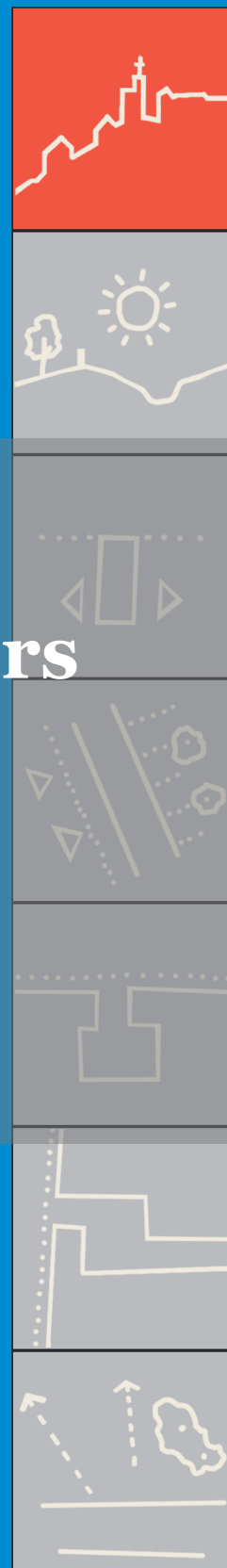


# Housing Typology (5 of 7): **Towers, Corners and Markers**





^ Landmarks in Dumfries town centre  
(image: David Nutter, [CC BY-NC-ND 2.0](https://creativecommons.org/licenses/by-nc-nd/2.0/))

## Introduction

A sample of individual buildings with a role in the wider landscape or townscape. This fifth of seven in our typologies series looks at the role of towers, corners and markers in the Scottish landscape. 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.

From the tower house to craggy skylines and the Kirk, built form in Scotland includes many landmark buildings; whether marked out against the background of other buildings or the landscape, by their scale and distinctive detail, or responding imaginatively to the quirks of Scottish topography and visual context.

Such landmarks create diversity and incident in the visual townscape, contributing to the 'legibility' of local streets.

Here we look at examples of housing designed as landmarks or way markers.

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 towers, corners and markers

The success of this form can be attributed to some of the useful roles it plays:

### 1. Economic Value

- handling development of visually prominent sites
- facilitating development of unusual or complex sites

### 2. Townscape Value

- providing local landmarks
- strengthening a sense of place

### 3. Cultural Value

- providing local identity
- assisting navigation and way-finding
- reinforcing local history and memory

### 4. Environmental Value

- an efficient use of land

## Viewing this data

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



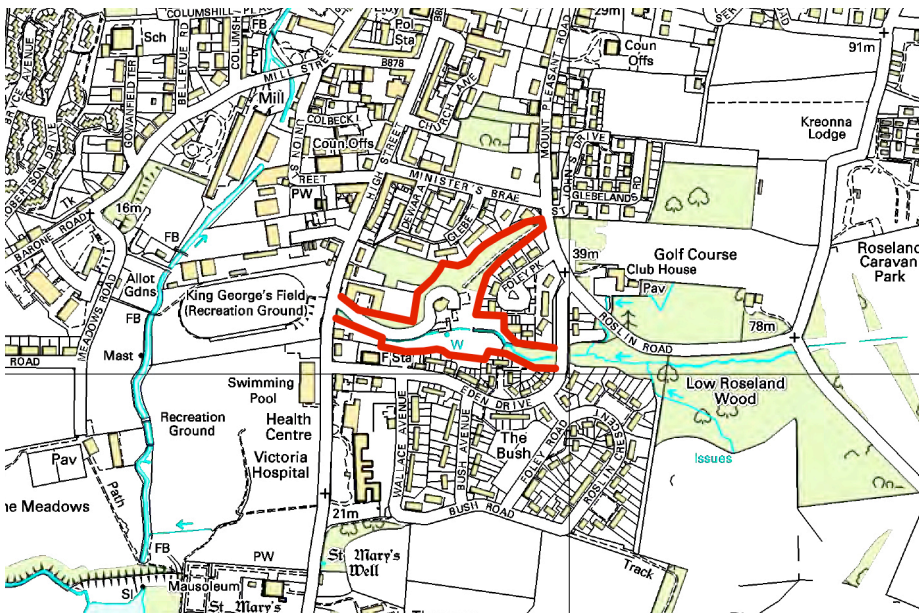
## A'Chrannag, Rothesay

A local landmark that responds positively to a visually prominent location with a re-interpretation of the Scottish towerhouse. This is both responsive to context and an efficient building form.

