1. SITING

WORLD NEXUS HOUSING

ARCHITECTS: Osama Ishiyama, OMA, Steven Holl, Oscar Tusquèz, Marc Mack, and Christian de Portzampare
LOCATION: Fukuoka, Japan
YEAR: Completed March 1991
STUDIED BY: Michelle Adebayo

GENERAL PROJECT INFORMATION:

This housing project was created on a twelve million dollar budget or 1.4 Billion Yen. The program is composed of twenty-four apartments, four shops, and parking. The structural system was created using reinforced concrete and steel. Some of the other major materials used include a black concrete wall in a textured casting, Zinc alloy roofing, and Aluminum windows with a variety of glass types.

On the lower level of each unit there is an individual entranceway that leads to a patio space with white pebbles and a staircase that leads to the second level. The second story is composed of individual rooms and lastly the third story contains the living quarters, dining room, and open-air, Japanese influenced rooms that are configured by multiple sets of screens and curtains.
PROJECT SITING:
In the late eighties client, Arata Isozaki commissioned a team of architects, one Japanese and five non-Japanese to design a freestanding perimeter housing unit. A primary goal of that the client had in mind was to introduce a “new urban lifestyle” in Fukuoka, Japan. Fukuoka, a city that can be described as less chaotic and more organized than the typical Japanese city.

The project consists of 24 individual housing units that stand three stories high. Each unit is clustered together to span two blocks. Each unit offers an assortment of spatial conditions. Some of these conditions being, the relationship of enclosed to exploding, intimate to open, high versus light, concrete to abstract, and public to private space. Some of these conditions can be observed when looking at the vertical courtyard that introduces light and space through the center.

Around the exterior of the sitting there is a cyclopic wall that wraps around the exterior of the blocks. The roofs of the domed Japanese units are blanketied with grass. Separating itself from the walls are the “floating” rooflines of the 3-story structure. The roofline takes on character from the mountains that contain the city.
Above Photo: This photograph shows the unique resonance between the “floating” roofline and the beyond cityscape at night.

Photo Above: This is an interior photograph of an individual housing unit.

Cross section (scale 1/400)