



The word Cenobio – literally “life in common”– refers to an ideal form of collective living. Associated with the earliest experiences of isolated monastic communities across Egypt, Palestine, and Syria between the 3rd and 4th centuries BC, the term indicates the collective attempt of living together according to an established rule and confined within a specific architectural enclosure.

The lessons of a “life in common” regulated by a chosen set of principles has been practiced continuously through centuries, and, more importantly, across differing scales of “isolation” and “togetherness”. From the religious communities wandering the United States in the 19th century, through to the communes of hippies, and up to contemporary corporate campuses and co-sharing, the ideals of an architecture “in common” still resonates today. Yet, what is the common across the lived architectural experience of most of our citizens? And how can that be registered within the specific individual domiciliary nature of living today?

This studio will explore the architecture of a “life in common” through the form of individual inhabitation across varying contexts. Analysing the works of the artist Absalon, the writer Don Watson, the architect Leopold Banchini and others, the studio will ask students to formalise a position on what is common, and how can it be reproduced within individual inhabitations for urban, rural and remote contexts.

In this way, the studio aims to teach students to design for specific needs without demoting commonality or the generic, and, in turn, addressing real world problems around housing, environmental scarcity and new forms of domesticity outside a sedentary family structure of mass consumption.

CENOPIO

STUDIO TIMES

Wednesday

9:30am-4:30pm (1hr lunch)

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