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Living and Sustainability: An Environmental Critique of Design and Building Practices, Locally and Globally

1. Paper / Proposal Title: Extra-Long Residential Infrastructures. The case of collective housing on the large-scale

2. Format:

Written paper, verbal presentation or Pecha Kucha

3. Author(s) Name: Sálvora Feliz Ricoy

4. University or Company Affiliation: Technical University of Madrid

5. Abstract (300 words):

We are interested in the study of the extra-long constructions which will be named XL Residential Infrastructures and characterised by their façade length (longer than 400 metres), by the great residential capacity that they hold (communities of more than 1,000 users) and by the existence in these constructions of recognisable elements of the city such as “streets in the sky” (Smithson 1952), local shops, different speeds for the building itinerary (by car, motorbike and bike), in between spaces for walking or meeting and so on.

This research will be conducted through the analysis of 60 collective housing study cases that were constructed from the twenties. Some of the study cases are Park Hill Building (1955-1961), in Sheffield, with a façade length of 1,010 metres and with housing capacity for 3,448 people; Forte di Quezzi Residential Set (1956-1968), in Genoa, with a façade length of 1,550 metres and with housing capacity for 2,010 people, only in the main building; the New Community Housing Byker (1970-1980), in New Castle upon Tyne, with a façade length of 980 metres (combining the 3 blocks) and with housing capacity for 1,900 people, only in its longitudinal buildings; or the New Corviale (1973-1981), in Rome, with a façade length of 958 metres and with housing capacity for 8,953 people.

Nowadays, these cases have logistical problems, so we need to study them in order to contribute with a solution. The conclusions of this research will yield reflections around several notions connected with these buildings which shape a lexicon linked with the large-scale as district, habitation cell, community, itinerary, horizontal programmatic layout, communal areas, socialisation areas, in between spaces, privacy areas gradation, hybrids, horizontality, functioning rules, standard cross-section, user loyalty systems, support, suburb, super-block or size, among many others.

6. Author(s) Biography (200 words each):

Sálvora Feliz Ricoy is an architect from Polytechnic University of Madrid, and Advanced Architectonic Projects Master with the specialty of Processes of Technological Innovation in Architecture from the same University, where she is currently PhD Candidate with the title "XL Residential Infrastructures: Collective housing in the large-scale from 1929. She has worked with different offices as Herzog & de Meuron or dosmasunoarquitectos, in addition to do her own projects. In 2016, she wins the Call for theoretical projects for the Spanish Pavilion of the Venice Biennale 2016. Her Degree Final Project has been awarded in several competitions as the V Sample of Degree Final Projects of the XII Spanish Urban & Architecture Biennale or the International Competition Is Arch, among others. From 2012, she is cofounder and chair of the Empathetic Assemblies Association (Conjuntos Empáticos), to disseminate the Architecture activities. She has participated in different exhibitions, conferences, lessons, researches and projects from the individual and collaborative initiative with offices to universities.