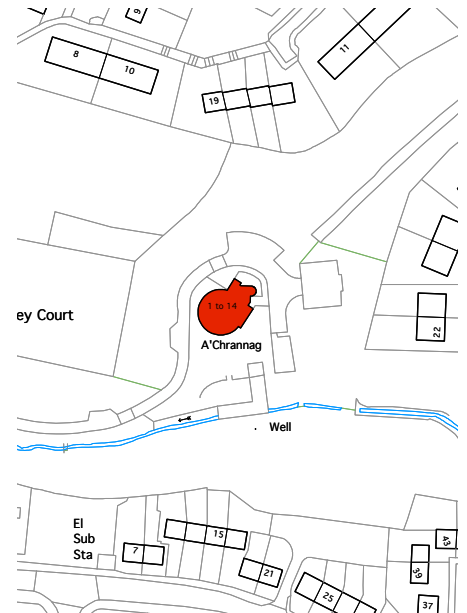
### Credits

Design: Gokay Deveci Chartered Architect  
ImageS: Andrew Lee

^ A distinctive building responsive to context

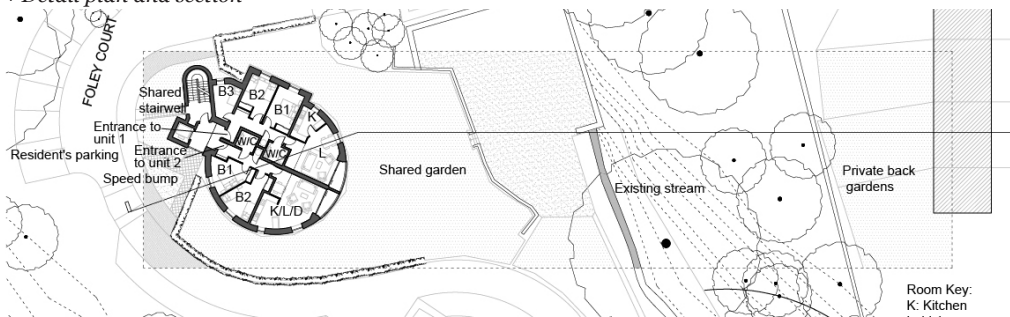


^ Location plan



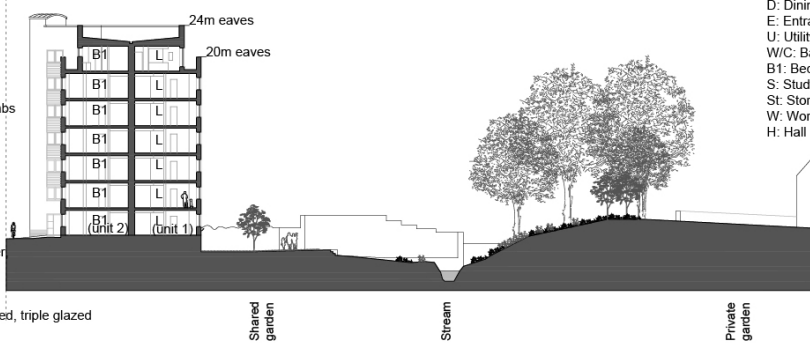
^ Site plan

### Detail plan and section



- Surfaces Key:
- Water
  - 400mm x 400mm precast concrete slabs
  - Gravel
  - Tarmac
  - Grass or softscape

