

1. THE OBJECTIVES OF THE HOUSE LAYOUT PROCESS
AND THE WAY TO ATTAIN THEM

One of the most fundamental features for the design process for the Israeli settlement was the layout process for the individual houses.

The objectives that we pursued through this process were the following: ~~xx~~

- a. the settlement was to be made out of houses ^{and public places} which would ~~x~~ express the individuality and uniqueness of the families ~~in~~ living in it.
- b. ~~the settlement~~ all the houses of the settlement, at the same time, had to structure a coherent a nd unified whole in physical terms, which would reflect the strong community feeling present among all ~~the families.~~ ~~the families.~~
- c. the families should develop a real feeling for the places of the settlement, both private and public, where they were going to live; they should start understanding and experiencing them from the early stages of the overall development process, so that they would realize that the making of the settlement into a lively and beautiful place, its continuous keeping ^{up} ~~up~~ and necessary ~~constant~~ repairs would be mainly their own responsibility, both individually and collectively.
- d. connected the existing physical structure of the site, identified as a and ascending-up-the-hill ~~sequence~~ ~~of~~ special and beautiful places formed around big trees, view points, and rock formation, had to be preserved and enhanced by the location of each individual house and by their clustering in groups around these places.

1 e. the ~~process~~ layout process for the individual houses, itself, had to be economically efficient and operationally feasible, ~~(so that it could be applied in successfully in other housing projects.)~~

In order to reach such a diversification of objectives we had to come up with a well-structured and thoroughly ~~pre~~thought out process for the design of the five house clusters and the twenty houses comprised in them. The process that we decided to follow can be briefly described as such: each individual house was laid out on its actual site by the family who was going to live in it, on the basis of a specific set of rules developed by CES for this particular project.

~~Given the objectives it is clear why the families had to be deeply involved in the layout of their houses, as well as why the layout process of the house had to take place on its actual site, and probably on ~~xxx~~ a vague way, ~~why~~ why the set of rules, what I want to discuss more in detail is the necessity of the set of rules which were introduced as guidance for the layout process.~~

2. Given the objectives it is clear why the families had to be deeply involved in the layout of their house, as well as why the layout process of the house had to take place on its actual site, ~~probably, also, the necessity of~~ ^{for} a set of rules ~~as a guidance to the families while laying their house becomes clear.~~ However, there is a set of points that I want to clarify, so that I make explicit all intentions and ways of pursuing the objectives.

2. The involvement of the families in the layout of their houses would fulfill, to some degree, the first and third objective. However, we knew that unless the families themselves were doing the layout of their houses ~~to the maximum detail~~ on a detailed fashion, we would not be able to produce twenty different houses in which the variation is true and ~~genuine~~ genuine. What I want to point ~~at~~ out, is that, it was clear that the variation and differentiation among the houses, laid out by the families, would be more real, straightforward and solid than if these twenty houses were to be designed or even laid out by us, with ~~an~~ the clear intention to make each one of them reflect the uniqueness and individuality of each family.

3. The only case that we could have accomplished it would be if each one of the twenty houses was to be approached as a distinct different project, to be laid out and designed after lengthy discussions and collaboration with each family. Anyway, that was impossible, because of the limited amount of time allotted to the completion of this specific task, and to the limited amount of money ~~also~~ specified in the contract ~~to cover this expense~~ for the accomplishment of house designs, which ~~that~~ was compatible with the design of two or three different types of houses. Therefore, beyond the other advantages that the ~~lay~~ layout of the houses by the families offered, it was also ~~necessary to make the process work in economic terms~~ an absolutely necessary component of this house layout process ~~in~~ in order to make it economically feasible.

4. Also, we knew, because of previous experiences, that the layout of the houses by the families would work successfully only if this operation could take place within a well structured framework. In order to make their efforts and acts effective we would have to channel and coordinate them, so that everybody could obtain the best results. Therefore, we introduced a set of rules which described step by step the acts that each family had to undertake in order to accomplish the layout of its house and its contribution to the layout of its house cluster. The set of rules would make clear to the families what exactly they were aiming at on the overall, what specifically they were pursuing at every step of the layout process. Besides this it would make it easier for us to assist them, on a coherent way, to follow closely their attempts, and to coordinate their acts.

