

# Community

## Assignment 1

### LEARNING OBJECTIVES:

- to understand facets of community
- to foster teamwork skills for a learning community



### I. ENGAGE

Connect your personal experience to the presented examples. George Kozeny's Visions of Utopia video describes the joys, challenges and possibilities of being part of an intentional community. We will jump-start the class community with the "getting to know you" activities.

#### **Reflect:** (in-class)

What successful and/or difficult group situations did the video remind you of? Sort through your memories to remember the joys of positive group activities such as clubs, family gatherings, arts, sports, volunteer work or other projects. Compare that with the challenge of being a newcomer or outsider. Think of uncomfortable situations where there was a problem in how people interacted, where acceptance did not come so easily.

- What contributed to the success or failure of the experiences?
- How was the interaction structured? Did people take different roles?
- How did roles, personalities, history, or expectations, etc. contribute to what happened?
- Recall the **physical setting** and consider how the built or natural environment may have affected the group dynamics. How did the sense of territory, ownership or boundaries affect trust?

Work in small groups to learn enough about a new classmate to introduce the person and write a 150 word profile. *Prepare to talk about 1 classmate and one of his or her relevant experience for 2-3 minutes* when we get back to the large group.

#### **Record:** (due Fri Jan 12)

We will use a Wiki, an online group authoring tool, to share and examine ideas with classmates, clients and community contributors. Get a start by 1) adding the profile of your classmate, 2) editing the profile written about you and adding a 100 x 100 black and white face photo.

URL: <http://rrcoho.pbwiki.com>

Password: salm0n

**Imagine:** (due Fri Jan 12)

What would your ideal community be like? Can you imagine an eco-topia, a utopian place where people are in harmony with nature, where worry is minimized, where all ages live harmoniously? If you lived there, what would your day be like?

Create visual icons or symbols that represent the most important aspects of your utopian community. After doodling possibilities, select the one that is most expressive and compelling to you. Create at least one final version - a bold black and white image drawn or printed and mounted on a 5" x 8" blank index card, with a defining word or phrase on the reverse. Both sides should be readable from about eight feet away. The card will be used for a discussion with visitors on Friday, Jan 12. Ideally, it could serve as a seed for your design or transform into a logo that symbolizes a core aspect of your project.

**II. DOCUMENT A COMMUNITY** (due Wed Jan 17)

Each group of 2-5 members will create a graphic presentation on urban sustainable, intentional communities. The report can focus on one topic illustrated through several communities or explain one community in depth. Each group needs to

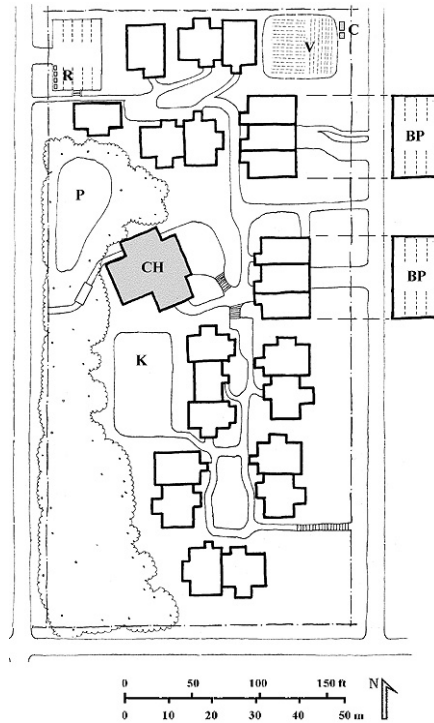
- a. identify 3 relevant examples and the reasons why they seem relevant.
- b. define topic & subtopics with areas of responsibility, list relevant communities and sources (contacts, books, journals, weblinks) on wiki by Wed 1/10, 5pm
- c. put together a rough draft of the report text and graphics - upload to Blackboard by Sunday 1/14.
- d. present the report verbally with 11" x 17" horizontal hardcopy - due 1/17 at 1pm.
- e. turn in an electronic (Adobe Acrobat PDF) document. By Fri 1/19

Each report should include a site plan with graphic scale, a section taken through an important community space (follow drawing conventions from Graham Meltzer's website

<http://www.grahammeltzer.com/cohousing/>.

*i.e. Puget Ridge Cohousing, Seattle (right)*

BRING QUESTIONS WEDNESDAY & FRIDAY



### III. TRANSLATE THE VISION (Due Wed Jan 17)

From readings, videos, tours and interviews, you will gather impressions of what people want for the future cohousing community. Each site needs to agree on a common program brief. See the Corvallis example. This should include:

- activities and spaces with areas (net s.f. x net to gross factor >> gross s.f.)
- design constraints and objectives (what should all solutions share?)



Community, a collograph by Ruth Cohen

### REQUIRED READING

- View Sebastian Collet & Per Keilland-Lund's *Ecovillages presentation*

Peruse both books and closely read:

- Ch 1-2: Introduction & How Cohousing Works from McCamant & Durrett's *Cohousing*
- Ch 1: "In Community, Intentionally" by Geoph Kozeny from *Communities Directory*

Readings are online on Blackboard, books are on reserve for 24 hours at the AAA Library.

- Overview of Eugene's Mixed Use Development planning, River Road planning opportunities, constraints and history on <http://rrcoho.pbwiki.com/>