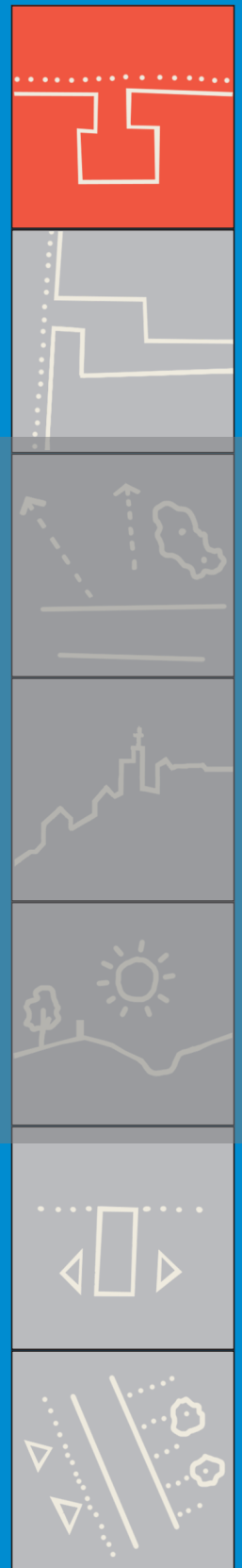


Housing Typology (2 of 7): Clusters, Groupings and Courtyards



Introduction



^ Courtyard in Shoregate, Crail, East Neuk, Fife
(image: SwaloPhoto, [CC BY-NC 2.0](#))

This piece explores a sample of housing formed around courtyards, into clusters, or otherwise composed as groups. This second of seven in our typologies series looks at the role of contemporary grouped forms of housing in urban and rural settings. Illustrated by mapping, photography and scale drawings, our aim is to show the linkage between design of the house and the place of which it forms a part.

The farm steading and urban court continue to provide models for composing and grouping contemporary housing. These are tried and tested adaptations to Scottish social, climatic and topographic conditions, whether in urban, coastal or rural contexts. Combining shelter and enclosure with common outdoor space; housing in clusters can contribute to meeting local policy objectives for townscape and sustainable design.

Here we illustrate built examples where architects and urban designers have sought to reconcile contemporary living with the wider roles and functions of the individual house that are integral to placemaking.

Roles of clusters, groupings and courtyards

The re-emerging success of clustered housing can be attributed to the useful roles that this typology plays:

1. Economic Value

- an efficient and economic use of land through common driveways
- eliminating the need for large front gardens

2. Townscape Value

- visually containing car parking off-street
- providing street enclosure
- synergy with indigenous architecture and townscape models

3. Cultural Value

- creating secure and sheltered living environment
- creating small neighbourly groups
- providing domestic scaled outdoor space
- providing supervised space for children to play

4. Environmental Value

- providing climatic shelter

Viewing this data

Drawing and mapping were prepared by Architecture and Design Scotland in 2013, based on material supplied by the architects involved.



