

Policy and Design for Housing Exhibition



“Policy and Design for Housing: Lessons of the Urban Development Corporation 1968-1975” was exhibited at the AIA Center for Architecture New York from June-September, 2005. As curator, designer and photographer for the exhibition, I worked with the exhibition’s steering committee of architects, planners and environmental psychologists to explore the UDC’s unique mandate and accomplishments in building 33,000 units of humanist affordable housing for New York State.

Going beyond a retrospective of UDC architecture, the exhibition put archival materials and vintage architectural photographs into visual conversation with new research and a series of my own new photo essays with UDC building residents (see excerpt above left) to understand the lessons from the UDC.

In particular, my curation of the show considered how these buildings have fared after thirty years, and what the experience of living in some of these buildings has entailed. The exhibition culminates with a consideration of the current national and New York housing crisis and what lessons we can draw from the process and legacy of the UDC to address these current-day housing issues. More about the exhibition can be seen at www.UDChousing.org,