

CATAL HUYUK INSPIRED COMMUNITY LIVING

THIS DESIGN WOULD BE A MODERN TAKE ON THE CATAL HUYUK HOUSING, AS BEING RECTANGULAR STRUCTURES, THAT CAN BE EASILY ADDED TOO AND STACKED UP. A SORT OF MODERN DAY COMMUNITY, WHERE ONE CAN OWN A SQUARE OF LAND, TO STACK THEIR COMPLEX UP VERTICALLY. DEPENDING ON HOW MANY STORIES THEY WANT, AND HOW MUCH THEY WANT TO PAY. THEY WOULD BE RECTANGULAR SHAPED HOMES - MAKING IT EASIER TO STACK, AS THE BASES COULD LATCH ONTO ONE ANOTHER. INSTEAD OF CREATING THE STRUCTURES OF OUT CLAY, IT WOULD BE A METAL FRAMING, WITH SIMPLE WHITE WALLS ON THE INSIDE, AND A NICE STONE PATTERN ON THE OUTSIDE. THIS THEN GIVING THE OWNER A PERSONALIZED OPTION OF PAINTING THE INSIDE WALLS A COLOR OF THEIR CHOOSING. EACH FLOOR, SHALL HAVE A PURPOSE BUT ALSO ACCOMMODATE MULTI-USE WITH THE OPTION OF INSTALLING MOVABLE DIVIDING WALLS. EACH CUBE WILL COME WITH AN ALREADY INSTALLED PULL DOWN STAIR CASE, WITH WILL BLEND IN ALMOST SEAMLESSLY WITH THE CEILING. THAT BEING SAID, THE FLOOR WILL HAVE A HIDDEN TRAP DOOR, TO BE EASILY REMOVED IF NEEDED ACCESS TO THE FLOOR ABOVE. THE MAIN FLOOR DOOR WILL BE ON THE SIDE OF THE HOUSE, BUT TO GET FROM ROOM TO ROOM, ONE WOULD CLIMB THE STAIRS UP, AND WHICH BEAMS THERE WOULD BE ACCESS TO THE ROOF. THERE WOULD BE AN OPTION FOR THE USER TO INSTAL A ROOFTOP ACCESS POINT, WHERE IF THEY DO NOT WISH TO BUILD ANY HIGHER, THEY ARE ABLE TO INSTALL A TYPE OF PLATE THAT ENABLES THEM TO HAVE A ROOFTOP GARDEN. AS THESE MODULES WILL BE STACKED SIDE BY SIDE, IT WOULD GRANT ACCESS TO NEIGHBORS TO GO FROM ROOF TO ROOF TO RELAX AND ENJOY ONE ANOTHER'S COMPANY. THIS PROPOSED PLAN RELATES TO THE CATAL HUYUK IN THAT IS REFERENCES THE STACKED HOUSES, AND THE EASY OPTION OF STACKING THEM HIGHER IF NEEDED. IT ALSO ACCOMMODATES FOR ROOFTOP ACCESS, AND EASY ROOM TO ROOM CIRCULATION THROUGH THE HIDDEN STAIRS. IT RELATES TO THE CATAL HUYUK IN THAT EACH OF THE ROOMS ARE GOING TO HAVE A SIMPLE PURPOSE, BUT CAN ALSO ACCOMMODATE MULTIPLE ACTIVITIES.



STREET VIEW SHOWING BLOCKED HOUSE, CLOSE TOGETHER. OPTIONAL STORY HEIGHTS



ROOFTOP VIEW, OF OPTIONAL GARDEN, OR RELAXING AREA. EASY COMMUNICATION AND ACCESS BETWEEN ROOFTOPS



INTERIOR VIEW SHOWING PULL DOWN STAIRS AND MOVABLE WALL, WHITE (CUSTOMIZABLE) WALLS, AND EASY CIRCULATION.

