A PLACE FOR ME

COLLABORATIVE BLUEPRINT FOR TRANSITION ACCOMMODATION

BLUEPRINT

Introduction

A Place for Me – creating a collaborative blueprint for transition accommodation

'A place for me' was a unique experiment bringing people that have experienced homeless together with architects and designers too co-produce a blueprint for a transition accommodation within the city.

Marking a significant departure from traditional approaches to consultation, this project places those with lived experience of homelessness at the heart of the creative design and planning process to re-imagine emergency shelters, temporary accommodation and supported housing.

The following pages highlights the findings of the the 4 workshops that took place within experiment that created the typology that created the final 'blueprint' aimed to support future service development.

This experiment included the following partners:

YORK
DESIGN
WEEK

goodorganisation
www.goodorganisation.co.uk

LIFE   BAUMAN
LYONS

Ecology of Home, as experienced by those who have lost their home.

The first workshop facilitated a number of activities to draw out the broader impacts of homelessness from an experiential perspective. These are the key elements which the participants saw as being worthy of consideration to inform any future design.

1

Private space

- Personalised room
- Private toilets/shower room
- Thick mattress
- WiFi
- Clean bedding
- Access to hot water
- Locked space
- Sense of security
- No slamming door
- Bring your dog
- A place to store bags
- Place to use safely
- Books/TV

Shared facilities

- Religion room
- Visitors room
- Quiet space
- Place to wash clothes
- Garden
- Laundry
- Bag storage
- Digital pods
- Outdoor gym
- Library
- Smart toilets (Urine Health)

Community Support

- Skillshare
- Utilise available skills
- Buddy system (Mentor)
- Support network
- Paid roles for self-worth
- Resident meetings

Service provision – City wide

- Language translator
- Information board
- 24/7 multi agency hub
- Mental health support/access to counselling
- Accessibility to legal and medical support
- Private media access and support
- Co-op shop
- Access to services (PWP/housing etc)
- Allocated space and time for outside services to be on-hand
- Childcare provision
- Cultural exposure
- Education

WORKSHOP 2

Ecology of Home, as perceived by service provider.

The second workshop asked a variety of service providers what they value about their home. We wanted to understand the similarities and differences between the two groups. Community support and service provision did not feature as an essential priority.

Private space

- Sofa – somewhere to sit
- Somewhere to put pictures/photos
- Place to wash and dress
- Wifi
- Plug sockets
- Lock on door
- Warm
- Listen to records
- Access to shower
- Fireplace
- Roof
- Kettle
- Bed
- Personal space
- Access to a charger
- TV
- Carpet

Shared facilities

- Place to grow things
- Place to cook and eat and hang out with family and friends
- To have access to cook food and drink when you want
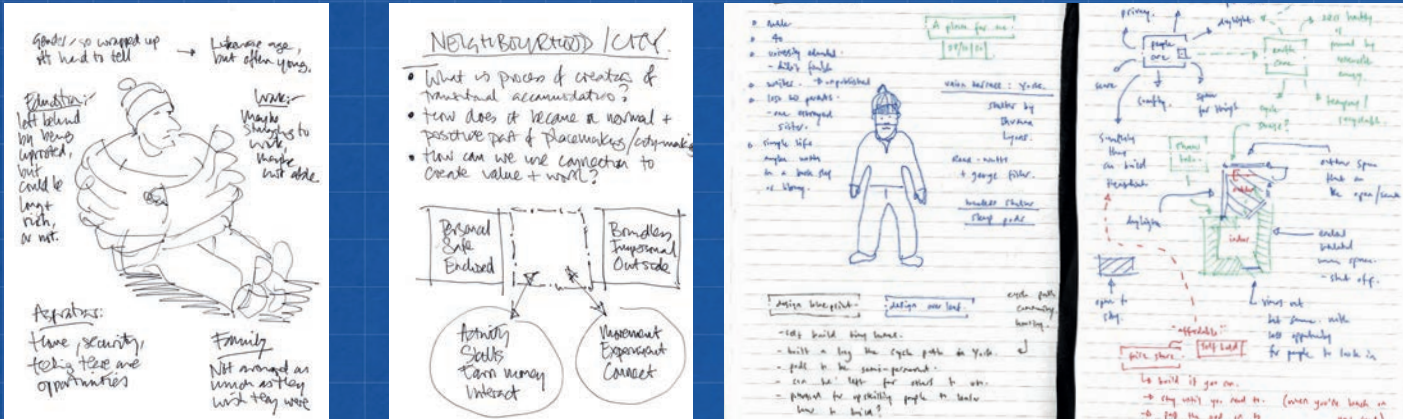- Garden

