

## 20833 | Cost-effective housing: forms of collective living

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### Abstract

The critical reflection to be developed is focused on a research on the theme of collective housing, whose focus is on new and different ways of living, that is, multifamily housing buildings that stand out for the originality of the dwellings or for the diversity. Thus, the main theme is the recent cost-effective housing competitions promoted by the IHRU (Institute for Housing and Urban Rehabilitation) which have already reached a total of 25 tenders for the total design of 2,656 homes.

The objective is then to discuss the assumptions and limitations imposed by these competitions (such as the orientation and ventilation of the apartments, type of accesses, forms of sizing) that limit the design solutions for buildings, but above all, the design of the family unit. These principles, which must be long, make thinking about what residential architecture is somewhat limiting, leading to fires that are little tried, explored and less interesting solutions.

Thus, we propose to discuss the housing models, based on the terms of reference of the recent Castelo da Maia Competition promoted by the IHRU. According to the IHRU, this ensemble should function as a structuring element that reinforces the quality of the public space, as well as integrating harmoniously into the existing urban fabric, unifying all the adjacent surroundings. The competition consists of the design of 224 dwellings divided into several collective buildings. It should also include the design of an Urban Park, support areas for the housing condominium and an area for commerce and services.

This critical review is enhanced by a comparative reading with a careful selection of economic collective housing references designed, between the 70s and 90s, in the north of Portugal in order to observe the different approaches.

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**Keywords:** Inhabit; family cell; Access; Urban Mesh; Orientation.

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