



# Re-imagining Social Housing.



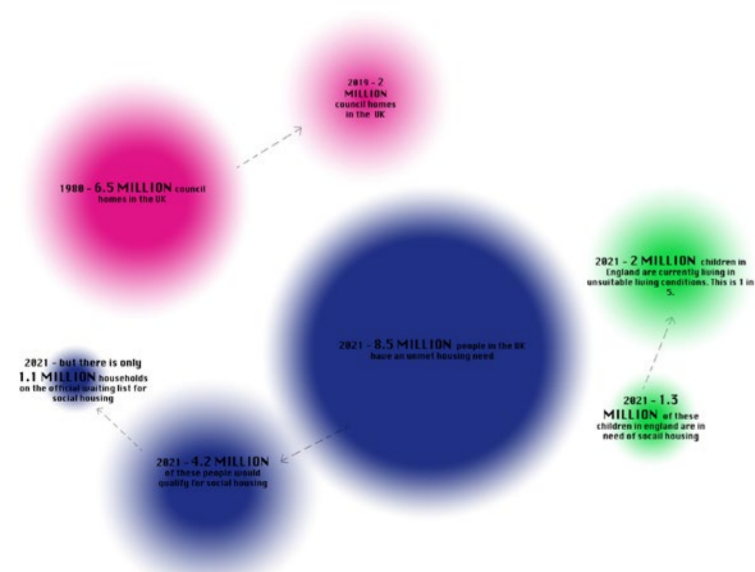
Within this project, I will be focusing on the current housing crisis the UK is facing. I will be investigating how the reuse of existing buildings can bring character and individuality into social housing, while also helping to provide spaces for potential homes. I will also be focusing on the importance of Biophilic design being incorporated in living environments as well as other design elements in order to create a more homely, inviting environment to social housing.

Social Housing - Affordable rented properties, provided by local government for people who have low incomes, allowing them to live with dignity and equality.

## Concept.

### The Housing Crisis.

Social housing is so important as it helps the most vulnerable in society and it prevents homelessness. I feel strongly that everybody deserves to have a stable, safe and inspiring home/base in their lives as it completely elevates the quality of living. Having somewhere that is not just a roof over your head, but a place that is a 'home' effects so many different parts of individuals lives, e.g. mental health, motivation, productivity, mood etc. However due to the housing crisis currently in the UK, so many people are not able to get the help and support that is promised when it comes to social housing.