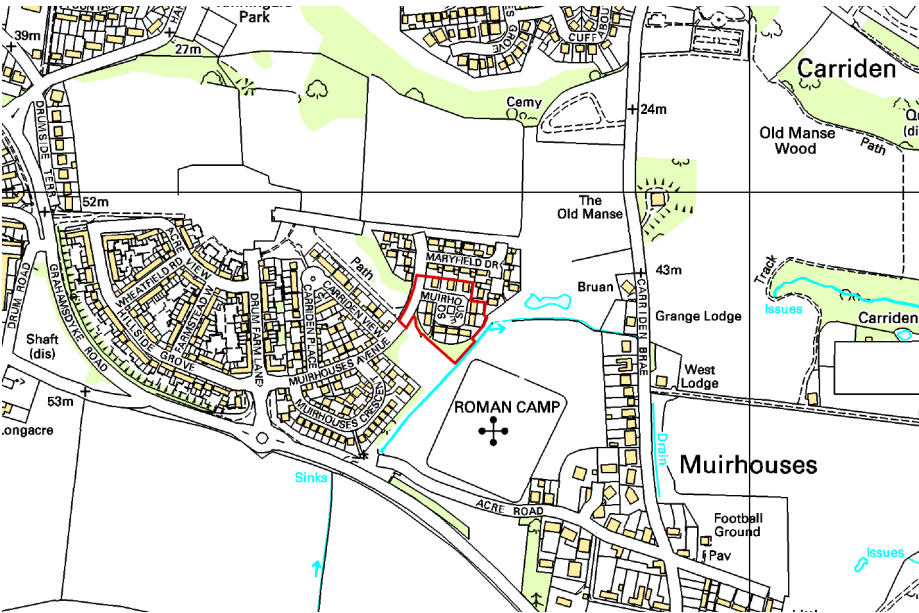
^ Home Zone streets

Muirhouses Square, Bo'ness

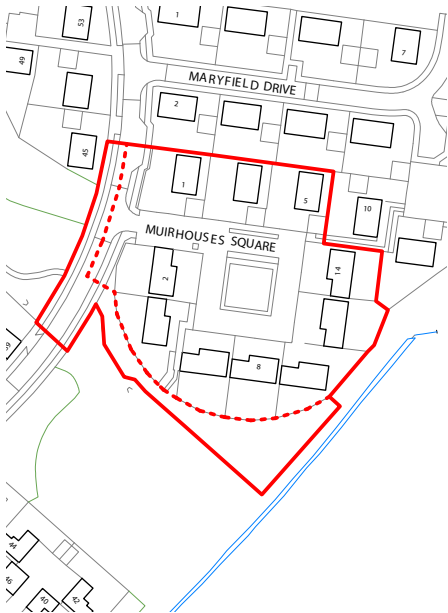
An enlarged courtyard grouping of housing overlooking and activating a popular local garden that is well used by immediate and surrounding residents. The square is organized as a home zone where pedestrian use is prioritised through a shared surface; where visitor parking is integrated and where the space is animated by street trees, a distinctive tiled wall and public seating.

Frontages, garden walls, hedges and tree planting are essential contributors to the success of this public realm.

Credits
Design: Malcolm Fraser Architects
Images: A&DS

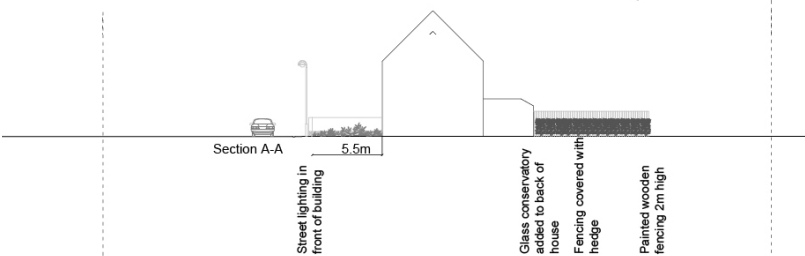
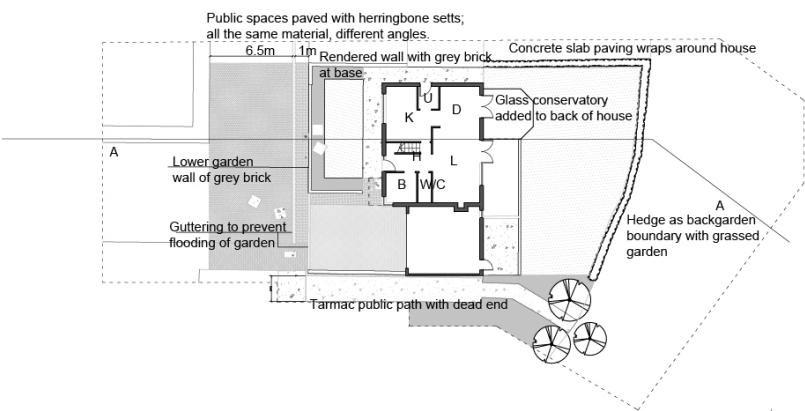