The service providers however did communicate that the hostel was part of a wider eco-system within the journey of rehousing someone that has become homeless. As service providers they had to consider those that has become homeless that do not have or want access to the hostel. These were also considerations taken on by the architects and designers.
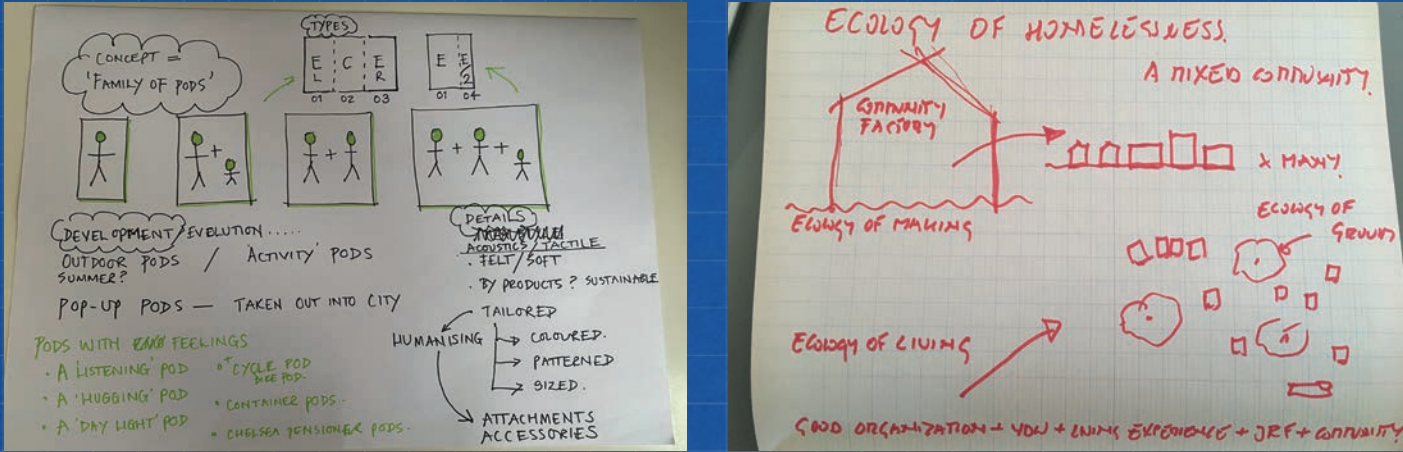
WORKSHOP 3

Architect and Designers responses to the identify ecology.

The aim of the third workshop was to use the insights generated by Workshops 1 and 2 to start identifying new blueprints for tackling homelessness in York The workshop was organized around three questions:
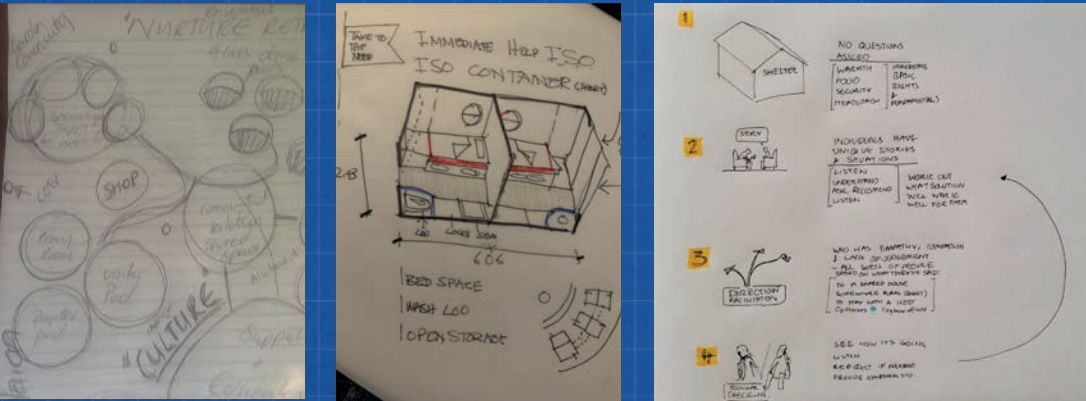
For whom?

What are the spatial concepts?