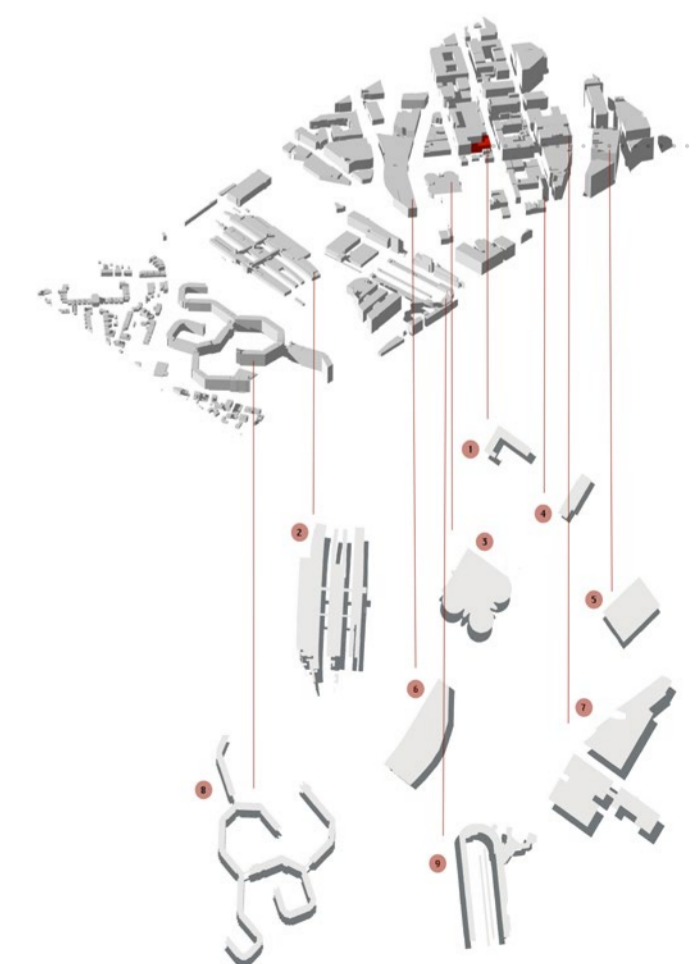
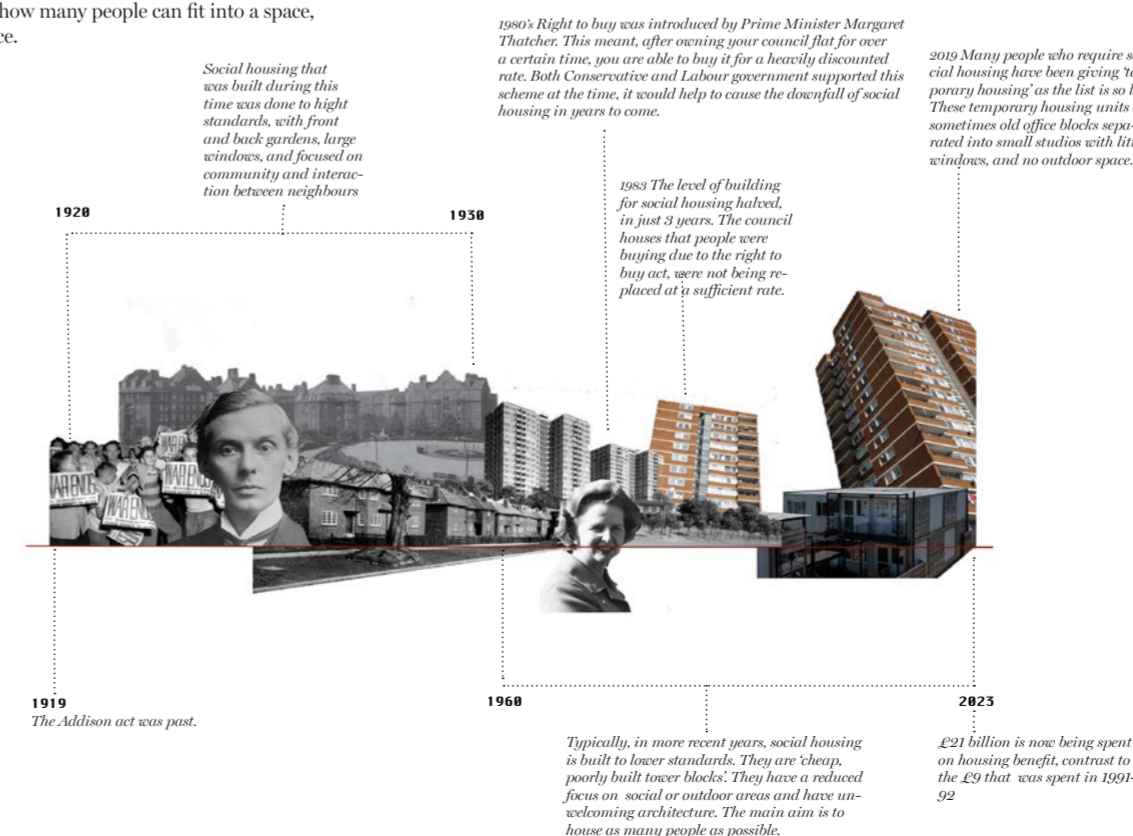
After re-researching into the housing crisis in the UK, it can clearly be seen that the UK needs to do more to address and solve this issue. The local government is meant to provide 3 primary functions, education, health and welfare, and house keeping. According to a report from the National Housing Federation in 2021, there are 8.5 million people in the UK with an 'unmet' housing need. 4.2 million of these people would qualify for social housing. More alarmingly, in 2021, 1.3 million children are in need of social housing.

However, looking at the graph below, it can be seen since 1950 the building of social housing has decreased at a significant rate.



### Social Housing through time.

Further research into the housing crisis highlighted how the care time and effort of designing social housing has decreased since the Addison Act was passed in 1919. It seems as though when the first council estates were designed, it was focused around people centred design. Front and back gardens, large windows, social streets. Where as now it seems to be a case of how many people can fit into a space, high rise tower blocks and a lack of green space.



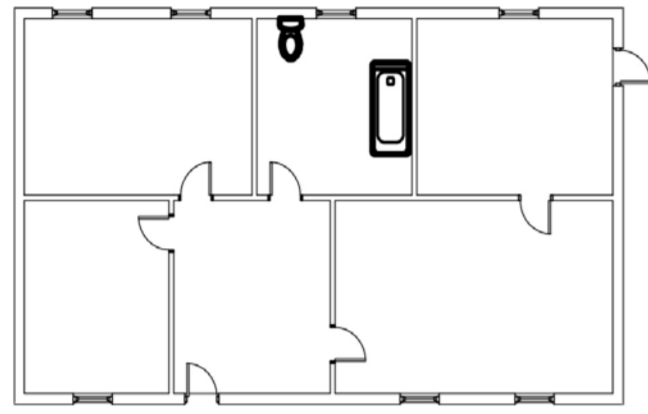
# Concept.

