The architectural design of housing complexes is strongly embedded in local culture, patterns of inhabitation, building methods and history. Only when you understand and have mastered the prevailing customs and practices, will you be able to design a building which makes sense.

The Dutch Housing MSc1 Studio focuses on the fundamentals of the Dutch housing design and construction practice. It deals with the themes of stacking & linking, repetition & exception, access & circulation, dwelling typology, construction methods, climate control and sustainability.

The semester opens with a series of introductory lectures, which expound on the themes as well as a series of workshops which address the themes one after the other. After that, you will design a residential complex in an urban environment in the Netherlands. The design phase is accompanied/preceded by research into the design assignment and the specific topics of the studio.

Though topics may vary from one semester to the next, at the core of each studio lies the design of dwellings and of the dwelling environment, complemented by research and literature study. The rich history of Dutch residential architecture forms the material of this research.

The Dutch Housing Studio runs in conjunction with AR1A080, run by the Building Engineering department. Both studios form one coherent whole and architecture and building engineering teachers will collaborate closely.

Design work is done individually, while some of the research may be performed in teams.