These three projects are related to each other. The book and exhibition introduce, describe and analyze a special form of housing that was built in the Netherlands between 1990 and 2010, here called “complex housing.” Complex housing is defined as comprising:

1. Housing along with other civic or commercial uses
2. Units both for rental and for purchase
3. Units for low, moderate and high-income residents
4. Three or more types of dwelling units (e.g. row house, maisonette, live-work unit, group home, flat, penthouse)
5. Diverse organizational strategies (layers, stacking, various types of access, use of courtyards, etc.)
6. Significant urban intervention
7. Height predominantly 4-8 stories but sometimes including a higher section of no more than 12 stories
8. Outstanding architectural design

The symposium was created to facilitate discussion between Dutch and Americans interested in better housing, and to generated an understanding of the Dutch innovations as they relate to our own housing community. The activities included a) keynote speakers from both the Netherlands and the United States, b) presentation of four complex housing examples by teams from the Netherlands (architects, developers, government officials and residents) create an exchange of ideas between the Dutch and American participants, c) tours of local housing projects guided by local designers, developers, government officials and residents, and 4) social events designed to engage conversation.

More than 30 graduate and undergraduate research assistants contributed to these projects. The symposium was sponsored by many University and Private contributors, and organized by 40 volunteers from the design, development, academic, government, financing and other members of the housing community.