## Post War Housing - Prefabs.

To start off the concept of my design, I looked into my family history. My mother and grandmother both lived in council houses at points in their lives. The pictures to the right show my grandmother pictured in her prefab home, in Northampton, in the 1950's.

Prefab housing is a form of temporary housing that aimed to last up to ten years. However, many prefab units are still being used today. In my grandmother's case, each prefab unit was surrounded with their own garden, from the front to the back. The importance of this was reiterated to me when I saw the pictures below as all pictures were taken outside, and 3/4 pictures shows the children playing in outdoor space. This demonstrates, to me, the necessity for greenery, and outdoor space close to home for children.

The floor-plan to below shows the house was a 2 bedroom one bathroom unit and it housed 2 adults and 2 children. Despite being small, my grandmother claimed she, and her neighbours loved living there. From this I can see the care went into social housing at the time. It reiterates the phrase, 'quality over quantity'.



(The above image roughly outlines the floor plan of my Grandmother's 1950's Prefab home.)



## Chatting to the Neighbours.

In the proposed plan, there is a big focus on community. I have taken small things into consideration to further boost the community aspect of the site. For example, placing front doors adjacent from each other. I feel this gives residence a change to communicate to one another and develop a sense of community.

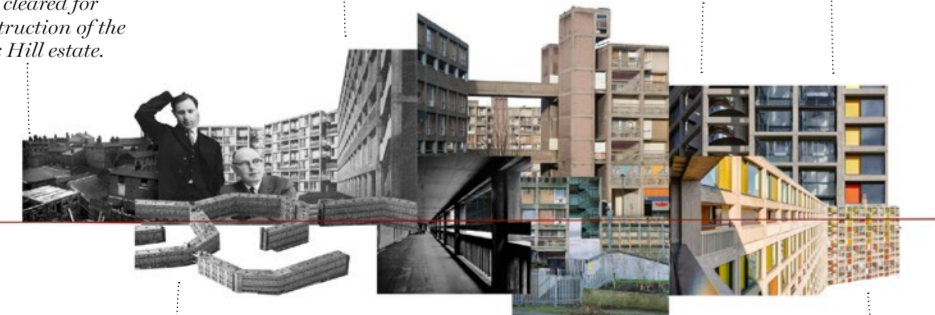


1961 Construction was completed. Smith and Lynn focused on community. They designed 'streets in the sky' to encourage interaction. It aimed to replicate the social aspect of a normal, ground level street. The old residents of the slums were rehoused next to old neighbours. It was said to be the most ambitious city development of its time.

2004 'Urban Splash' bought Park Hill to re-develop the abandoned housing estate.

1998 Park Hill became Europe's largest listed building.

1930 The slums were cleared for construction of the Park Hill estate.



1945 Architects, Ivor Smith and Jack Lynn began work on the estate.

1980's Unemployment rose. The steel industry of Sheffield collapsed. The pubs on the Park Hill estate were barred up. Park Hill was now getting associated with antisocial behaviour, e.g., muggings, drugs, graffiti, and poor noise quality. The architecture didn't help this as it consisted of a lot of dark corridors and alleyways throughout the estate.

2013 RIMA awarded for the redeveloped apartments of Park Hill.



# Design.

## Exploded Isometric.

Scale @ 1:100

I have created an exploded isometric image to sit alongside the full isometric of the site.



### 2 Bed Dwelling.

This visual depicts one of the 2 bed dwellings on the ground floor. The living area looks onto the courtyard, an element every dwelling on the site has. This has been done purposely for two reasons. It further incorporates the biophilic aspect of the design, ergo, further exposing the residence to its benefits. And also, it allows parents to have the ability to watch their children playing. I feel this creates a safe environment for a family.



Scale @ 1:100



Scale @ 1:100



Scale @ 1:100





**First Floor Balcony.**

Each dwelling above the ground floor has its own private balcony. I felt this was extremely important in my design as it helped to replicate a 'garden'. Getting fresh air comes with many benefits and when living in a flat above ground level, it can be hard. Incorporating a balconies allows all residence on the 1st and 2nd floor the chance to have their own private outdoor space.



**3 Bed Dwelling.**

Here depicts a 3 bed dwelling on the first floor of the site. Again, the residence can on look to the courtyard. It is an open plan living, dining area. I felt as though this best uses the space and makes it feel as open as possible. It also better allows for light to flow through the space.





## Private Spaces on the Roof Terrace.

Community is a major element to my design. However, I also don't want people to be put off by the idea of having to socialise with neighbours every time they use the outside spaces. The outside spaces are essentially the residence garden as well. Because of this I felt it important to add more 'private', tucked away seating spaces around the roof terrace to allow people to sit alone if they require.

