



ESR 14

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## Case study

### Diagoon Houses



**Architect(s):** Herman Hertzberger  
**Location:** Delft, The Netherlands  
**Project (year):** 1967-1971  
**Construction (year):** 1971  
**Housing type:** Terraced houses  
**Urban context:** Suburb  
**Construction system:** Mix of in-situ and prefabricated components  
**Status:** Built

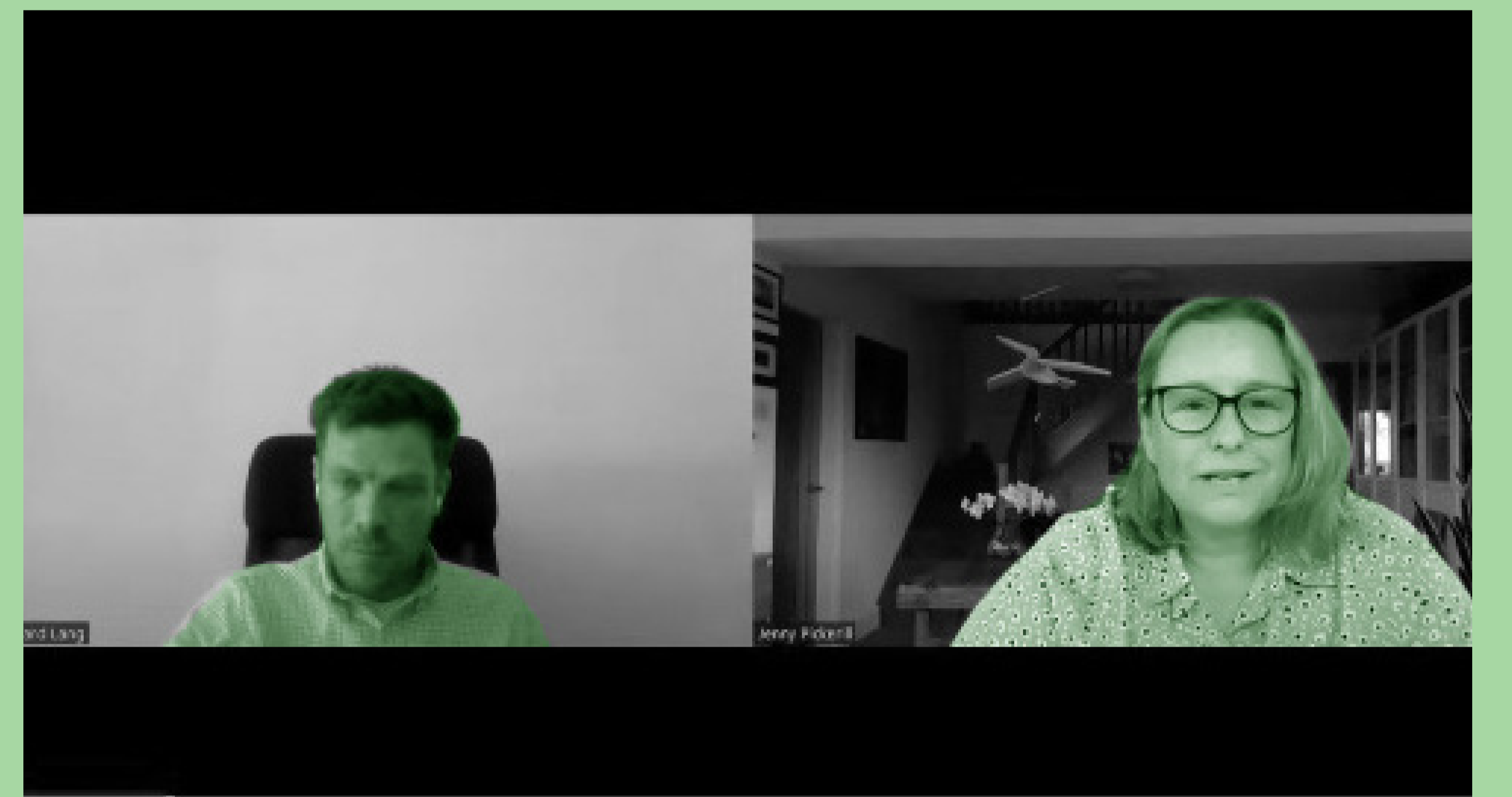
The Diagoon houses are a relevant example for the three research areas that RE-DWELL is interrelating. In relation to the Design, Planning and Building, the project promotes a resilient design by creating a system that can adapt and incorporate new uses over time supporting the creation of building regeneration through versatility and flexible housing layouts. For the “Community Participation” area this case study is particularly relevant, as the user becomes a fundamental actor to finalise the dwelling. As a result, the same living spaces when seen from different eyes, resulted in unique arrangements, creating an emotional involvement between the user and the dwelling. Finally, regarding “Policy and Financing”, the approach that Hertzberger proposes of dividing the house into the support and the infill, could facilitate innovative financial strategies to increase housing affordability, as the shared ownership schemes.

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“There are a lot of barriers to collaborative housing and community participation that require quite a range of skills. You need someone with the drive and passion but you also need legal advice and planning advice. We need to bring those together in a more supportive way”.