- Elevational materials:
- Wall cladding: STO
  - off-white smooth render
  - blue brick base course
  - Roofing: Zinc
  - Windows: Timber framed, triple glazed
  - Doors: Timber



- Room Key:
- K: Kitchen
  - L: Living room
  - D: Dining
  - E: Entrance
  - U: Utility
  - W/C: Bathroom
  - B1: Bedroom 1 etc.
  - S: Study
  - St: Store
  - W: Workshop
  - H: Hall

## Collier Place, Craigmillar

An individual house designed with a view to its role in the public realm. The geometry of the plan is adapted in such a way as to form a street narrowing at the gateway to two streets that lead to a new school. The corner dining room window and porch provides a distinctive way of activating an important street corner.

Beyond the street corner the repetition of a shortened terrace allows a stepping of the street and frontage alignment; simultaneously a traffic-calming device integral to the architecture and a means of breaking up the massing in an urban environment to create domestic-scaled elements.

Credits

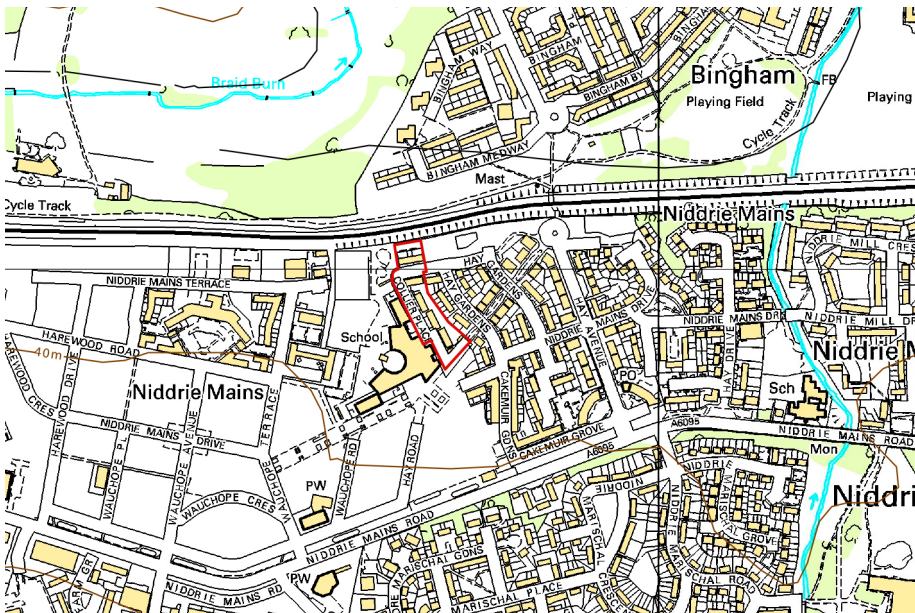
