.7 MIXED USED AND LIVE-WORK

7.8 GUESTS REALM

7.9 CONVERTIBLE ALCOVE

7.10 CULTURAL DISPLAY

7.11 CONNECTABLE UNITS

7.12 STREET FACING BALCONY

Cluster 8: WORK AND WORK LEARNING

Cluster 9: ANTI-PATTERNS

PATTERN LINKS APL-RPL

RPL5.1 THE SUGAR IN
THE MILK

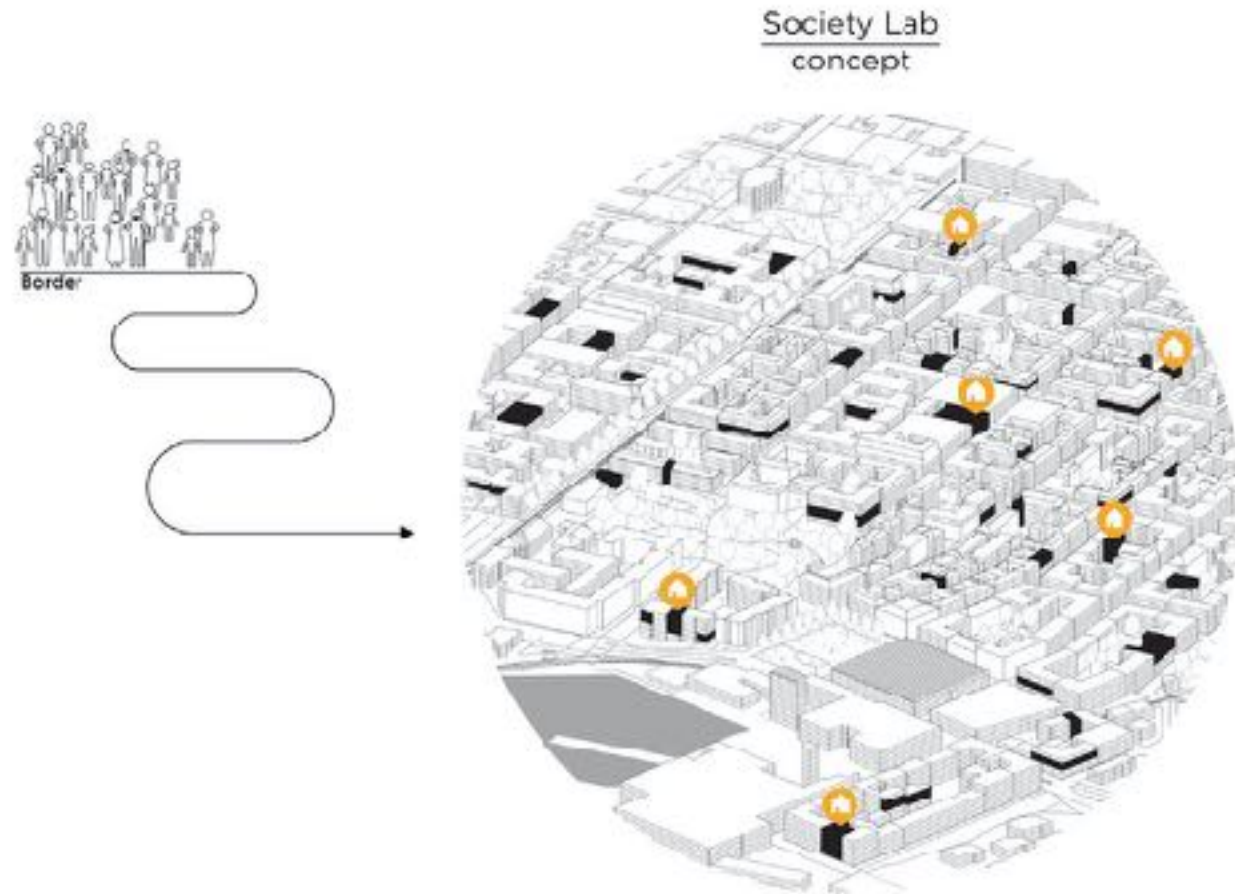
RPL5.9 NEIGHBORHOOD
WITH REFUGEES

**RPL 7.1 ABSORBING
REFUGEE HOUSING**

RPL CLUSTER 8 WORK and WORK-
LEARNING
ECONOMIC INTEGRATION

7.1 ABSORBING REFUGEE HOUSING

If refugees are pushed to live in urban fringe areas, the city will become spatially and socially segregated. This deteriorates refugees' ability to integrate, acclimate, and discourages them from becoming independent.



Right: Border to Home: Social Lab (source: Cecilia Danieli, Omri Revesz, Mariana Riobom)

7.1 ABSORBING REFUGEE HOUSING

Therefore:

A neighborhood and community needs to **identify available resources** such as buildings or units that are open for refugees and migrants. Then, residents need to understand **common needs and potential development of these spaces** such as refugee housing within a residential building, infill housing developments, or refugee housing clusters. The spaces should have **connections and transportation** to prevent risk of isolation. It is also essential to look for employment opportunities which enhance economic integration

URBAN FRINGE

Vacant lots for new developments
Poor infrastructure
Limited jobs opportunities

SUBURBAN NEIGHBORHOOD

Vacant buildings, Infill
developments
Limited infrastructure
Few jobs opportunities