^ Location plan



^ Site plan

Detail plan and section



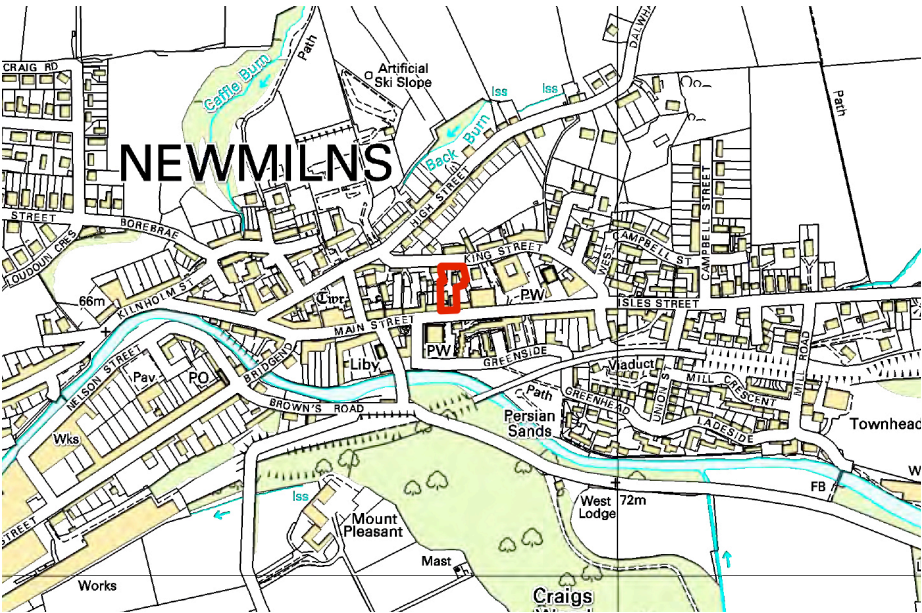
- Surfaces Key:
- Brick paving
 - Concrete block pavers
 - Gravel
 - Tarmac with chippings
 - Lawn
 - Herringbone paving
 - Concrete
 - Planting beds
- Elevational materials:
- Black slate tiles
 - Whitewash plaster walls
 - Navy brick



^ The central green

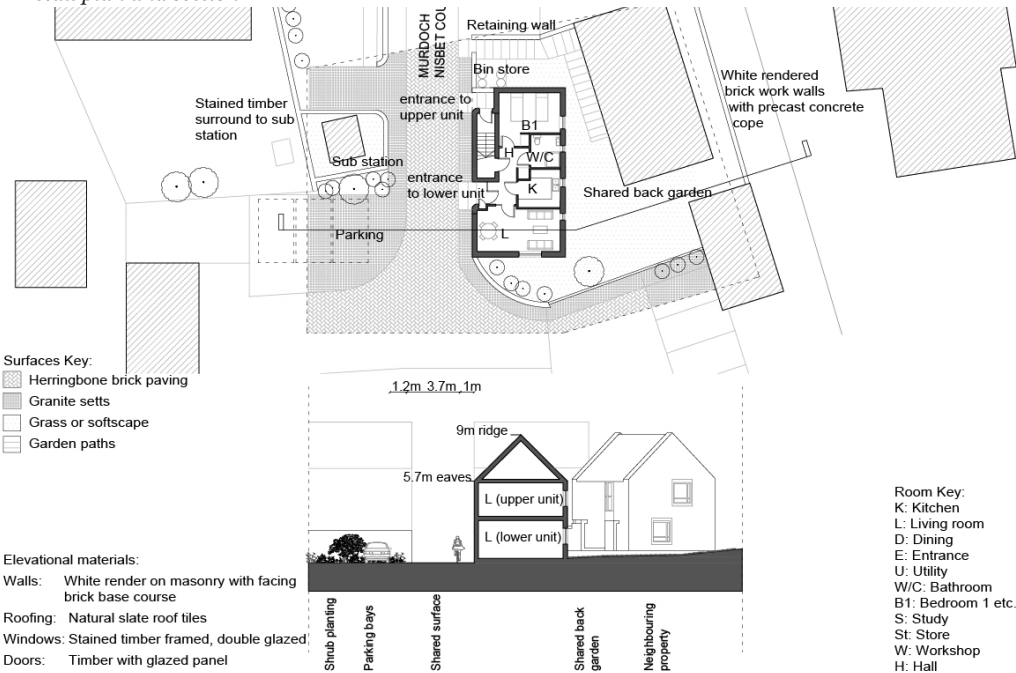


^ View of entrances



^ Location plan

∨ Detail plan and section



Murdoch Nesbitt Court, Newmilns

We note the way this small group of houses is composed in two informal but tightly organized clusters that infill the urban frontages of King Street and Main Street, whilst forming identifiable clusters similar to the character of local streets in Newmilns.

The degree of enclosure provided by 2-storey buildings creates an intimate and sheltered residential environment.