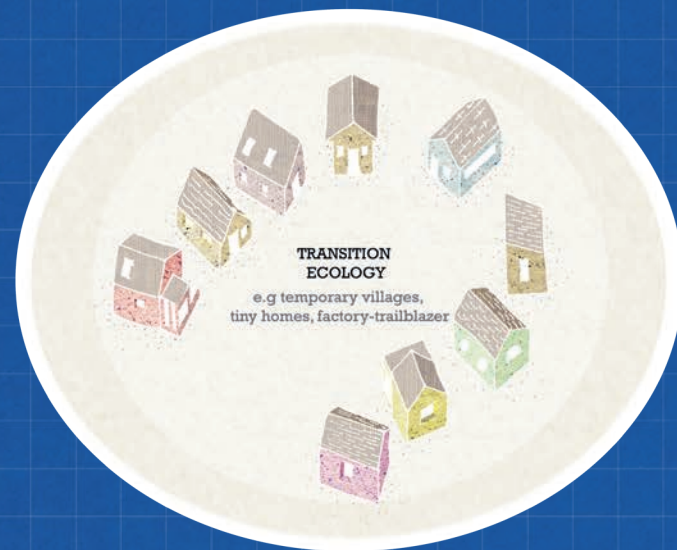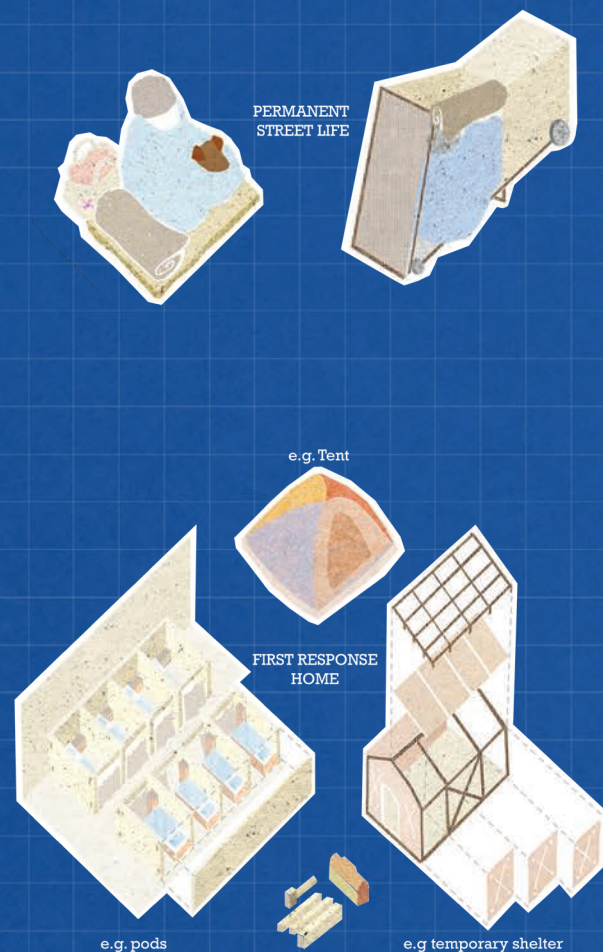### What would be the best process of developing new blueprints?

WORKSHOP 4

Emergence of new blueprints for spatial concepts.

The 4 emerging blueprints developed in response to the key elements as identified by those that had experience of homelessness and the service provides include:

1. Permanent street life/individual body homes
2. First response homes – distributed, pods, tents, temporary land use
3. Transition ecology temporary villages: containers, tiny homes, factory – trailblazer
4. Non-residential support clusters – separating Sleeping and Services Provided

A SWOT analysis is then carried out to identify the strength, weaknesses, opportunities and threats as the start of the blueprint development.

PERMANENT STREET LIFE

TRANSITION ECOLOGY
e.g temporary villages,
tiny homes, factory-trailblazer

PERMANENT STREET LIFE

e.g. Tent

FIRST RESPONSE HOME

NON- RESIDENTIAL SUPPORT CLUSTERS

SERVICES

LEARN

LIVE

GROW

SHARE

SUPPORT

e.g. pods

e.g temporary shelter

Strength

- Choice of place of safety and freedom
- "Better than being in the hostel"
- Autonomy
- Feel safer and having access to services = Increases opportunity and relationships with services
- Cheaper
- Immediate Solution
- Flexible/Moveable/Interchangeable
- Self reliant
- More comfort and security
- First step of engagement
- Honest
- Life-saving
- Personal