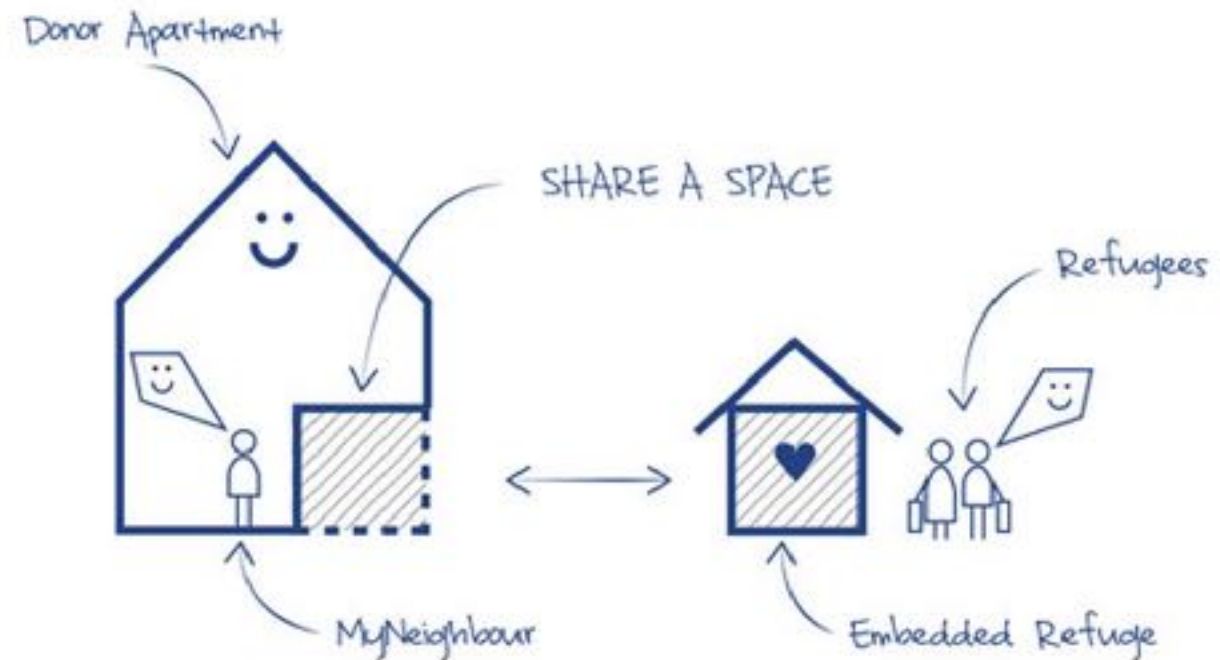
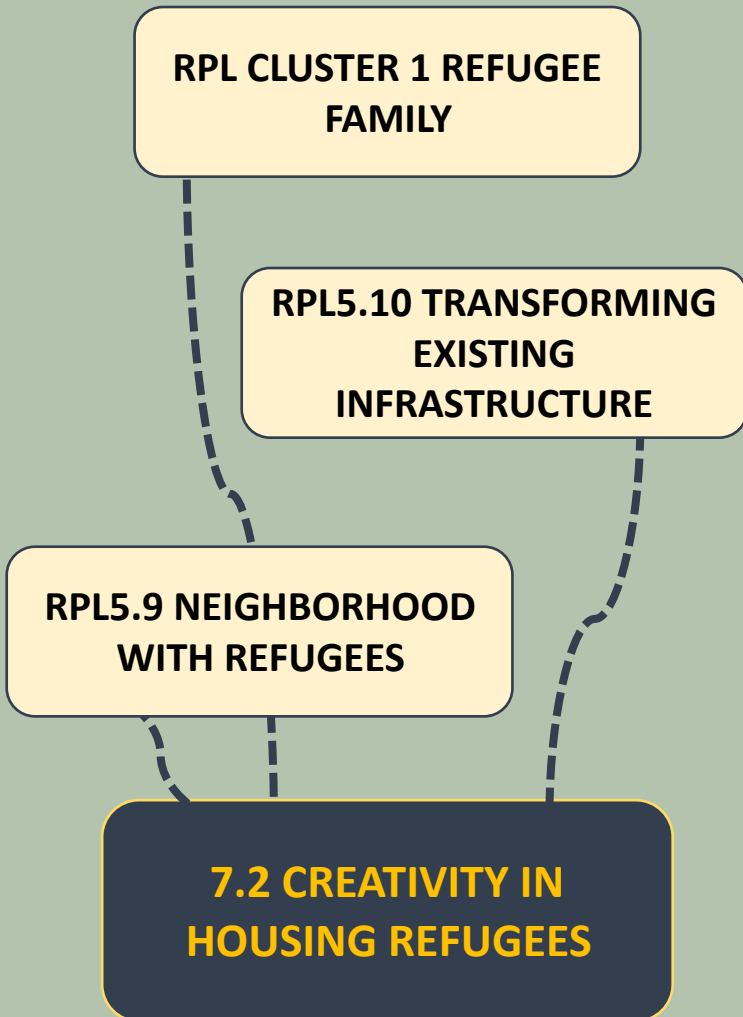
URBAN NEIGHBORHOOD

Limited vacant units or
buildings
Affordability
More job opportunities and
empty workspaces

Left: Typologies of housing opportunity in urban fabric (adopted from Deprez & Labattut)

7.2 CREATIVITY IN HOUSING REFUGEES

Refugees' situations are generally chronic and can potentially lead to social and political problems. The emergency of refugee problems requires immediate responses that prioritize humane considerations.

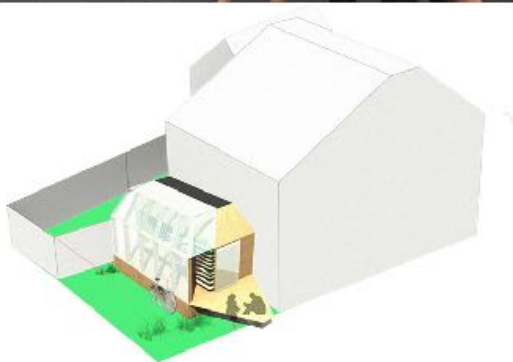


Right: We House Refugees- Finland (source: Milja Lindberg)

7.2 CREATIVITY IN HOUSING REFUGEES

Therefore:

Creativity is essential to optimize resources needed and maximize its benefits in a temporary housing to quickly response to the needs. These limitations call for 'out of a box' solutions beyond a conventional housing or shelter. For example, limitations of space call for compact housing units, spatial sharing, and reinvention of places. Limited budget asks for reusable and recycle materials, self-made housing, and repurposing of vacant buildings. With all options, **refugee housing should be socially, spatially, and financially creative.**



Top Left: Refugee housing competition, the Netherlands (source: <https://www.upworthy.com>)

Middle Left: a tiny house is delivered to Montreuil. (source: Quatorze / Maïté Pinchon)