Design: Elder & Cannon Architects

Image 1: Keith Hunter

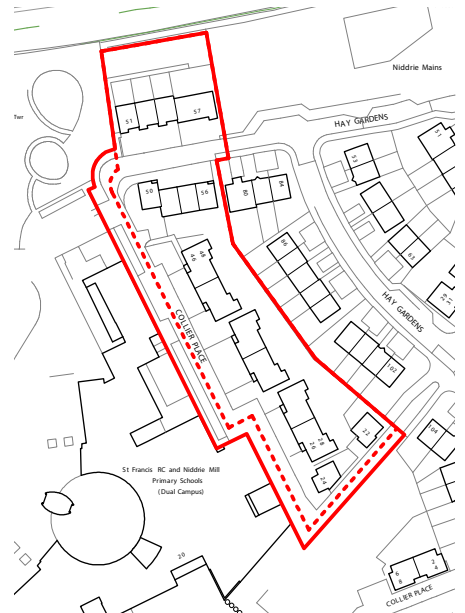
Image 2 & 3: A&DS



^ Corner marker house

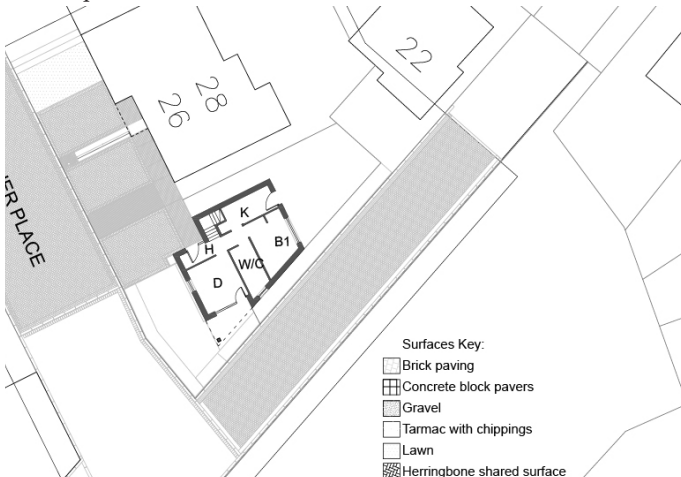


^ Location plan



^ Site plan

v Detail plan



^ Turning the street corner



## Balvonie Terrace, Inverness

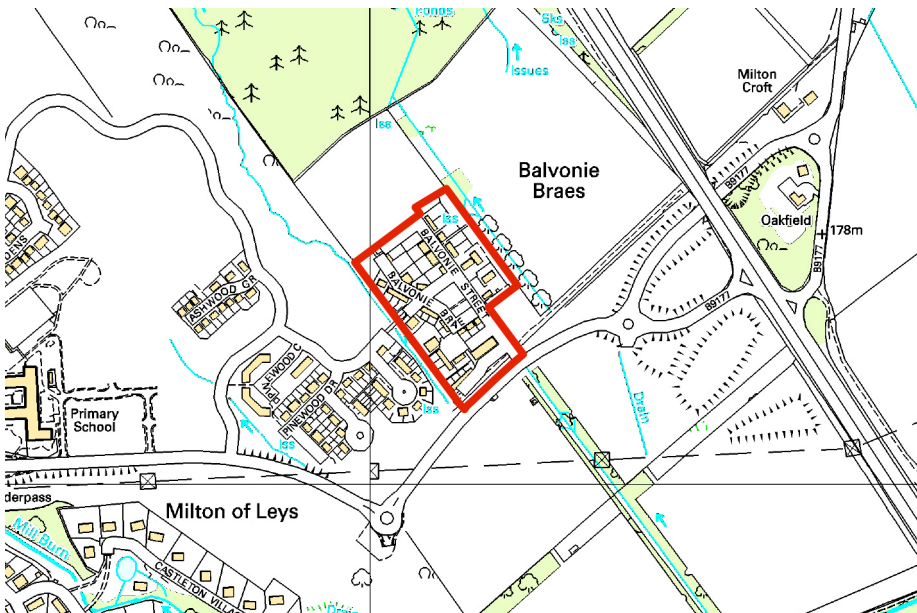
This terrace forms a roadside frontage seen from and scaled to the larger landscape. The distinctive raised corner and gable window mark out an urban event, the gateway into a neighbourhood. The architecture is an inventive re-interpreted vernacular that links to indigenous linear forms common in the rural landscape. Where front gardens are open to the street, private rear gardens are contained by enclosing walls - balancing fronts and entrances with backs and privacy. Parking in this example is located at the front to support the activity and function of the street. High quality materials are prioritised to suit the importance of this gateway location.

The terrace forms part of Scotland's Housing Expo site at Balvonie, Inverness.