Weakness

- Storage issues
- Unsuitable attraction
- Opportunities to feed into addiction/makes growth stagnant/limits progression
- Housing becomes futile
- Increase vulnerability of people (physical and mental health)
- Being dehumanised
- Lost connection with services due to freedom of choice
- Targeted/vulnerable
- Not easy to carry around
- Local policies that stops the provision of sleeping bags/tents – to not normalise/ discourage rough sleeping
- Weather
- Being removed by security
- Last resort as a solution

Opportunities

- For small amount of people to be recognised with access to certain
- Increased comfort
- For society to reflect on our culture
- For society to be more aware about
- underlying issues (e.g. addiction)
- First step of engagement

Threats

- Language translator
- Information board
- 24/7 multi agency hub
- Mental health support/access to counselling
- Accessibility to legal and medical support
- Private media access and support
- Co-op shop
- Access to services (PWP/housing etc)
- Allocated space and time for outside services to be on-hand
- Childcare provision
- Cultural exposure
- Education

4

[1] Homeless Pod Project by George Fisher
https://georgefisher66.editorx.io/work/homelesspodproject

Strength

- Responsive and flexible
- Allows capacity especially at times of emergencies
- Affordable
- Storage is possible
- Repurposing and recycling containers/transferable (Precedent: Sleepsafe)
- Building a community/network
- Immediate
- Access to services
- Warmth
- Stepping stone to more access to necessities
- Opportunity to connect
- Refuge to threats
- Health deliveries
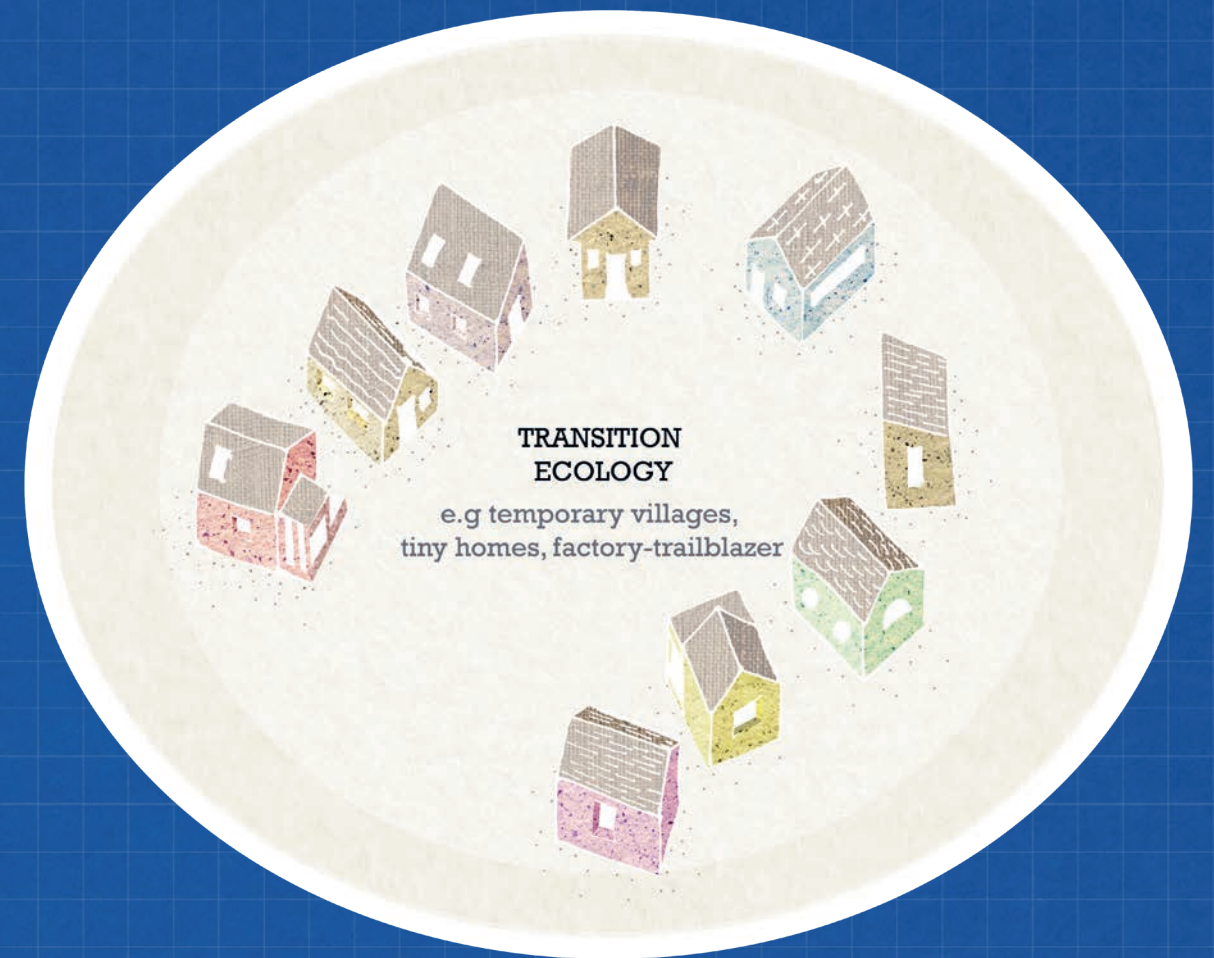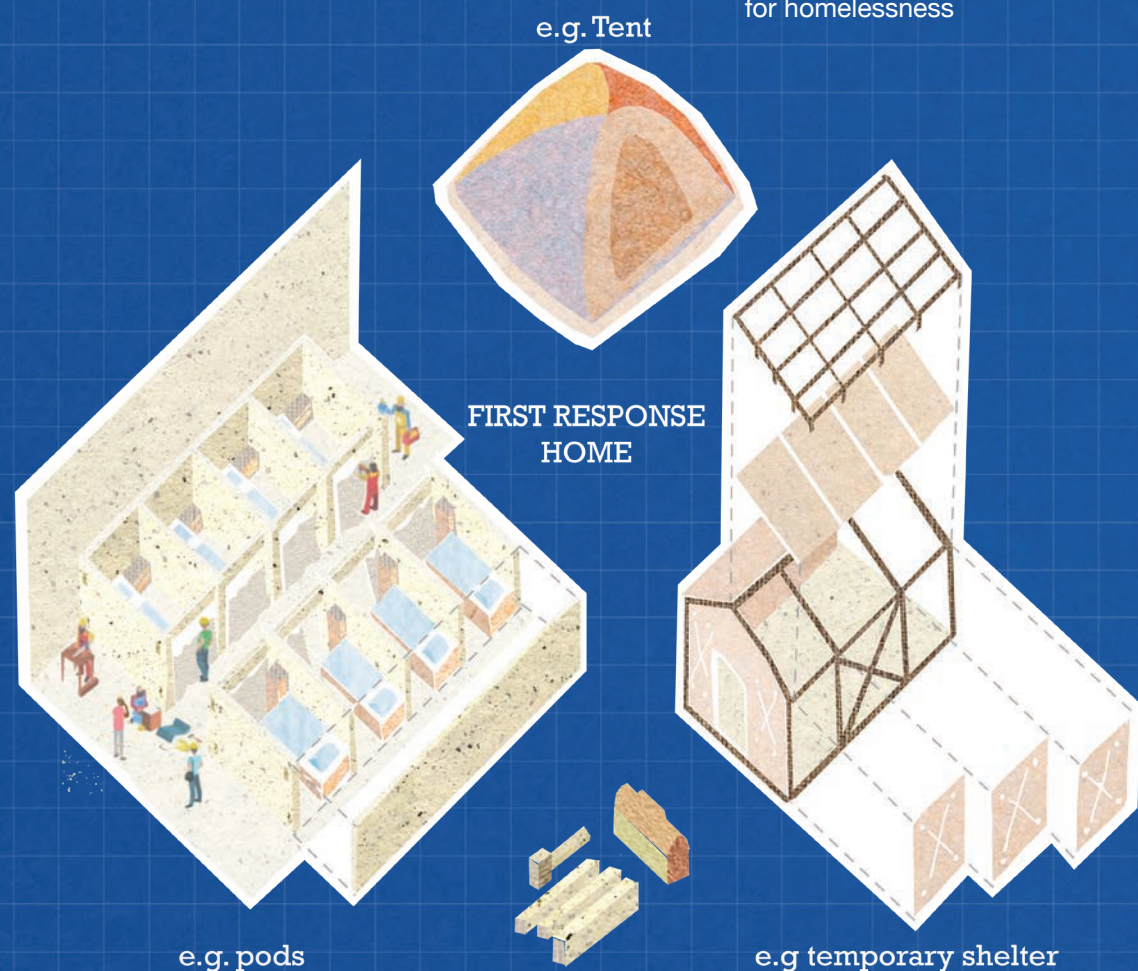- Cleaner
- Gives more dignity

