The Netherlands needs a million new homes between now and 2030. That is a gargantuan task in every imaginable way: logistics, policy making, financing and sheer building volume. The sudden emergence of this challenge in the public consciousness, has led to countless news items, background stories and reports, each of which marvel at the magnitude of the task.

But ‘1 million new homes in 2030’ is not just a matter of bulk, it is also a matter of quality. And therefore it is a great challenge for us: architects and designers. Questions we need to ask and need to be able to answer, are ‘How do we provide high-quality, affordable housing for a diverse population?’ ‘How can our designs contribute to an inclusive society?’ and ‘How can we limit our ecological footprint with smart, future-proof and sustainable design solutions?’.

The Dutch Housing graduation studio operates within this context of 1 million homes. You will design a housing scheme for the M4H-area in Rotterdam, a soon to be transformed harbour area on the North-bank of the river Maas.