

The SoHo: Living Room

Philosophy

SoHo, the neighborhood mostly known for its galleries, boutiques and many artists that live there, is a district with very special character and history and has changed quite a lot in the last centuries.



It has become a popular tourist destination, which resulted in streets packed with people like never before. Therefore, the streets are not just full of people, but also full of trash on the pavements. Also, the fact that there are not that many green spaces in SoHo, does not help with providing a good quality of life for the residents. The residents, especially the ones that live there for their whole life and overcame all of the changes in the last decades, are not happy with the commercialism that affected local artists and small businesses. Another aspect is also SoHo's well-known historic architecture and its character, for which people worry that it will be replaced with modern high-rise buildings.



In spite of there being a lot of people that want to preserve SoHo's rich history, the bravest of them is for sure Yukie Ohta, the founder of SoHo Memory Project. By going through the articles of this project, one can learn a lot about SoHo's character and its community in the past century. As it really was a special place to grow up, those people can also describe the neighborhood's charm that was lost somewhere along the way of commercialization. Moreover, the biggest void definitely left the disappearance of SoHo's community.

Concept - The Living Room

To provide the possibilities for SoHo's people to be able to meet and gather again, we are proposing the concept of **The living room**, which will offer locals new spaces to live, work and interact with each other and will stimulate them to get back their sense of community.

Cozy
Community
Gathering

Modular
Multiplicity
Adaptive



Artists
Young People
Workers
Families

Shared-Living
Mixed-Use Space
Outdoor

The living room should offer the cozy Viennese atmosphere and get residents acquainted with the aspects of the Viennese way of living. The modular and adaptive living room should provide living spaces for different groups of people, such as artists, young people, workers and families and stimulate them to connect with each other.

The Living Room - Groups

The living room as a proposed modular space is divided in three different groups. The first one is a living room as a shared apartment, which should provide the possibility of different groups of people to live together or a micro apartment for individuals. The second meaning of living room is a mixed-use space, such as Viennese café, which offers different possibilities for people to use the space simultaneously, for example café combined with library or coworking or even with a concept store. The third group is the living room as an outdoor space, offering additional green areas or spaces for new activities, such as urban gardening or different community events.

Housing



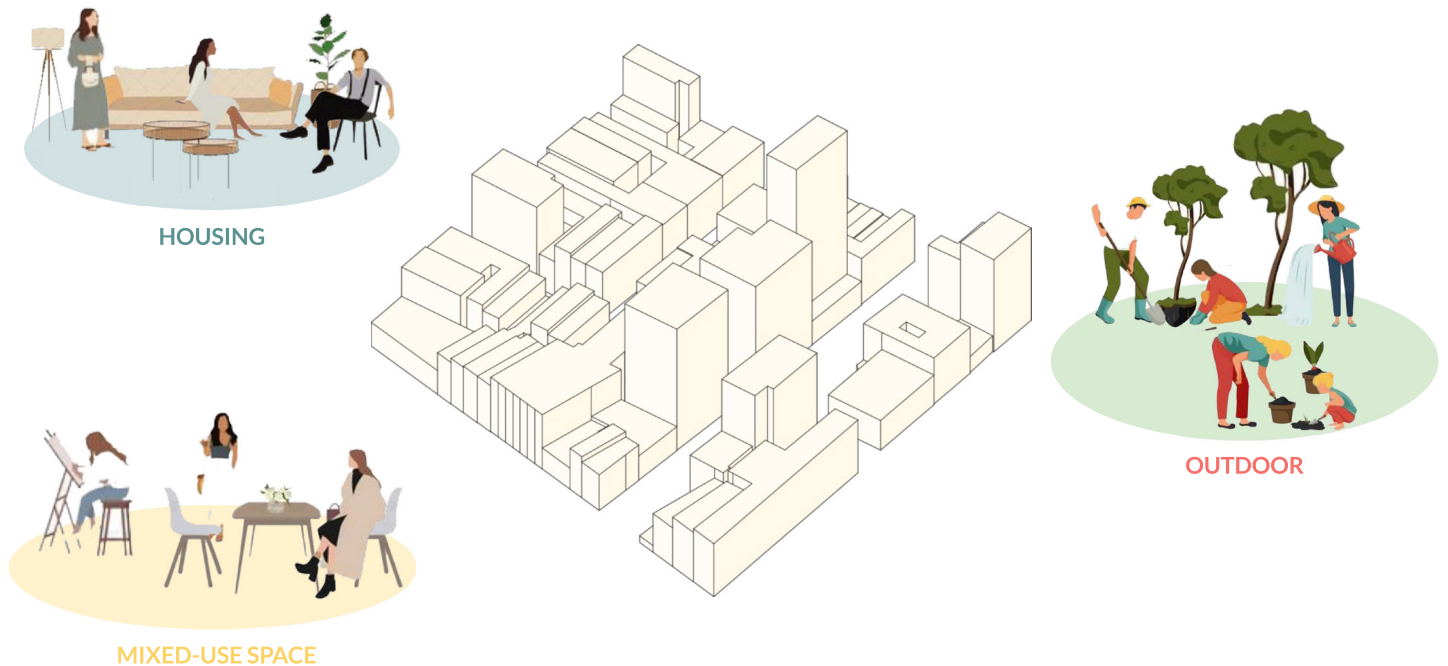
Mixed-use space



Outdoor



The Living Room - Summary



Next steps

- Define the living room module in more detail;
- define the actual spots for each group of the living room;
- define the connections between different modules.

Sources

- <https://sohomemory.org/>
- <https://www1.nyc.gov/site/planning/plans/soho-noho/soho-noho-overview.page>
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