

Transdisciplinarity
for **affordable**
and **sustainable**
housing

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BOOK published

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**Insights from the RE-DWELL MSCA
Innovative Training Network**



Housing has become one of the most complex societal challenges of our time, situated at the intersection of social justice, environmental responsibility, economic systems, and spatial quality, and shaped by the interactions between everyday living practices, institutional frameworks, and governance systems.

Drawing on the research and collaborative learning developed within the **RE-DWELL MSCA Innovative Training Network**, this open-access publication advances a transdisciplinary approach to affordable and sustainable housing. The collaborative research undertaken within the network connects three complementary domains—design, planning and building; community participation and lived housing practices; and policy and financing frameworks—showing how their interaction can help bridge the persistent divide between housing research, policy, and professional practice while supporting more inclusive and sustainable housing futures.

Building on four years of collaborative learning and research, the volume presents the conceptual frameworks, research methods, and collaborative processes developed within RE-DWELL—including inter- and transdisciplinary research that integrates

engagement with practice partners and participatory collaboration with communities. It offers academics, students, policymakers, housing practitioners, and community stakeholders a comprehensive overview of how such inquiry can inform policy, practice, and education.

The publication serves both as a synthesis of the RE-DWELL work and as a practical guide to its collaborative methods and knowledge resources, with links to the project website providing access to additional materials and outputs.

Bringing together contributions from early-stage researchers, academic supervisors, practitioners, and internationally recognised experts, the volume illustrates how design, social, institutional, and economic perspectives can be integrated to address today's pressing housing challenges.

Structure of the book

The book is organised in six parts, tracing a progressive expansion of collaboration in housing research—from cross-disciplinary perspectives to transdisciplinary integration.

Part 1 – Setting the stage: Contemporary housing challenges

Guest contributions examine key issues in affordable and sustainable housing from the perspectives of design and building, community engagement, and policy and financing.

Part 2 – Transdisciplinary innovation in housing research

Introduces the conceptual foundations of transdisciplinary research and presents the RE-DWELL learning and research environment.

Part 3 – Developing a transdisciplinary knowledge framework

Presents the 15 doctoral research projects and shared knowledge resources, including repositories of concepts, cases, and challenges.

Part 4 – Exploring affordability and sustainability in housing

Examines interdisciplinary collaborations addressing housing policy, resident engagement, and architectural education.

Part 5 – Community engagement and co-creation

Focuses on participatory approaches and collaborative processes for defining housing problems and developing solutions.

Part 6 – Integration of academia and professional practice

Reflects on collaboration with housing organisations and the role of secondments in producing actionable knowledge.

Appendix – Expert round table discussion

International scholars discuss transdisciplinary approaches to affordable and sustainable housing.

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