

Mondays with MoMA



MoMA

Step 1 Learn

The *Highrise of Homes* project was envisioned as a multistoried building that would allow residents to live in an urban environment with the privacy and space of a suburban setting. James Wines, a founding member of the SITE (Sculpture In The Environment) architectural group, described the project as a "vertical community" to "accommodate people's conflicting desires to enjoy the cultural advantages of an urban center, without sacrificing the private home identity and garden space associated with suburbia."

What urban and suburban elements can you find in the drawing?

The plan calls for an eight-to-ten story, U-shaped building to be placed in a densely populated part of an urban area. Each floor would feature a village-like community with interior streets. Residents would have flexibility of choice of styles, gardens, and hedges for their designated areas. The ground floor would have shops, offices, and facilities to accommodate residents' needs.

You can see the aerial perspective and plan to get a better sense here:

<https://www.moma.org/collection/works/708>

Step 2 Activity: Design your own ideal community

Materials: paper and pen/pencil

1. Make a list of improvements you would make to the area where you live.
2. Think of how you could make these improvements possible. Your solutions could be practical (what would make it easier to live in?) or visual (how can you make it look better?). They could be realistic or you can use your imagination to create fantastical solutions.
3. Draw what your improved community might look like.

STEP 3 Share!

Share your drawing with a classmate or email it to us at MoMA:

schoolprograms@moma.org.



Volkswagen of America is proud to be MoMA's lead partner of education.

Generous support for School and Teacher Programs is provided by the Carroll and Milton Petrie Education Program Endowment, the William Randolph Hearst Endowment Fund, and the Mimi and Peter Haas Endowment Fund for Elementary School Programs.

Additional funding is provided by the Ducommun and Gross Family Foundation and by the Annual Education Fund.

Image: James Wines. SITE (Sculpture in the Environment), *Highrise of Homes*, project (Exterior perspective). 1981. Ink and charcoal on paper. Best Products Company Inc. Architecture Fund. © 2020 James Wines