Credits
Design: Page\Park Architects
Images: Page\Park Architects



^ Site plan



^ Responding to a local landmark

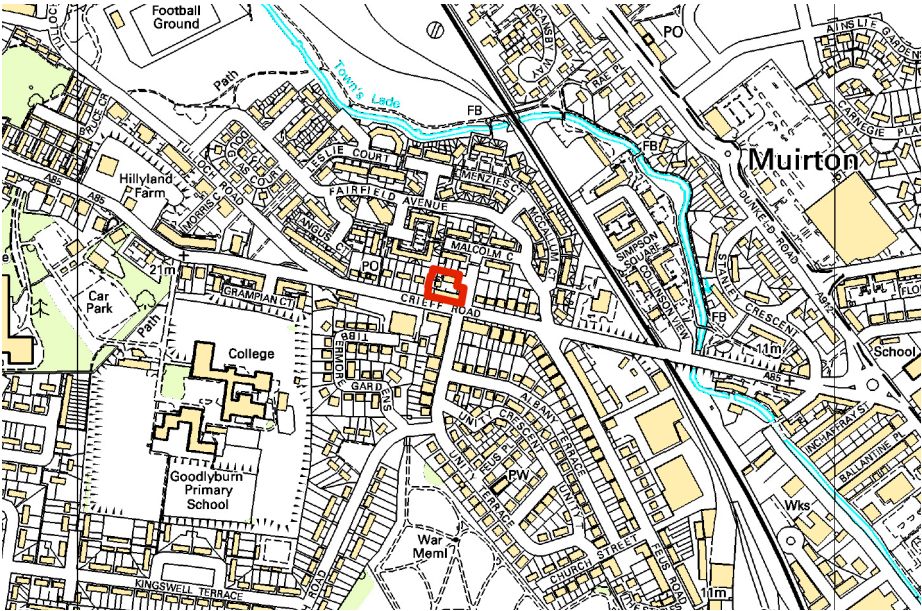


^ View within the courtyard garden

Tollhouse Gardens, Perth

Entrances to the houses in this example are from a common parking court then, via a footpath, to a collective front garden space, creating an intimate neighbourly environment. The courtyard is contained on four sides.

