

Bend Cohousing

The Central Oregon High Desert is a climate of extremes. The weather shifts drastically season to season and even day to day. Here, the city of Bend is the sixth fastest growing city in the United States. This growth is a recent thing, and there is a lot of pressure to deviate from the standard suburban housing strategy seen elsewhere in America.

“Bend in 2030 is a vibrant, dynamic and beautiful city. We are committed, respectful, and engaged citizens supported by a powerful community vision, open and accessible leadership, collaborative community groups, and ongoing civic dialogue”. This vision needs a model; an example of a better way.

A cohousing project could be the example Bend needs.

Problem

Bend has no example to fulfill its vision for the future

Solution

Cohousing!

Intentions

- Flexible use for shared space
- Example of sustainable design
- Emphasis of Place
- Ease of navigation
- Connection to inner community
- Connection to outer community
- Connection to Farm and Earth

Design Principles (see pattern language)

Site

- Shielded Parking
- Circulation Realms
- Pedestrian Street
- Site Repair
- South Facing Outdoors
- Positive Outdoor Spaces
- Connected Buildings
- Hierarchy of Open Space
- Courtyards Which Live
- Arcades

- Paths & Goals
- Path Shape
- Stair Seats
- Fruit Trees

Individual Units

- Number of Stories
- Long Thin House
- Intimacy Gradient
- Zen View
- Tapestry of Light
- Couple's Realm
- Children's Realm
- Farm House Kitchen
- Private Terrace on the Street
- Bulk Storage
- Home Workshop
- Six Foot Balcony
- Bed Alcove

Common House *(note that these work for individual units too)*

- Building Complex
- Sheltering Roof
- Indoor Sunlight
- Common Areas at the Heart
- Entrance Room
- Short Passages
- Staircase as a Stage
- Light on Two Sides of Every Room
- Connection to the Earth
- Alcoves
- Window Place
- The Fire
- Ceiling Height Variety
- The Shape of Indoor Space
- Half Open Wall
- Corner Doors
- Thick Walls
- Closets between Rooms
- Sunny Counter
- Open Shelves
- Built In Seats

Construction

- Structures Follows Social Spaces
- Efficient Structure
- Good Materials
- Thickening the Outer Walls