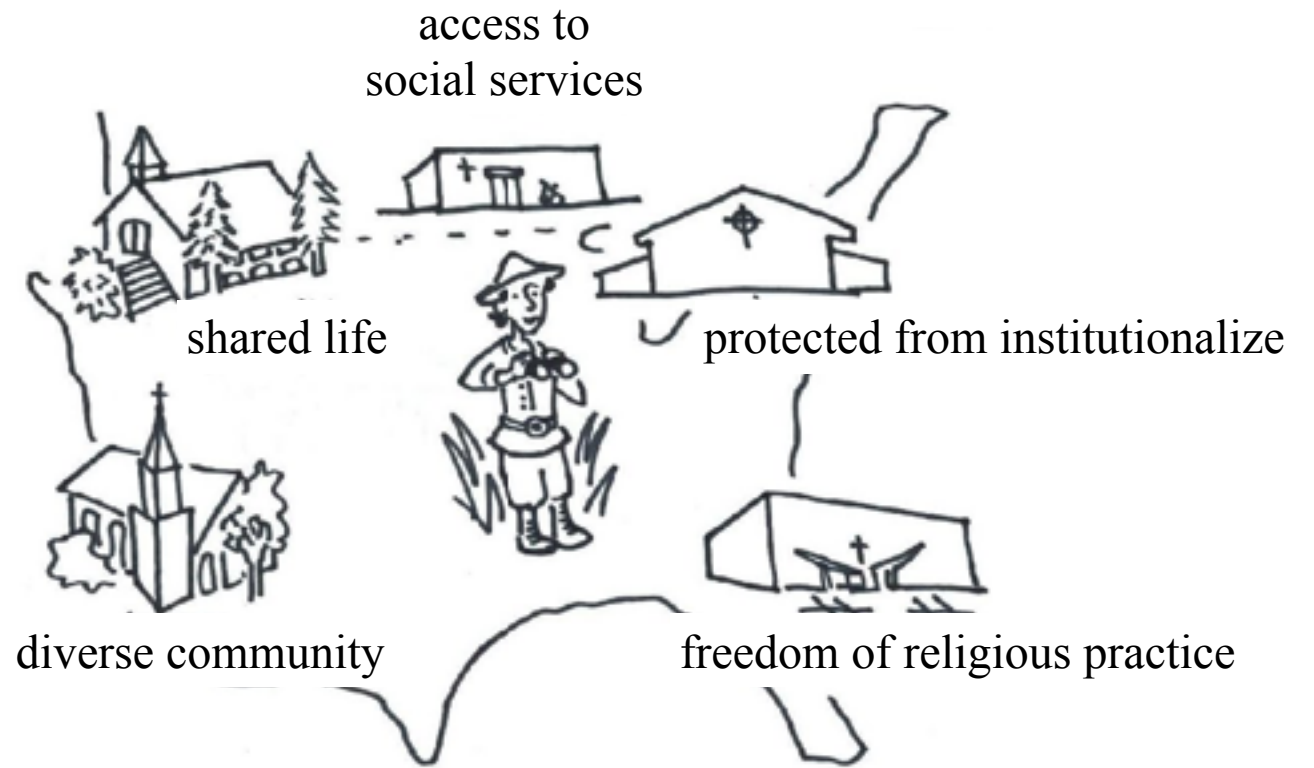
Bottom Left: IMBY concept, a tiny home for refugees (source: <https://givingcompass.org/>)

**RPL 4.4 PRACTICING
HOSPITALITY**

**7.3 BEYOND SHELTER –
radical hospitality**

7.3 BEYOND SHELTER – RADICAL HOSPITALITY

Many asylum seekers are at risk of deportation because of prolonged legal processes. Locals should practice radical hospitality if refugees are facing problems at no fault of their own.



7.3 BEYOND SHELTER – RADICAL HOSPITALITY

Therefore:

Everyone should embrace radical hospitality with extraordinary efforts to create welcoming atmosphere and inclusive environment. Refugees require extra assistance to navigate ways of living, social life, and especially their legal rights and protections.

In a household, this concept is manifested in forms of hosting migrants and refugees temporarily or even permanently while also acting as their advisors or guardians, especially in precarious situations.



Top Left: the Refugees' Kitchen reinforces community, Essen, Germany (source: Dpa Picture Alliance)

Middle Left: Sanctuary rising to protest deportation (source: https://www.ucc.org/justice_immigration)

Bottom Left: Ralph Starling and the School of Radical Hospitality: an initiative to change the world (source: <https://ralphstarling.wordpress.com>)

APL 11 HALF HIDDEN
GARDEN

APL 67 COMMON LAND

APL 168 CONNECTIONS
TO EARTH

APL 176 GARDEN SEAT

7.4 THERAPUTIC GREENS

RPL CLUSTER 7 BUILDINGS,
FACILITIES, NEIGHBORHOOD
SUPPORT

7.4 THERAPEUTIC GREENS IN REFUGEE HOUSING CLUSTER

Many refugees and migrant workers face mental problems and at risk of social isolation. Researchers show that interactive garden spaces help refugees of all ages improve their mental conditions and promote social interactions because of their ability to reconnect to nature.