Credits
 Design: Gaia Group
 Image: Gaia Group

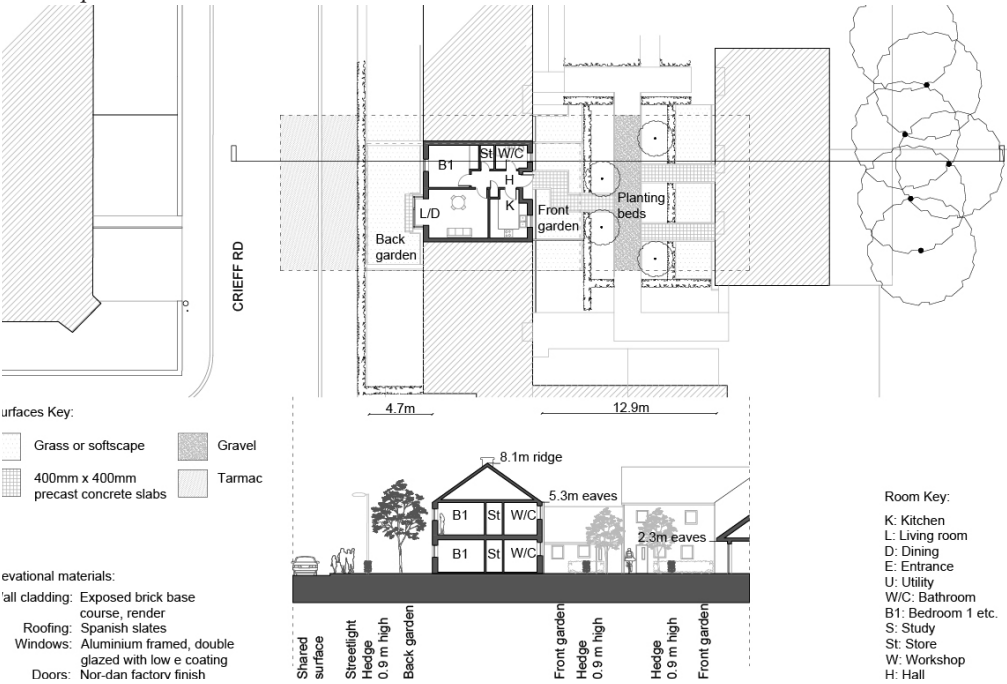


^ Location plan



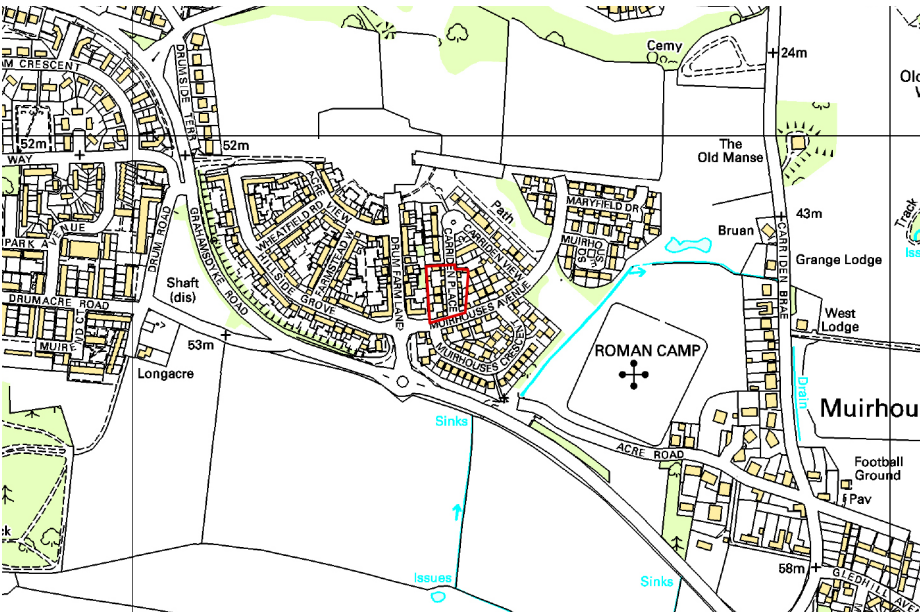
^ Site plan

Detail plan and section



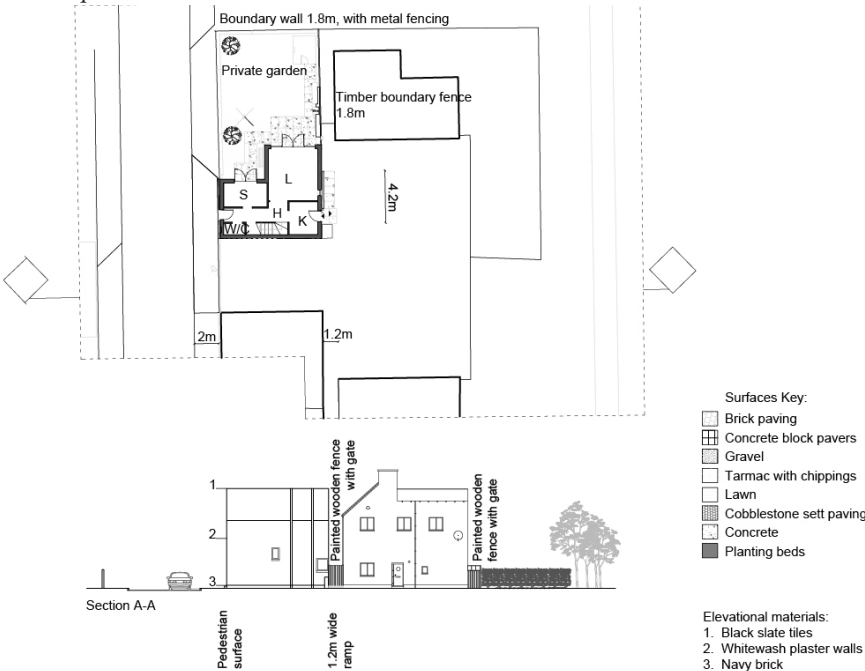


^ View of a courtyard group



^ Location plan

∨ Detail plan and section



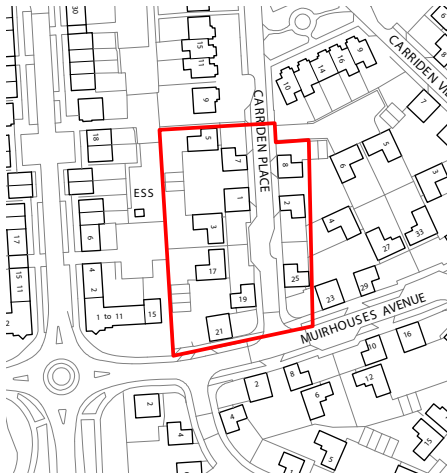
Carriden Place, Bo'ness

Groupings of three or four houses are arranged around shared parking courts. This format serves the dual purpose of containing the visibility of car parking whilst keeping street proportions narrow and enclosed, which contributes to changing driver perceptions and is consistent with indigenous streetscapes.