5. The other important reason for the introduction of the set of rules for the house layout was for the attainment of the second objective, namely that all the houses of the settlement had to structure a coherent and unified whole in physical terms which would reflect the strong community feeling among the families.

The families themselves, because of their strong sense of community, and equality in sharing things and amenities, expressed strongly the feeling that they did not want an unlimited amount of variation among the houses; that each family would put forward all its desires and whims in the making of their house. On the contrary, they suggested that all houses had to be of the same size, and they should have the same amenities as the other houses, since all of them were to be built with an equal budget. And beyond this, as they had put it, they did

not want the houses to look too different one from the other.

The rules, on a first glance, introduce on a sequential way
comprise
the spaces that each house will ~~have~~. However, they accomplish
generic
more than this. They try to introduce a similar structure
among all the potentially different houses. They attempt this
on a way that each family could layout its own house, different
be
from the next one, and still similar in structure and feeling.
The specific way that this element was incorporated into the
rules I will explain ~~later~~ (on section 2 of his chapter).

~~6. The final point that I have to make concerns the efficiency
and feasibility of the process in economic terms. Although the
layout of the houses by the individual families on the site,
which had been assessed to ~~take~~ be completed within ten days,
was starting to make the process ~~feasible~~ ~~xxxxxx~~ feasible,
still there was the problem of preparing drawing for twenty
different houses to be submitted for building permit. Our
intention was to record from the site all the house layouts,
use them as the final plans for the houses without allowing
any further changes from the side of the families and prepare
rough drawings,
one sheet for every house, plan, ~~and~~ elevations, and one section
and submit these as the final drawing for the houses together
with a set of construction details the same for all of them.~~

6. The final point that I have to make concerns the efficiency and feasibility of the process in economic terms. We had to organize the overall house design process, from the ~~time~~ house lay out on the site to the obtaining of the building permits on an efficient way that would ~~represent~~ be compatible with the available necessary time and funds and still ~~be~~ fulfill all the requirements. This is how we had envisioned the design and layout ~~process~~ procedure of the individual houses:

a. Every day two to three houses are being laid out on the site, preferably each one of them belonging to a different cluster, ~~be~~ with the assistance of one architect.

b. The family follows precisely the sequence of steps as defined in the rules, and at each step they place on the ground the necessary stakes to ~~define~~ represent the corners of ~~the rooms~~ the layout the rooms and the position of doors and windows, as well as the location of any small space, alcoves, stairs, passages, gardens.

c. ~~The houses~~ drawing A ~~plan~~ is made at this stage for each ~~house~~ house ~~that~~ plan. The drawing is made by measuring the position of the stakes, and all measurements ~~represent~~ are precise, so that the drawing is an accurate representation of the house as it was laid out on the site.

~~This drawing together with the necessary sections and elevations which would represent the final~~

d. At this point each family is asked to make some simple sketches of ~~how they would like the houses~~ to specify more precisely some of the features of the houses which probably ~~was~~ were not clearly communicated in the layout process. It is also made

clear that no further modifications in the ~~x~~ design of their houses will happen later, and therefore they should clarify and think carefully about all ambiguities and hesitant ~~fe~~ feeling they might have about some things.

- e. On the basis of the drawing ~~xxxxxxxxxxxx~~ that represents the house plan as laid out on the site, and of the sketches, we prepare the final drawing for the house. They are simple drawing, one sheet for each house, with the plan , some major elevations, and any needed sections. This phase, we estimated, had to be short; we would complete the drawings for one house within one day.
- f. These plans will be the plans to be submitted for ~~permitt~~ building permit (in the Ministry of Interior) and for funding (in the Ministry of housing). ~~Also,xxxxxxplansxxtogethxx withxxxxxxconstructiondetailxxandxxspecificationxxwith thefinalworkingdrawings~~
- g. The houses would be built on the basis on the stakes placed in the ground by the families, on the basis of the drawings, and of a set of construction details and specifications, the same for all the houses.

The degree to which these objectives had been achieved at the end, whether or not all the families shared the same objectives and saw the value in pursuing them, will be discussed later after I present what was the physical outcome of the layout process and the way it was materialized, received and understood by the families.