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## Cooperative Housing Design: Exploring Alternative Forms of Habitation and Pedagogy

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# **Abstract submitted to the European Network for Housing Research Conference, Belfast, Northern Ireland, 28 June – 01 July 2016.**

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## **Cooperative housing design – exploring alternative forms of habitation and pedagogy**

*Provision of suitable affordable habitation for all seems to allude society, not least in Ireland which experiences yet another crippling housing crisis. Housing bubbles, which often ruin economies, lead to housing crises which ruin so many lives. Options for habitation delivery are mostly based on the free market, whether they be in the private or the now almost non-existent social and affordable sector. The prevailing procurement methods fail to meet such a basic human need yet alternative options are limited and are not encouraged by government or the private sector.*

*This paper reflects on a pedagogic, outreach, elective course at the DIT where 4<sup>th</sup> Year Architecture students explored alternative systems around the procurement and delivery of housing, particularly, but not exclusively, the co-operative movement. A degree of multi-disciplinary collaboration occurred with students and staff from the Construction Management School within DIT. Shared lectures explored both historical and current exemplars of integrated housing and also Irish housing policy while the students' synthetic research reviewed alternative systems of housing production over the last 100 years or so.*

*The elective group then engaged with a community group, the Dublin Housing Network, as well as Clúid Housing Association and Cooperative Housing Ireland, in a series of collaborative workshops to explore housing strategies on a site in Dublin's north inner city to satisfy the network group's habitation needs. Further collaboration occurred between the elective group and colleagues from the Oikonet Housing Research Network, a global multidisciplinary network on housing research and learning funded by the EU Lifelong Learning Programme.*

**Keywords:** Cooperative housing, pedagogy, collaborative, alternative.