Refugee Garden in South Dakota



World Relief Refugee garden in Seattle



Secret garden by Syrian Refugees in Jordan

7.4 THERAPEUTIC GREENS IN REFUGEE HOUSING CLUSTER

Therefore,

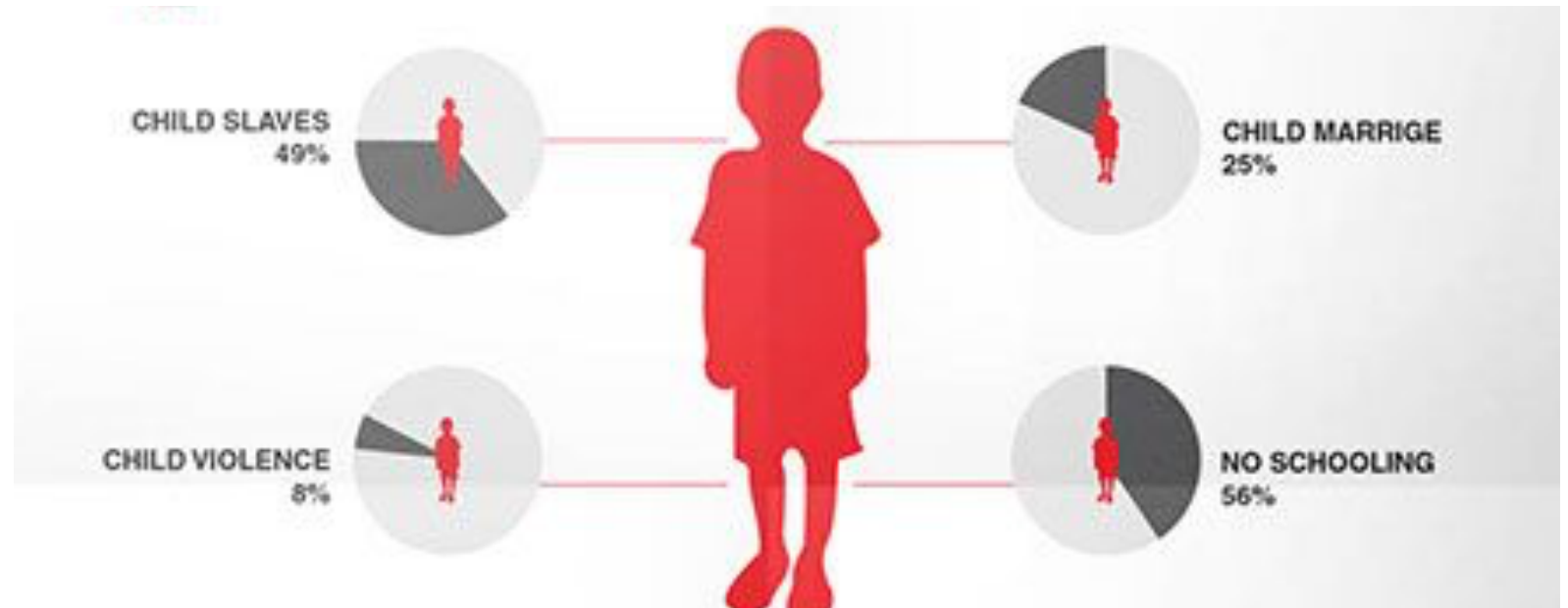
...refugee housing cluster should provide a community garden space such as **roof garden, edible courtyard, or community garden plots**. The garden comprises of many 4 x 8 ft plots. The number of plots should not be less than 60 percent of housing units. In addition to these plots, the garden should **include recreational areas with seats and space for exercise and relax**. The garden must be easily accessible for all residents, especially older refugees, with a smooth leveled path. Fruit trees and foliage surrounding the garden create a sense of privacy and protection while it remains a monitored space.

Left: Various Refugee Community Gardens (source: Emily Spartz / Argus Leader, <https://worldreliefseattle.org/>, and <https://www.greenprophet.com/>)

7.5 RAISING MINORS –

SUPPORT FOR SINGLE PARENTS AND UNACCOMPANIED MINORS

Patterns of Refugees families point out the needs of social interaction, care, and income opportunities for minors, single parents, and aged refugees. These populations face more challenges to integrate into a labor market or social life because of their age and life burdens. They call for supporting spaces so that each can live with dignity and being productive while advancing their abilities to self-reliance.



APL 40 OLD PEOPLE
EVERYWHERE

APL 57 CHILDREN IN
THE CITY

APL 86 CHILDREN'S
HOME

7.5 RAISING MINORS

SUPPORT FOR SINGLE PARENTS AND
UNACCOMPANIED MINORS

RPL 1.5 REFUGEE MOTHERS
WITH CHILDREN

RPL 1.6 UNACCOMPANIED
MINORS



7.5 RAISING MINORS –

SUPPORT FOR SINGLE PARENTS AND UNACCOMPANIED MINORS

Therefore,

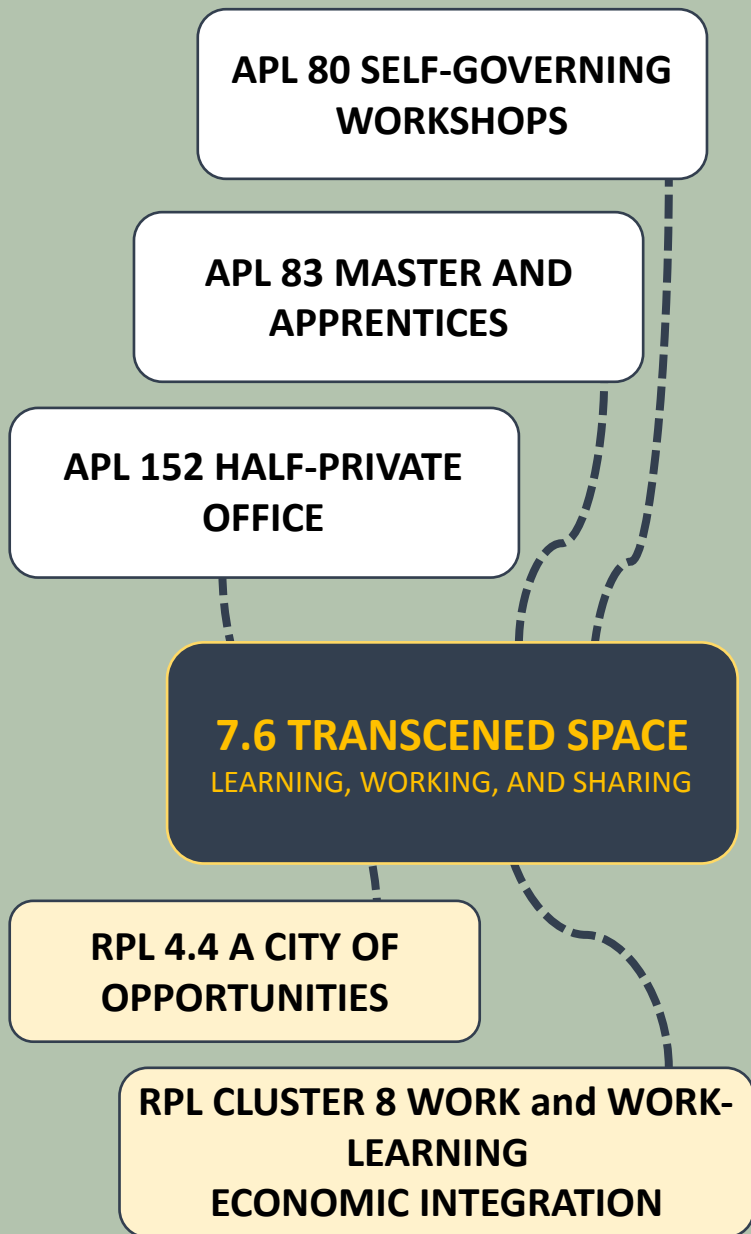
Housing cluster for refugees require childcare and children spaces. This function utilizes human resources by reconnecting young and old people to take care of each other. It is **a self-service space combines aged refugees with needs of childcare to reduce risk of isolation and promote social relationship and economic independence.** It also aims to ameliorate burdens from single parent refugees so that they can work without leaving their children unattended.