*Credits*  
 Design: NORD Architecture Ltd  
 Images: AREA



^ Street front and corner

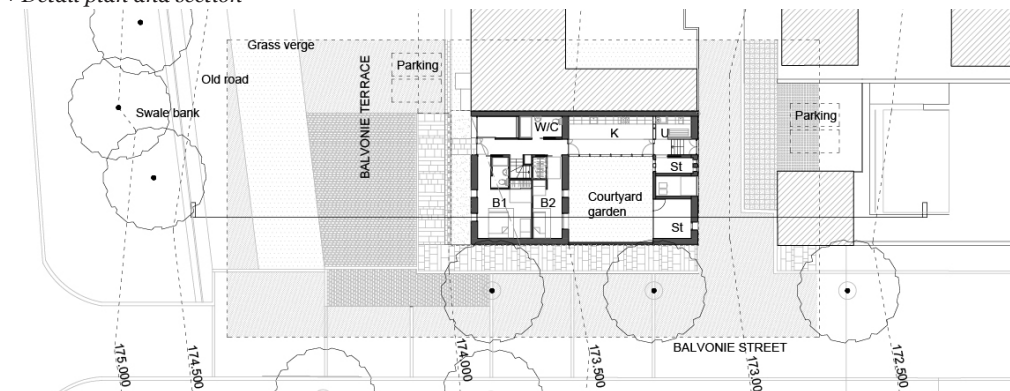


^ Location plan



^ Site plan

### Detail plan and section



- Surfaces Key:
- Granite cubes
  - Caithness flagstones
  - Gravel
  - Tarmac
  - Grass or softscape
  - Textured Granite aggregate setts
  - Bodpave grid (gravel fill)
  - Kerbs: Reclaimed granite

- Elevational materials:
- Wall cladding: Caithness stone cladding
  - Windows: Timber framed, double glazed
  - Doors: Timber

- Room Key:
- K: Kitchen
  - L: Living room
  - D: Dining
  - E: Entrance
  - U: Utility
  - W/C: Bathroom
  - B1: Bedroom 1 etc.
  - S: Study
  - St: Store
  - W: Workshop
  - H: Hall



^ Gable as a corner marker on the avenue



^ Street front

## Hay Gardens, Craigmillar

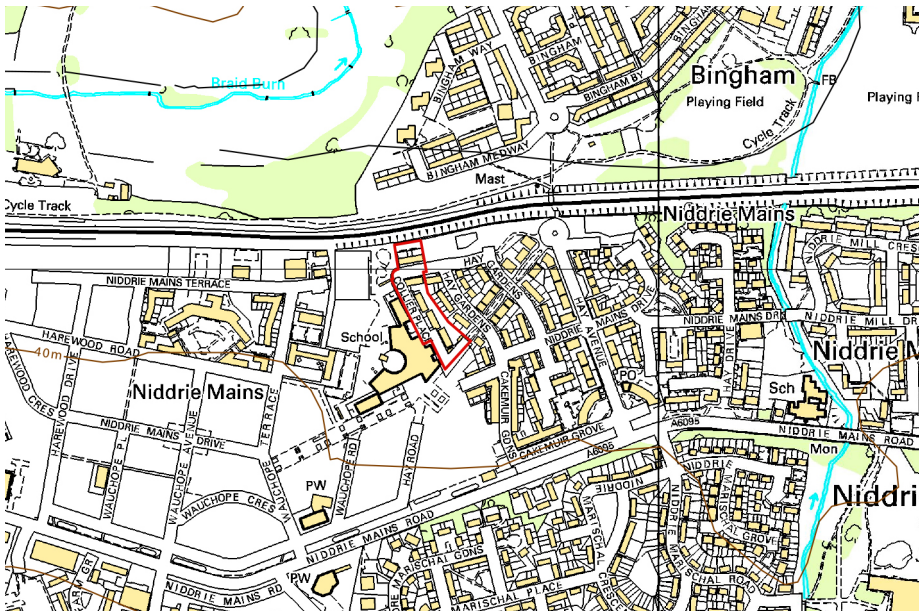
An individual house forms an urban gateway at the entrance to a street in a demanding urban setting. The frontage is 2.5 storeys tall, stepping forwards to strengthen the urban role of providing street enclosure. A change of material is used to distinguish the corner plot. The frontage steps back beside the corner house, effectively giving way to allow larger front curtilage and gardens to the adjoining terraced houses.

Back gardens are strongly contained by brick walls, an important consideration.