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Research Paper

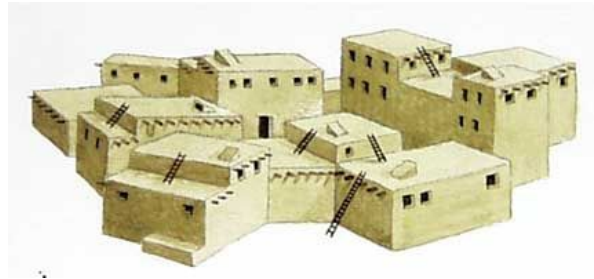
Architecture of the Çatalhöyük

Prehistory: the period of time before written records. It was a time where people lived with no documentation. The only way we know about this time, was by the ruins that are left behind. The ancient pieces and symbols that can show us clues, yet there are still mysteries. Evidence shows that 2.5 million years ago, people were nomadic, they moved around to find water and other food sources. These nomadic people never had a permanent home. Their main goal was having a concern for survival. Art was a huge factor, back then it was a cultural belief system which showed social order and science. They used symbols to tell a story, and their designs were inspired by nature. With the natural materials around them, they were able to create colors to express their art. Using black, red, and dark browns, and straw yellows, these people drew marvelous pictures on caves, which is a huge piece of evidence for their existence. Soon the ways of surviving changed. People became more neolithic, as they developed permanent settlements. One of the world's first towns was built around 6,500 B.C., the Çatalhöyük. This was a neolithic site that is known for its amazing honeycomb style house structures that have influenced the world, and have shown the simplicity of a style that a home can have.

Çatalhöyük, also known as Catal Huyuk was a very large neolithic and chalcolithic, proto-city settlement in Anatolia, which is modern day Turkey. Chalcolithic refers to a period in the development of human technology, preceding the Bronze Age. Proto-city is a term that describes large villages or towns which have both rural and urban features in attempt to

distinguish them from cities in later periods. This settlement lasted from 6,500 B.C. to 5,650 B.C.E, and the population was about 5,000-7,000. This was a concentrated farming community that produced exceptional art and architecture for its time.

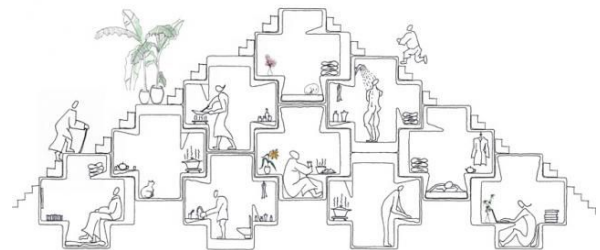
The site extends over 13.5 hectares of land, and was occupied for about 1400 years. Over this time period, the town grew larger, not horizontally, but vertically! “As people abandoned old houses, they filed them in and built new ones on top. This created mounds over 21 meters high” (Perry, Sara). These houses were packed so tightly that there were few streets in between them at all. This then created a new pathway of travel, across the roofs and then down ladders into interior spaces. Stones in the area were limited, so these buildings were made of mud, brick, and



plaster. There were also few trees, which were used for posts and beams for support, and ladders for the entrances. Each of these homes was inhabited by families of around 5-10 people. Within the house, “there was a main room for living, craft activities, eating and sleeping, and there were side rooms for storage and food preparation”(Perry, Sara). The interiors were sometimes decorated with rich art, which were painted red figures of humans, animals, or geometric shapes, painted directly onto the white plaster walls. It is unsure what the people in Catal Huyuk believed in, but religion and spiritual traditions were important to them. “They Mounted bull’s skulls on the walls of some buildings and covered them in plaster to resemble living heads” (Perry, Sara), and the dead ancestors were buried under the floors of the rooms. It is believed that these buildings were shrines.

Now how does this architecture and design of the homes relate to everyday living? These homes were the center of social life. Unlike modern day towns where different buildings had different functions, at the Catal Huyuk settlement, all these different functions seemed to happen in the home. “Here people produced goods, buried their dead, made art, and engaged in domestic and ritual activity”(Lambert, Tim). These homes were one and sometimes two stories high, also being windowless and only accessible through the roof. The houses stayed standing for about 45-90 years, and it is assumed that the occupants built them themselves, and continually re-plastered their internal walls and floors year after year. “There is some evidence to show that some homes were plastered up to 450 times!”(Lambert, Tim) Each individual building has its own outer walls, that were built right up against the house next door. These independent walls between the rooms allowed people to dismantle and reconstruct their homes without affecting surrounding residences. As said earlier that houses would be abandoned, demolished and built on top of, upon this abandonment, a home's upper walls would be demolished and its lower half carefully filled with soil, leaving it still well preserved. The new houses were constructed on top of the bases of the old houses. Some evidence shows “that as many as six rebuildings can be in the same place - one on top of the other” (Lambert, Tim). Stacking the houses seems to be a good way to create more room vertically, while using less space around them horizontally. This is a great method to be used in places that do not have much space on the ground. It is true that in modern day they can build 40 story apartment buildings, that look like unappealing square boxes, however, in Beijing they have created a module style of housing that seems to be inspired by the Catal Huyuk, but modified to be more about the aesthetic design.