Top Left: Rohingya refugees in temporary shelter, Bangladesh (source: UNHCR/Roger Arnold)

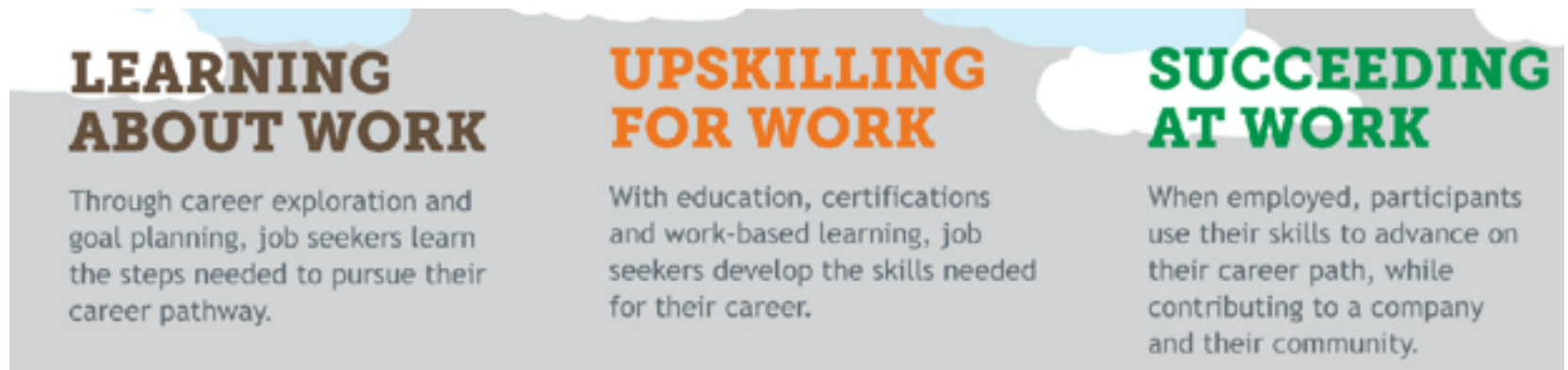
Middle Left: Refugee Support Services in Charlotte (source: Katie Levans)

Bottom Left: Playground for refugee children: an emergency response (source: Lorenzo Conti)



7.6 TRANSCENDED SPACE – learning, working, and sharing

Good space can create imagination. A transcended space enable people to learn and transform their language and labor skills. Refugees and immigrants need retraining to widen their job opportunities. Within the group itself, this space can also help maintain and pass along their culture, art and crafts skills. Additionally, they require specific education regarding health, civil rights, and citizenship.



Top: Pathway for Refugee employment by Colorado's Department of Human Services

(source: <https://www.colorado.gov/pacific/cdhs/refugees>)

7.6 TRANSCENDED SPACE – learning, working, and sharing

Therefore,

... a housing cluster should provide a training or workshop space such as **maker space, community kitchen, or lecture room** so that the residents can develop their skills and reintegrate into the local labor market. This space should be multipurpose to accommodate and rotate wide range of programs.

With the dimension of 20 x 30 ft and connection to a courtyard or open space, the room can host 25-30 people for lecture or language lesson or 60 people for casual gathering **with an extension opportunity**. In case of pandemic, this room size reduces its capacity to 10-12 people to provide safer distance while its connection to outdoor helps maintain good ventilation. The space should be equipped with telecommunications to connect with distant learning or education program.



Senior Columbians play with Venezuelan refugees



Senior Columbians play Venezuelan refugees



Public health workshop

Top Left: Grandpas' house, senior housing, supports **Venezuelan** refugees, Columbia (source: UNHCR/Jorge Daniel Berdugo Siosi)

Middle Left: Refugee Company for Crafts and Design (source: <https://www.cucula.org/en/gallery/>)

Bottom Left: Public health workshop for refugees, Turkey (source: <https://globalcenters.columbia.edu/>)

7.7 MIXED USE AND LIVE-WORK

Language barriers, saturated job markets, and non-transferable skills or qualifications many times put refugees into difficulties to integrate into local labor markets. It is also essential to highlight different needs that require ethnic entrepreneurs to response to certain demands. Additionally, living in remote areas with less businesses calls for a development of their own economy.

APL 80 SELF-GOVERNING
WORKSHOPS AND OFFICES

APL 88 STREET CAFE

APL 89 CORNER GROCERY

APL 157 HOME
WORKSHOP

**7.7 MIXED USE AND LIVE-
WORK**

RPL 4.4 A CITY OF
OPPORTUNITIES

RPL CLUSTER 8 WORK and WORK-
LEARNING
ECONOMIC INTEGRATION



Right: live/work flat typology axonometric (source: james perry + claire harper: 'room to grow')

7.7 MIXED USE AND LIVE-WORK

Therefore,

..combining housing units with commercial and retail spaces promote a self-resilience economy. **Shophouse or storefront units activate streets and advertise cultural diversity with ethnic business such as restaurants, ethnic markets, travel agencies, and money lenders.** These businesses **create more jobs and self-sustaining economy for refugee populations.** They can also bridge cultural differences and increase the visibilities of these populations



Chin Brothers Restaurant and Grocery



Textile arts empowerment for resettled refugees



Syrian refugee cook weekly meal and socialize.

