ARC2014: Design Studio 4 - Comprehensive Building Project

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Above. Denys Lasdun, St. James Place, London, UK

THE HOME IN THE WHOLE

EXPRESSING UNITIZATION

This section will take as it's point of departure the 'functional tradition' to expression in modernism, where the interior distribution of spaces is legible in its exterior articulation. This in contrast to mere exterior stylization and patternmaking, whether 2D or 3D, or the rarer tradition of structural expression, both of which tend to de-prioritize the interior unit. We will look closely at the creation of uniquely designed homes, of a variety of sizes for a plurality of household types (families with children, multi-gen, singles, couples, hybrid home-work studios, etc.), along with clever circulation arrangements. A significant aim will be to foreground the idea that housing at this scale should give dignity and identity to the household, not unlike how single-family homes provide identity on a street of heterogenous frontages, but challenged to do so while also making the whole building expression cohere. Otherwise put, this about part-to-whole relationships, for multi-unit housing. We will see in the design of housing units everything that ought to make a building design 'comprehensive'. When done well, carefully designed home units can be the generator for envelope expression, including fenestrations, ventilation, mechanical systems, outdoor spaces, greenery, building circulation, and structural expression.