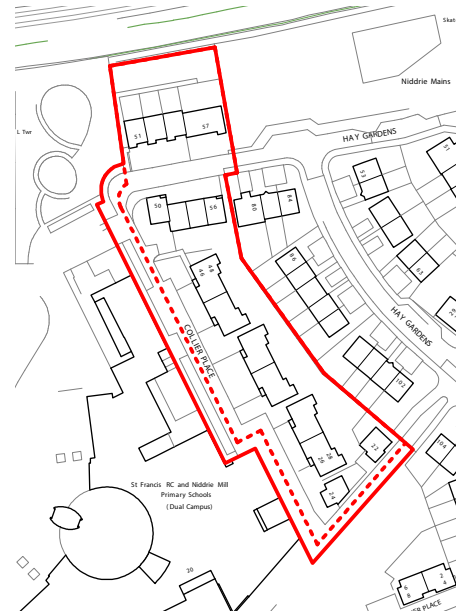
Credits

Design: Elder & Cannon Architects

Image: A&DS

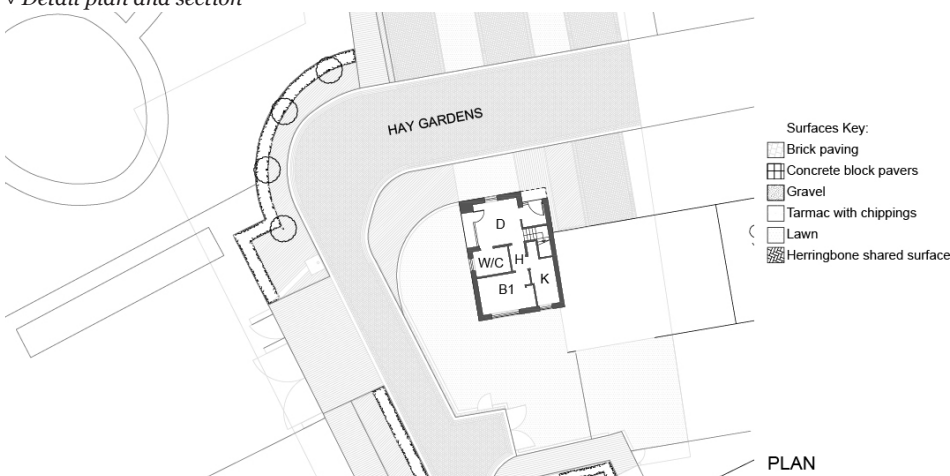


^ Location plan

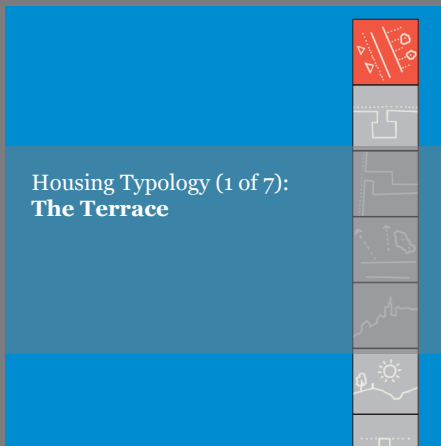


^ Site plan

v Detail plan and section

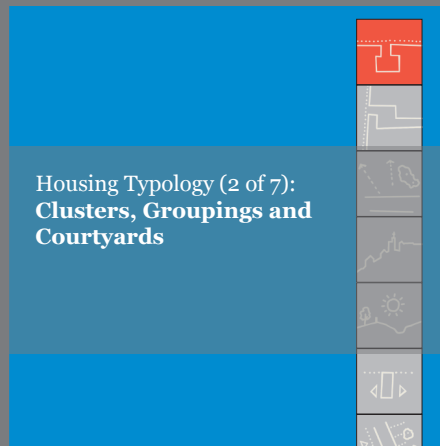


*Other documents in this series:*



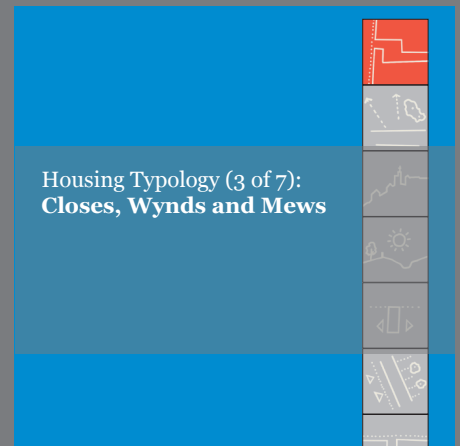
Housing Typology (1 of 7):  
**The Terrace**

This thumbnail features a blue background with a vertical stack of seven icons on the right side. The top icon is red and shows a terrace layout. The other icons are grey and represent various architectural and urban planning concepts.



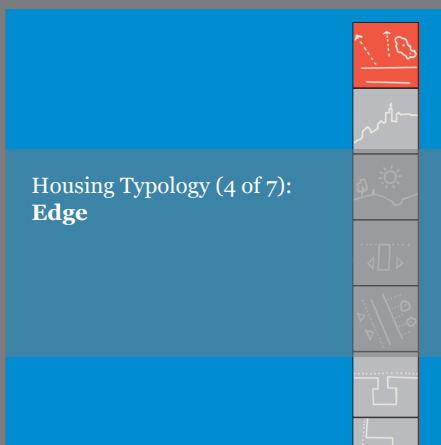
Housing Typology (2 of 7):  
**Clusters, Groupings and Courtyards**

This thumbnail features a blue background with a vertical stack of seven icons on the right side. The top icon is red and shows a cluster of buildings. The other icons are grey and represent various architectural and urban planning concepts.



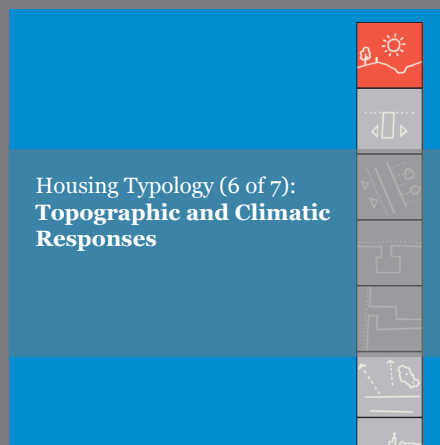
Housing Typology (3 of 7):  