Top Left: Chin Brothers Restaurant and Grocery, Indianapolis, IN (source: www.thetowntalk.com)

Middle Left: Stitch Buffalo (source: <https://www.stitchbuffalo.org/>)

Bottom Left: Newcomer Kitchen, Toronto, Canada (source: Leah Rosenthal)

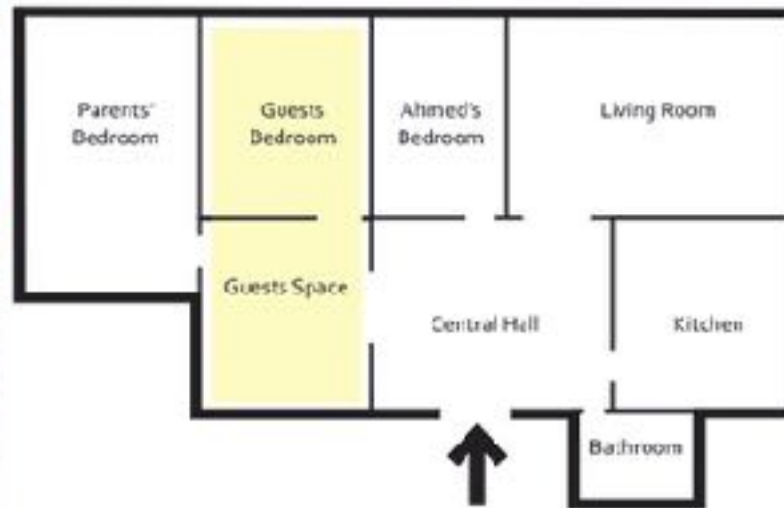
7.8 GUESTS REALM

Guest realm derives from a study of Syrian refugee housing in Essen, Germany (Davis, 2017). Culture of dedicated guest spaces, having guests -- teachers, colleagues, neighbors, and strangers can bond people with intimate welcoming and sharing moments. However, the smaller a unit is, the more difficult it is to host guests. Thus, this space is particularly important especially for cultures with strict gender separation, the absence of guest space discourages people from inviting their friends and colleagues to their home.

APL 142 SEQUENCE OF SITTING SPACES

APL 193 HALF-OPEN WALL

7.8 GUESTS REALM



A: Sketch of a typical Syrian house with dedicated guests' space (extracted from Davis' interview with Ahmed, Syrian refugee in Essen, Germany)



B: Revised floor plan of refugee housing, BAD KROZINGEN to create guest realms. (adopted from <http://www.makingheimat.de/>)

7.8 GUESTS REALM



Therefore,

...a living unit for refugees should incorporate the guest realm into their living space in order to **encourage social interaction**. The guest realm should be **separated from the main living area with some visual privacy**. It should be able to **accommodate 2-4 people in a casual setting**.

This can be balcony seating, casual dining in a kitchen, or a separate guest room for some residents to host guests, while others can continue their routine. Connecting with people enables residents to share their memories and search for opportunities in their new lives.



Top Left: Italian families host refugees (source: <https://www.infomigrants.net/>)

Bottom Left: Guests area in refugee housing (source: <http://www.makingheimat.de/>)

APL 179 ALCOVE

APL 124 ACTIVITES POCKETS

7.9 CONVERTIBLE ALCOVE

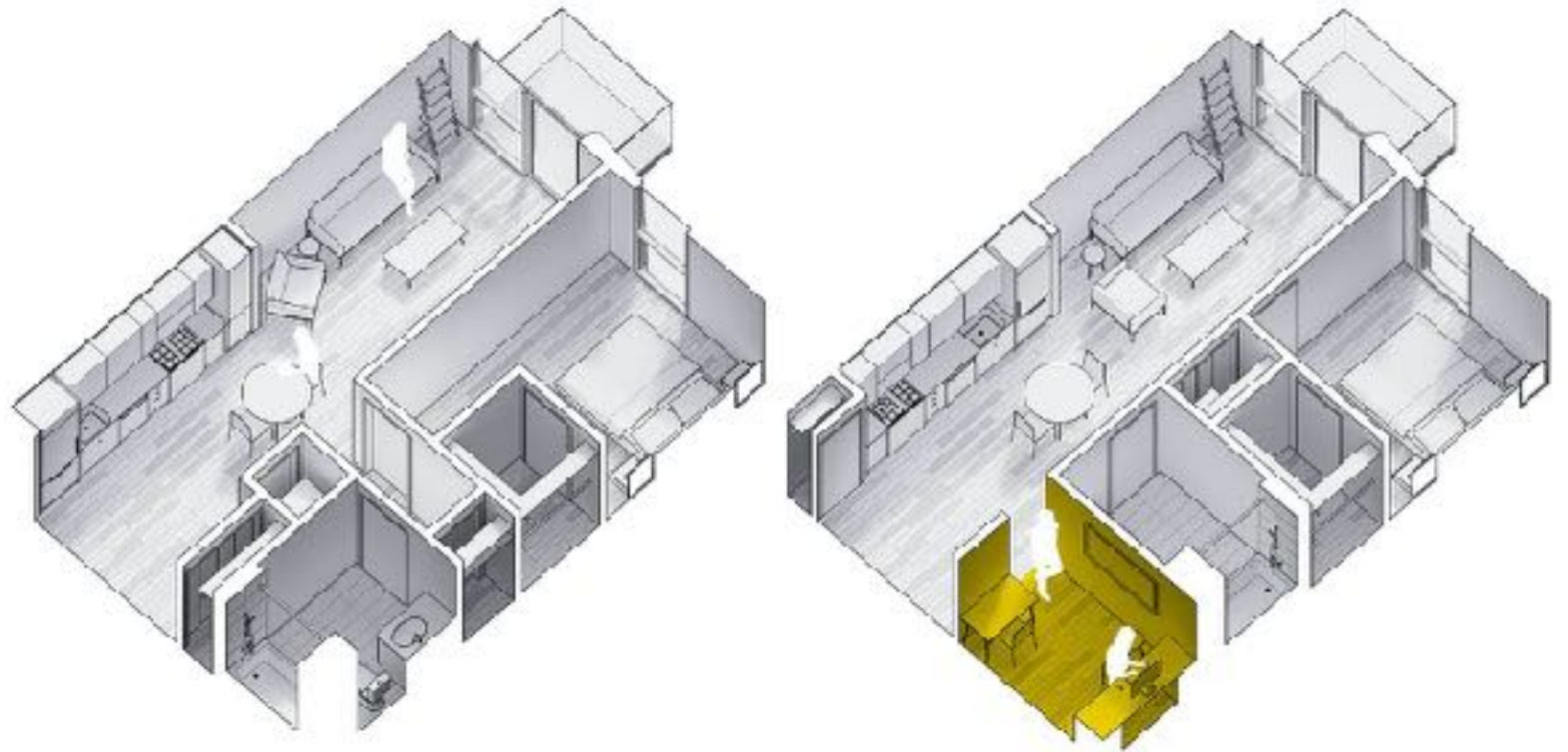
APL 137 CHILDREN'S
REALM

APL 183 WORKPLACE
ENCLOSURE

APL 188 BED ALCOVE

7.9 CONVERTIBLE ALCOVE

Because of the diverse nature of refugee populations, their variations make it difficult to create a space that fits individual unique needs within a standard unit.



