

UAH!

Unconventional
Affordable
Housing!

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UAH!

ATLAS

RETHINKING

UAH!

UAH!

RECOMMENDATIONS

**ABSTRACT
DECEMBER 2024**

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*Politecnico di Milano
Università degli Studi di Trieste
Politecnico di Bari
Università degli Studi di Bari Aldo Moro*

***ABSTRACT
December 2024***

The project's framework



Finanziato
dall'Unione europea
NextGenerationEU



Ministero
dell'Università
e della Ricerca



Italiadomani
Pianificazione
e sviluppo urbano



POLITECNICO
MILANO 1863
DIPARTIMENTO
DI ARCHITETTURA
E STUDI URBANI



UNIVERSITÀ
DEGLI STUDI
DI TRIESTE



UNIVERSITÀ
DEGLI STUDI DI BARI
ALDO MORO



Politecnico
di Bari

The project's framework

The profound socio-demographic transformations that have taken place in Europe over the past decades have led to major changes in household composition and what is typically referred to as the family. As a consequence, the ideal equivalence between “family” and “housing typology”, as promoted by the Modern Movement, collapsed highlighting the increasing distance existing between housing demand and housing supply. The above-mentioned transformations have resulted mainly in an increase in the number of households of single people, divorced couples with children, single parents and the elderly, as well as in the spread of the phenomenon of cohabitation among different population groups in search of affordable housing solutions. At the same time, changes in the labour market, namely a significant rise in temporary employment and delocalization, have forced people to organise their lives between more than one dwelling and led to the emergence of new lifestyles, such as couples living apart together in long-distance relationships. In addition, worsening employment and economic conditions have reduced housing affordability, increased precarious and informal housing conditions and set constraints on access to housing, even for middle-income groups and people whose housing demands appear to be increasingly changeable across their life trajectories.

While unconventional* and affordable housing practices can take many shapes and emerge from a diversity of household situations, the lack of an adequate offer by social and public housing policies reflects the inadequacies, dissatisfaction with or inaccessibility of conventional housing offers. A key hypothesis underlying the research is therefore that unconventional solutions can be strategies to cope with such inadequacies and a lack of affordability, better responding to changing or intensifying demands. The intersection between the two levels, affordability and unconventionality, has yet to be explored in-depth and can provide valuable insights for a reflection on existing housing (design).

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The Research Project of National Relevance “UAH! Unconventional Affordable Housing” – guided by Politecnico di Milano with Università degli Studi di Trieste, Politecnico di Bari and Università di Bari – aims at identifying and analysing existing affordable and unconventional housing solutions, investigating practices, projects and policies – thus, gaining an understanding of the wide range of housing phenomena considered unconventional and affordable in Europe; analyse these housing solutions and evaluate their qualities, innovative features, shortcomings and criticalities; and at developing architectural design experiments & proposals (in each of the research units' geographical contexts) at the intersection of policy and design, in order to explore the feasibility of innovative solutions within a given context.

*** By “unconventional” we mean above all:**

- the non-equivalence between the idea(s) of family and the type of housing;**
- the presence – among households – of different (social and cultural) profiles and different age populations.**



**UNCONVENTIONAL
AFFORDABLE
HOUSING** explores the
new possibilities of
contemporary living
at the intersection
of affordability and
unconventionality,
starting from a
reflection on existing
housing projects,
practices and policies.

UAH.POLIMI.IT

uah.prin2022@gmail.com
francesca.serrazanetti@polimi.it
constanze.wolfgring@polimi.it