Inside the courtyards, corner kitchen windows overlook the space so that the layout provides a safe and pleasant domestic environment, allowing young children to play within in close sight. These popular shared courtyard spaces have become personalized by residents.

The architectural language links to the character of coastal towns with high enclosing garden walls integrated with gables and house frontages.

Credits
Design: Vernon Monaghan Architects
Images: A&DS

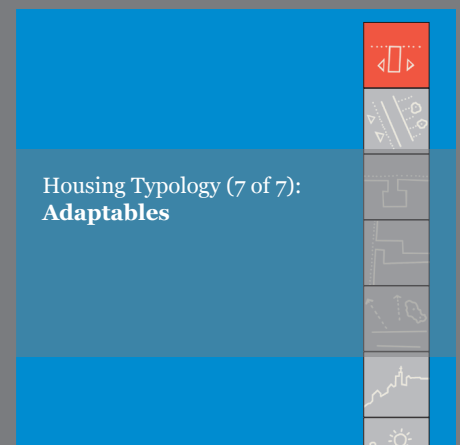
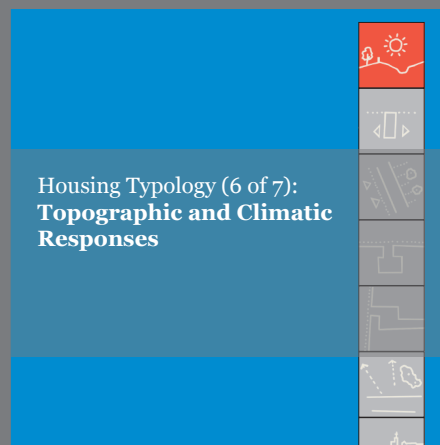
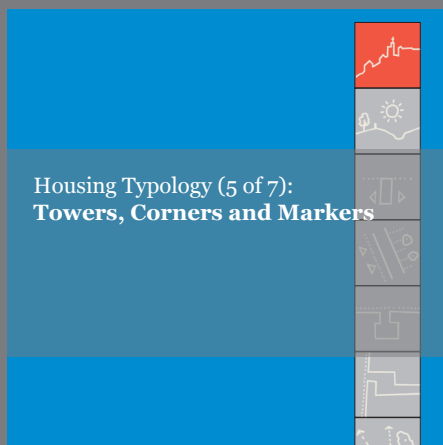
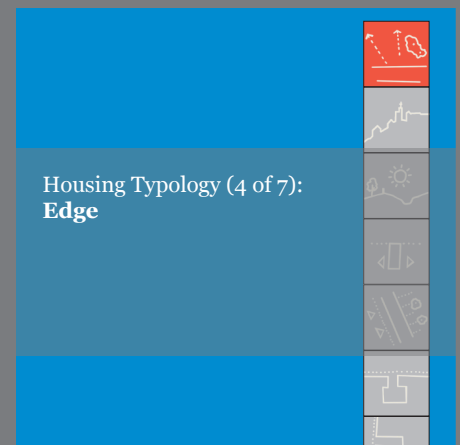
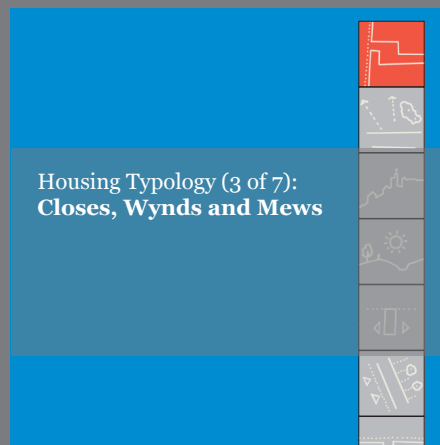
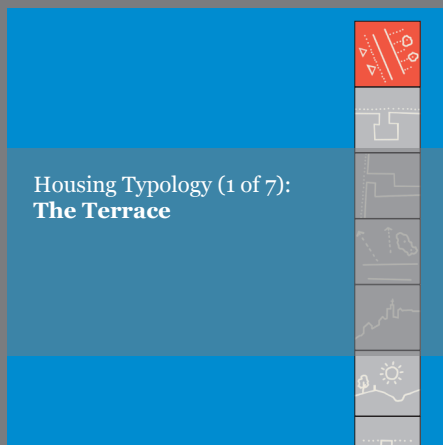


^ Site plan



^ View of street frontage

Other documents in this series:



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