Right: The need of home office - Designing smarter apartment for post Covid-19 (source: HKS)

7.9 CONVERTIBLE ALCOVE

Therefore,

... a living unit should provide a space that can be adjusted and modified for **working den, baby corner, hosting overnight guests, worship space, or gallery etc.** within a compact housing unit. This convertible alcove should be distinguishable from the main part of the room to create **a sense of separation and enclosure** with features such as lower ceiling, screening, or framing. The dimension of this space should be **at least 5 x 7 ft.** This dimension fit a working desk, guest mattress, toddler crib, or prayer rug.

Left: Minimal Alcove Bedroom by casatibuonsante architects (source: Francesca Iovene)

APL 235 SOFT INSIDE
WALLS

APL 253 THINGS FROM
YOUR LIFE

7.10 CULTURAL DISPLAY

7.10 CULTURAL DISPLAY

Changing their settlements unwillingly brings about questions of self and who they are. Traumas of being separated from love ones, calling for place to belong, and journey of self reinvention call for place making that are psychologically meaningful than a sheltering space alone.



7.10 CULTURAL DISPLAY



"Proud to be an LGBTQI immigrant"



Spare room to a refugee in UK



Romero House decorates for Christmas

Therefore,

...a home must promote an expression of self. The cultural display can be as simple as a soft wall that allow residents to paint, hang photos, build a worship altar and so on. This minor spatial modification allows refugees to maintain their memories or rediscover their identity as well as create attachment and belonging to a new home.

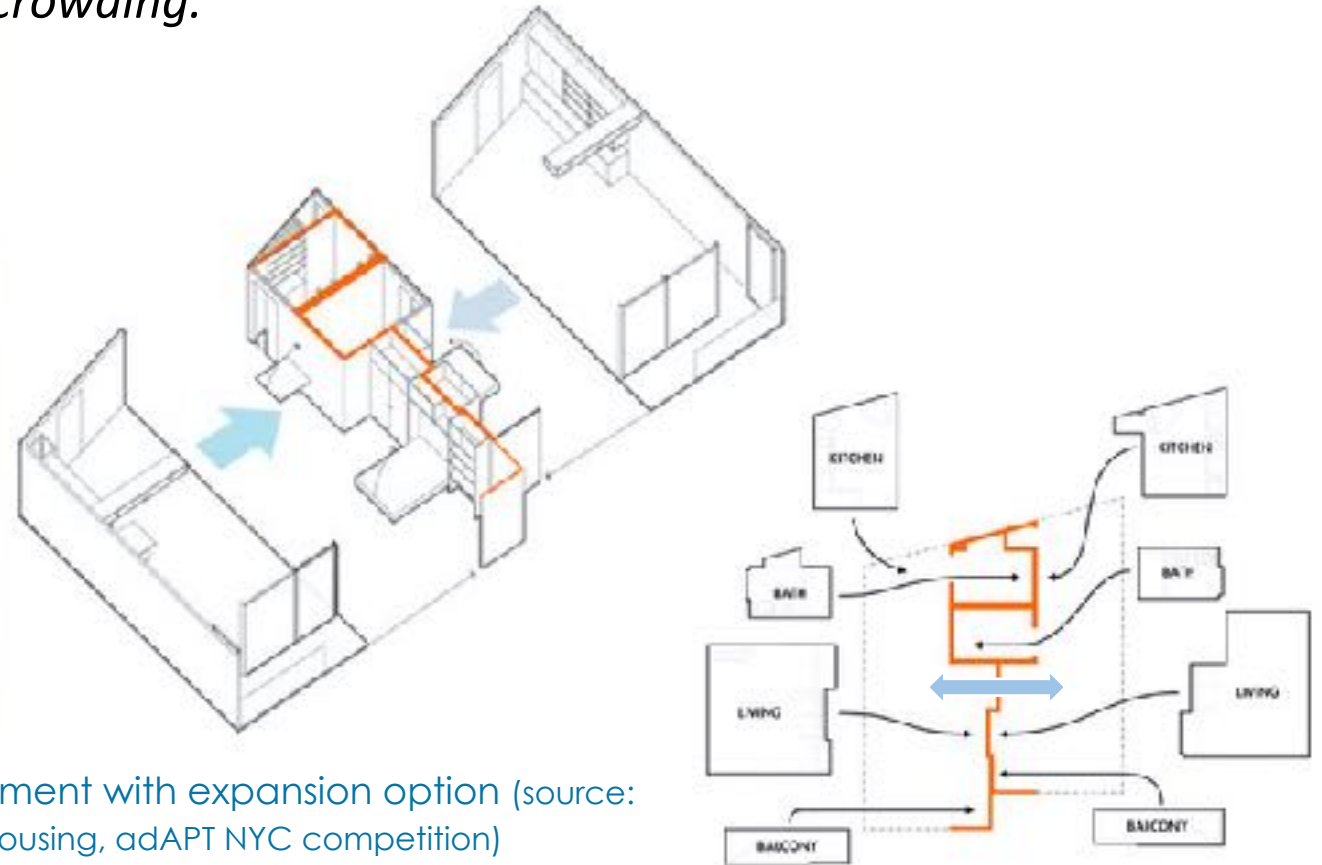
Top Left: Berlin's LGBTQI refugee home (source: DW/D Vachedin)

Middle Left: Arisema, Eritrean refugee, in her temporary home (source: Bieke Depoorter/Magnum)

Bottom Left: The inside of Romero House, a shelter for refugees in Toronto, Canada (source: Justin Greaves/Metroland)

7.11 CONNECTABLE UNITS

Many refugees come from a clan culture or collective society. These people tend to prefer living with their extended and multigeneration family members. Living in a small, single family unit, prohibits many families to maintain their social dynamic or live in standard conditions without becoming overcrowding.



Right: Micro apartment with expansion option (source: Tandem Micro-Unit Housing, adAPT NYC competition)

APL 75 THE FAMILY

APL 108 CONNECTED BUILDINGS

APL 153 ROOMS TO RENT

APL 154 OLD AGE COTTAGE

7.11 CONNECTABLE UNITS

RPL 1.1 THE EXTENDED REFUGEE FAMILY



7.11 CONNECTABLE UNITS

Therefore,

...designing housing with options **to connect units for an extended family** can help these refugees to maintain their family dynamic and social ties. This connection can be **between two houses, two apartments adjacent to each other, or even vertical connection between units**. This feature can be rather relevant when families settle down in a new land and reunite with other family members that join from the homeland still in war and peril.