Opportunities

- Empty houses and shops to be repurposed as a space/shelter
- A safer way to bring homeless issues into awareness and visibility to the public
- Response for crisis
- Brings attention to issues of premises
- Access to family reconnection

Weakness

- Not viable for a long term solution
- Health and Safety Issue: Underlying problems/addiction could be a risk to property/chaotic environment
- Might be misunderstood as long term solution
- Alternative pathway
- Targeted/highlighted
- Danger that it could be too good/comfortable to stay on longer
- As wrong perceptions cheaper solution
- Bad influence among peers
- Not sustainable
- "Out of sight, out of mind"
- LEGAL STATUS of every of the categories

Threats

- Building a community of homelessness
- Capacity varied due to circumstances/hard to move people into permanent residence
- The effects and efforts to make people move on/might make them stuck in the system due to uncertain timeline
- As sticking plaster
- Endorsement of institutes
- lack of infrastructure for support
- Divert from the real need to address systemic homelessness and the issues such as mental health and addiction that are often the reasons for homelessness

TRANSITION ECOLOGY

e.g temporary villages, tiny homes, factory-trailblazer

e.g. Tent

FIRST RESPONSE HOME

e.g. pods

e.g temporary shelter

Strength

- A step up the ladder from Option 2
- Rehabilitation
- Opportunities to be creative and socialise
- To be a part of a community
- Offers for independence
- Sense of esteem, dignity and pride
- Sense of belonging
- Platform for professional and peer supports
- More support for families and couples
- More training and learning
- Address
- More comfort and, security
- Sense of permanence
- Placemaking
- Utilise waste space
- Creating a mixed community

Opportunities

- Development of a central core for services with pods built around
- To be in a mixed community rather be a gated community
- To encourage active participation
- More opportunities for learning and skills development/refining talents
- Opportunities to be engaged in landscape/Empowering impact to the area

Weakness

- Lack of space/land would be a problem (Lack of social responsibility of land owners...)
- Planning Application would be a headache
- Might be a beginning of a informal settlement/slum
- LEGAL STATUS of every of the categories, which Acts of Parliament, local Bylaws, or even international obligations govern the rights and the limitations of individuals a groups involved

Threats

- Freedom for misuse of substances
- Danger of being isolated from other community outside of their bubble
- Low density
- Might be considered as a permanent solution/informal settlement (then becomes a slum)
- Creating a closed community within itself
- Further stigmatise and ghettoise people from the mainstream particularly of they are conspicuous and discernibly different from standard housing options, thus making them a target

A blueprint for transitional accomodation

NON- RESIDENTIAL SUPPORT CLUSTERS

SERVICES · LEARN · LIVE · GROW · SHARE · SUPPORT

NON- RESIDENTIAL SUPPORT CLUSTERS

ACTIVITIES · LEARN · SERVICES · FAMILY & FRIENDS · LIVE · RECOVERY · GROW · HEALTH & WELLBEING · SHARE · VOLUNTARY ORGANISATION · SUPPORT

Strength

- To learn and grow and nurture (service provision, notice board, volunteering opportunities)
- Provides a shared public space/good change to York
- Easy access to services ("Pleasant place to be") Creating awareness to surrounding support
- Works well with the structure and system of a hub
- More long-term help and support
- Healthy balance with separation of sleeping space and day time activity space
- Integration to a community
- Afford the most comfort and opportunity for community (within the designated area)

Opportunities

- Learn from Universities Campus Model-where learning and living spaces is next to each other
- Possibly work as a 2nd tier of housing for a sub-class of people

Weakness

- Access to funding and land
- Risk of Health and Safety: Limited choice for provision and necessities (e.g. Kettle, electronics with cords)
- It may be seen as a permanent solution
- Legal status of every of the categories, which Acts of Parliament, local Bylaws, or even international obligations govern the rights and the limitations of individuals a groups involved

Threats

- Peripheral to mainstream community

Elements to start with...

We would like to highlight the elements that could be used to support development of current or new hostels that don't have funding and land for the utopian model that would be ideal.

FAMILY ROOM

SMALL SHOP

LEARNING ROOM

ACCESS TO MAKE
FOOD & DRINKS

Welcome
How are YOU?

INFORMAL
RECEPTION

SAFE SPACE
/STORAGE

A PLACE FOR ME

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TRANSITION ACCOMMODATION