

# Community

## Assignment 1

### LEARNING OBJECTIVES:

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



### I. ENGAGE

We will jump-start the class community with the "getting to know you" activities. These can help you connect your personal experiences to the class agenda.

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

What successful and/or difficult group situations have you experienced? Sort through your memories to remember the joys of groups such as clubs, family, 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.

#### **Imagine:** (in-class draft, post online, pinup near your desk)

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? Working in class a partner or two you hadn't previously met, **write a paragraph** describing life in your eco-topia.

**Create a visual icon** that represents an important aspect of your utopian community. After doodling possibilities, select the one that is most expressive and compelling to you. Each individual should create a **bold** version of your icon by cutting & pasting black paper on a 5" x 5" card (i.e. index card) or by printing a 5" x 5" digital one, with a defining word or phrase on the reverse. Both sides should be readable from about eight feet away. Ideally, it could serve as a seed for your design or a logo symbolizing a core aspect of your project.

**Record:** (due Fri Sept 28)

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 pixel greyscale face photo
- 3) adding your team ecotopia paragraph & labeled visual icons (100 x 100 pixels)

URL: <http://coho.pbwiki.com> (see last year's profiles at <http://rrcoho.pbwiki.com/People>)  
Password: 3nvisi0n

## II. DOCUMENT A COMMUNITY (presentations Wed Oct 3)

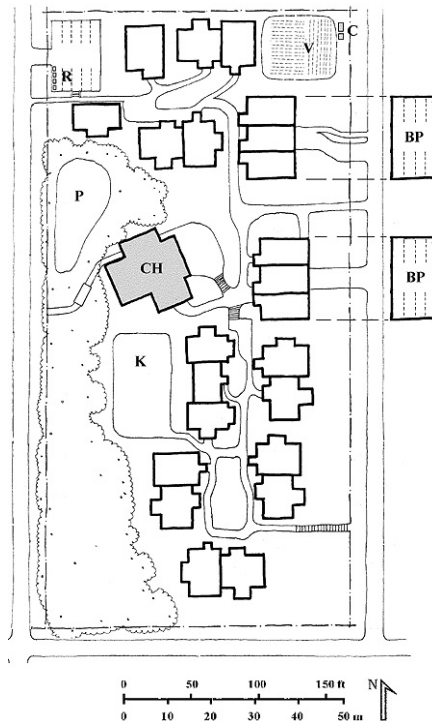
Each group of 2-5 members will create a graphic presentation on urban sustainable, intentional communities. You can focus on one topic illustrated through several communities or show several topics about one community. Topics can include: Green site design

- Natural landscaping & native plants
- Building methods & materials
- Teamwork in the design process
- Climatic response (high desert)
- Energy systems
- Lifestyle decisions for energy conservation (reducing loads)

Each group needs to

- a. identify 3 relevant examples / aspects and the reasons why they are relevant.
- b. define topic & subtopics with areas of responsibility, list relevant communities and sources (contacts, books, journals, weblinks). Post **on wiki** by Fri 9/28, 5pm
- c. put together a rough draft of the report text and graphics - upload to wiki by Sunday 9/31.
- d. present a 10 minute verbal summary (Adobe Acrobat PDF) - due Wed Oct 3 at 1pm.
- e. upload an electronic (Adobe Acrobat PDF) document. By Fri Oct 5 by 1pm (details to follow)

**Include a site plan** with graphic scale following drawing conventions from Graham Meltzer's website <http://www.grahammeltzer.com/cohousing/>.  
*i.e. Puget Ridge Cohousing, Seattle (right)*



EMAIL QUESTIONS to Nancy (nywc@uoregon.edu)

## III. TRANSLATE THE VISION

From readings, videos, tours and interviews, you will gather impressions of what people want for the future cohousing community. See Juniper Ridge website ppt for site analysis graphics or the course notebook for a Corvallis Site Analysis & programming example. 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 Bend's 2030 vision, profile of Jim and Debbie Field's farm and other site background information on <http://coho.pbwiki.com/>