**Closes, Wynds and Mews**

This thumbnail features a blue background with a vertical stack of seven icons on the right side. The top icon is red and shows a narrow alleyway. The other icons are grey and represent various architectural and urban planning concepts.



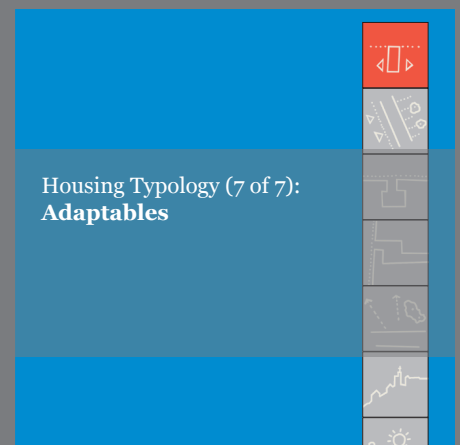
Housing Typology (4 of 7):  
**Edge**

This thumbnail features a blue background with a vertical stack of seven icons on the right side. The top icon is red and shows a building edge. The other icons are grey and represent various architectural and urban planning concepts.



Housing Typology (6 of 7):  
**Topographic and Climatic Responses**

This thumbnail features a blue background with a vertical stack of seven icons on the right side. The top icon is red and shows a sun and a building. The other icons are grey and represent various architectural and urban planning concepts.



Housing Typology (7 of 7):  
**Adaptables**

This thumbnail features a blue background with a vertical stack of seven icons on the right side. The top icon is red and shows a building with a sun. The other icons are grey and represent various architectural and urban planning concepts.

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