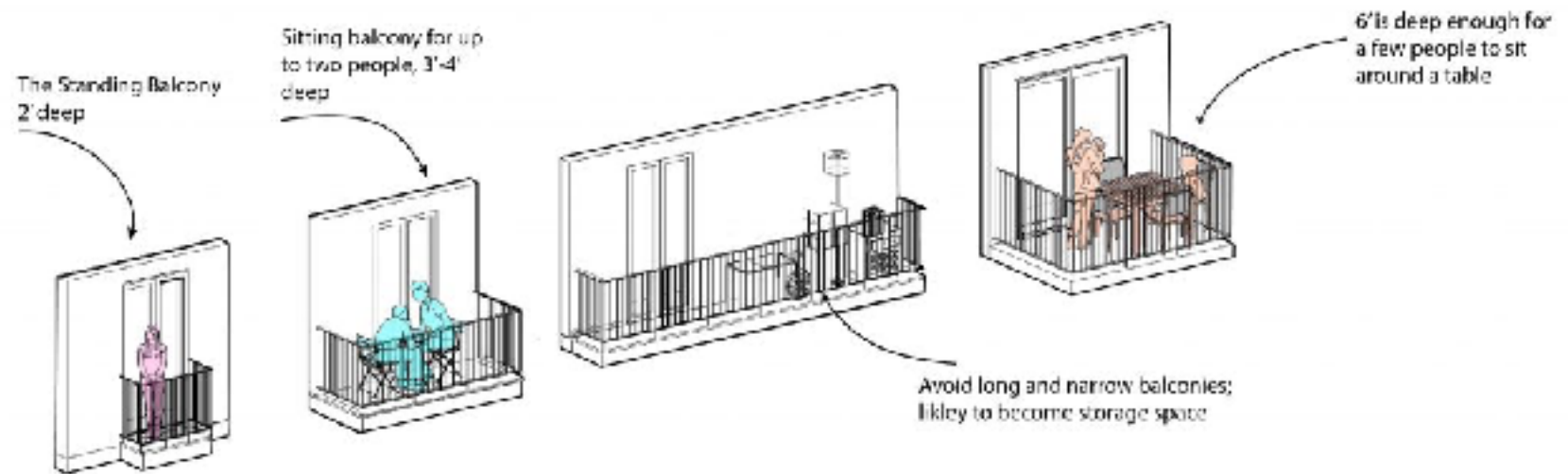
Top Left: Together, the 2020 Biennale (source: Hashim Sarkis)

Bottom Left: Extended Refugee Families in Greek Air Force base (source: Sima Diab)

7.12 STREET FACING BALCONY

A street facing balcony connects the private living space to the public domain. Living in a denser city especially in a small apartment in multistory building, the housing units **lack of connections to outdoor** can lead to spatial isolation even within a city center. Balconies **offer private outdoor space, increase natural ventilation, and provide a link as well as buffer between housing units to a neighborhood and a city** (Poon, 2020). The connections to outdoor is essential for refugees and migrants housing because they are prone to live in an overcrowded space. Street façade is also enhanced by balconies, showing variety of lifestyles and culture.

With the **COVID-19 pandemic**, many people pay more attention to the uses of a balcony. Balconies help people connect while keeping their social distance. People sing, play music, exercise, or just take fresh air via this small space.



APL 140 PRIVATE TERRACE
ON THE STREET

APL 167 SIX-FOOT
BALCONY

APL 192 WINDOWS
OVERLOOKING LIFE

7.12 STREET FACING
BALCONY

7.12 STREET FACING BALCONY

Therefore,

Refugee housing should incorporate street facing balconies to help activate the street and promote indoor-outdoor connections. Balconies create **a safe zone for these newcomers to develop their relationship to a city from a distance**. Balconies should be partially enclosed with canopy and side wall to provide safety and climate protection. The **dimension can be as small as 24 sq. ft. but six-foot depth will allow more activities** in this space. For housing cluster, architects should consider arranging of a courtyard or garden as alternatives. It is also important to orient balconies to the **sunny side** and avoid the direction that lacks sunlight.



Top Left: Diverse uses of balconies and their alterations (source: PAVA architects)

Bottom Left: A Refugee family in Sant'Alessio, Italy (source: Getty Images/AFP/A. Solaro)

HOUSING, LIVING, AND LIVE-WORK

7.1 **ABSORBING REFUGEE HOUSING**

7.2 **CREATIVITY IN HOUSING REFUGEES**

7.3 **BEYOND SHELTER – RADICAL HOSPITALITY**

7.4 **THERAPEUTIC GREENS IN REFUGEE HOUSING CLUSTER**

7.5 **RAISING MINORS** – *support for single parents and unaccompanied minors*

7.6 **TRANSCENDED SPACE** – *learning, working, and sharing*

7.7 **MIXED USED AND LIVE-WORK**

7.8 **GUESTS REALM**

7.9 **CONVERTIBLE ALCOVE**

7.10 **CULTURAL DISPLAY**

7.11 **CONNECTABLE UNITS**

7.12 **STREET FACING BALCONY**

RPL CLUSTER 7: “Housing, Living, and Live-Work”— Summary + Comments

- Outline of 12 patterns were developed starting to form a Draft Pattern Language cluster for ‘Refugees housing, living, and live-work’.
- The sequence of patterns in this cluster is arranged from connection of housing to neighborhood, program component in a housing cluster, and architectural features in each unit. All of these can be expanded and customized to site and context.
- Current Patterns clearly require connections to APL and RPL to fully comprehend with refugees and migrants living qualities and integration process.
- It is obviously important that housing for refugees and migrant workers should provide a sense of permanence that extends beyond sheltering space. Houses connect people to a neighborhood and a city. It must enhance these populations to envision their fruitful and meaningful lives in a new land.
- Covid 19 has pointed out that designing refugee/migrant housing and social housing must prioritize private amenities including kitchen and bathroom, and necessities of natural light & ventilation as design criteria not privilege. Sharing facilities becomes optional in a pandemic time.
- Home and Neighborhood have reached new importance and meaning in the age of the Corona Virus Encounter.

THANK YOU!