China's Liu Lubin Studio has created an incredible cuboid module style house. The idea behind the design is to enable the cubes to be stacked freely on top of each other. A set would include 3 cubes, one for the bedroom, one for the toilet, and one for the workspace/kitchen. A single person could own up to as many cubes as they want, then just stack them! Once these modules have been fitted together, it creates a stair shape that you can climb up on the outer edge to hang out on the roof, and move from one cube to the next. This type of house relates to the Catal Huyuk architecture, in that in a close space, all activities take place. These are small little spaces which show the simplicity of what a home really needs. If these cubes were stacked into a community as seen below, it creates another space on top of the buildings, and open circulation through the area to travel from place to place. It could also develop into a place where there are rooftop gardens or relaxing areas. Even if a bigger scale one was created, it could become a community center. There are downsides to this idea, which is that the entrances are on the side on the building. One would have to go outside to move from room to room. It is great in that it is a simple to concept for simple living. Which is what the Catal Huyuk were all about!



From this case study, a proposed project would be something of a similar idea, but on a more realistic scale. It would be a modern take on the catal Huyuk housing, as being rectangular structures, that can be easily added too and stacked up. A sort of modern day community, where one can own a square of land, to stack their complex up vertically. Depending on how many stories they want, and how much they want to pay. They would be rectangular shaped homes - making it easier to stack, as the bases could latch onto one another. Instead of creating the structures of out clay, it would be a metal framing, with simple white walls on the inside, and a nice stone pattern on the outside. This then giving the owner a personalized option of painting the inside walls a color of their choosing. Each floor, shall have a purpose but also accommodate multi-use with the option of installing movable dividing walls. Each cube will come with an already installed pull down stair case, with will blend in almost seamlessly with the ceiling. That being said, the floor will have a hidden trap door, to be easily removed if needed access to the floor above. Like the Liu Lubin Studio's idea, the main floor door will be on the side of the house, but to get from room to room, one would climb the stairs up, and which beams there would be access to the roof. There would be an option for the user to instal a rooftop access point, where if they do not wish to build any higher, they are able to install a type of plate that enables them to have a rooftop garden. As these modules will be stacked side by side, it would grant access to neighbors to go from roof to roof to relax and enjoy one another's company. This proposed plan relates to the Catal Huyuk in that is references the stacked houses, and the easy option of stacking them higher if needed. It also accommodates for rooftop access, and easy room to room circulation through the hidden stairs. It relates to the Liu Lubin Studio's modules

ad well as Catal Huyuk in that each of the rooms are going to have a simple purpose, but can also accommodate multiple activities.

The Catal Huyuk people have influenced many types of design, based on small community living, and vertical stacking rooms. This proposed plan is just one of many that have actually been developed. Through research it has shown that the idea of small flexibility in communities has worked, and has influenced many ideas of how to live in a simplistic way. The Catal Huyuk community stacked their houses, and created a new look on the way living could happen. With singles rooms, and circulation on rooftops, it has opened up a new way to understand what a community could be all about.

Citations

Lambert, Tim. "THE ANCIENT CITY OF CATAL HUYUK." *Catal Huyuk*. Local Histories, n.d. Web. 10 Nov. 2016.

"Micro-house / Studio Liu Lubin." *ArchDaily*. N.p., 02 June 2013. Web. 15 Nov. 2016.

Perry, Sara. "Çatalhöyük Research Project | Excavations of a Neolithic Anatolian Höyük." *Çatalhöyük Research Project | Excavations of a Neolithic Anatolian Höyük*. Creative Commons Attribution, n.d. Web. 10 Nov. 2016.