Jenny Pickerill, RE-DWELL Round-table no. 3 “Community participation in the provision of affordable and sustainable housing”, 28 March 2022

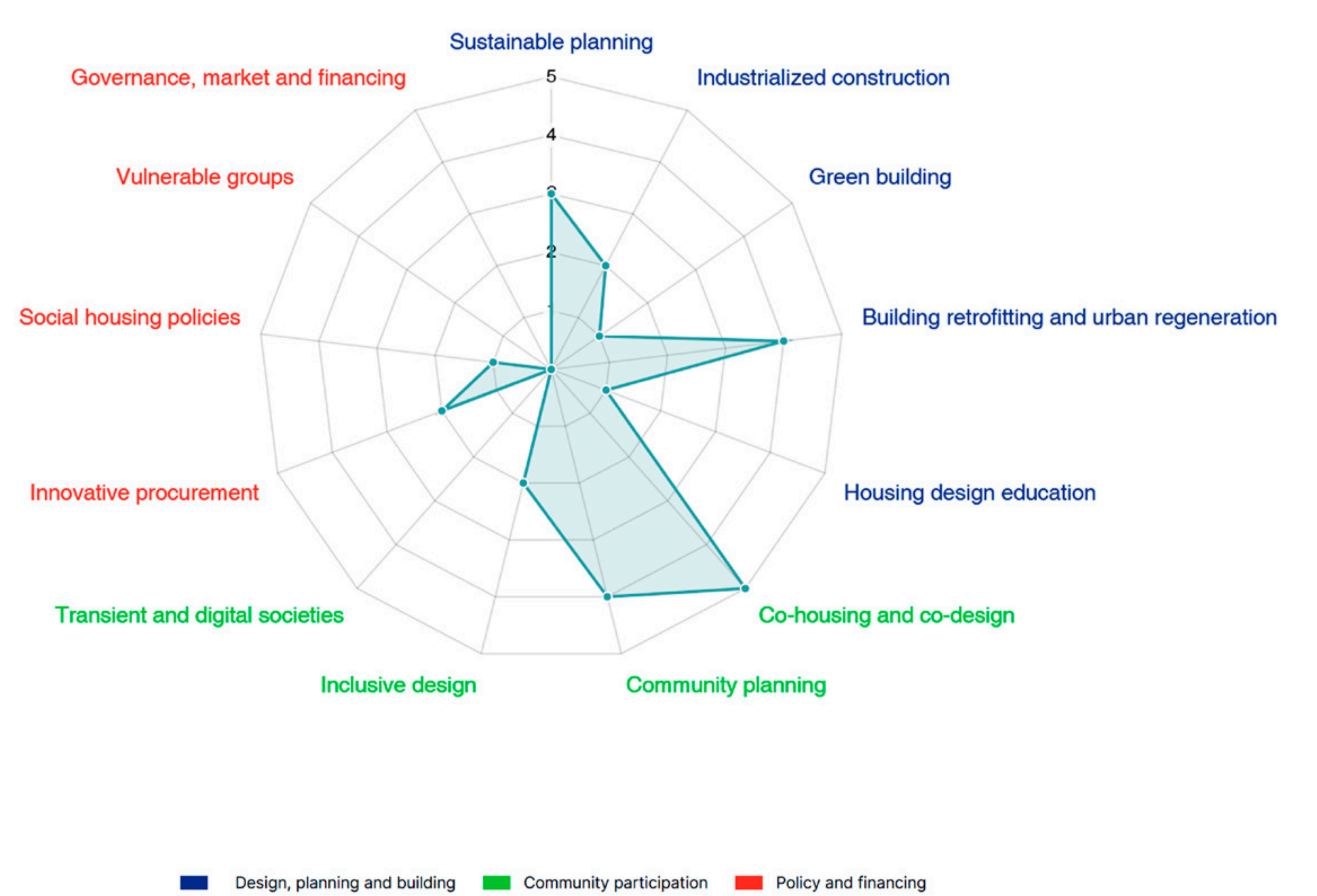


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“From Cierto Estudio we design the housing floorplans as an addition of rooms, opting for a de-hierarchisation of spaces to allow the user to decide how they would like to inhabit their own dwelling, encouraging long-term flexibility. Omitting the need for a main bedroom, a secondary bedroom, bigger or smaller and rejecting the idea of the dissociated day and night zoning. We aim to remove these taboos in response to a changing society.”

Translated interview to Carlota de Gispert, Co-founder of Cierto Estudio conducted by Carolina Martín on 15/12/22 in Barcelona)



\* This diagram is for illustrative purposes only based on the author's interpretation of the above case study



ESR 15

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Supervising team

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## Case study

### Marmalade Lane



**Architect(s):** Mole Architects, TOWN, Trivselhus  
**Location:** Cambridge, United Kingdom  
**Project (year):** 2015 - 2017  
**Construction (year):** 2018  
**Housing type:** Cohousing, 42 homes (houses and apartments)  
**Urban context:** Suburban  
**Construction system:** Industrialised timber-framed closed panels  
**Status:** Built

This case study aligns with the research areas of design, planning, and building, as well as community participation, with some relevance to policy and financing. Collaboration among stakeholders was crucial throughout the project, enabling synergies from procurement to construction and management. The design prioritized sustainability, emphasizing reduced carbon emissions and pedestrian-oriented urban design. Flexibility in the design allowed inhabitants to shape their environment, while affordability was achieved through cost-effective construction methods. Community participation was central, with the cohousing community involved from project inception, collaborating closely with the local authority and developers. The community continued to participate in design meetings and now manages the property, with a non-hierarchical structure and shared decision-making. Policy and financing aspects involved seed funding, deferred land purchase payments, and early buyer discounts. This case study demonstrates the importance of collaboration, sustainable design, community engagement, and supportive policies in creating affordable and participatory housing solutions.

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“We need social entrepreneurs for innovative housing projects to take off, and we need intrepeneurs in existing organizations like large social housing providers. Some of them still follow traditional management approaches and this is sometimes a barrier to promoting innovative collaborative housing”.

Richard Lang, RE-DWELL Round-table no. 3 “Community participation in the provision of affordable and sustainable housing”, 28 March 2022

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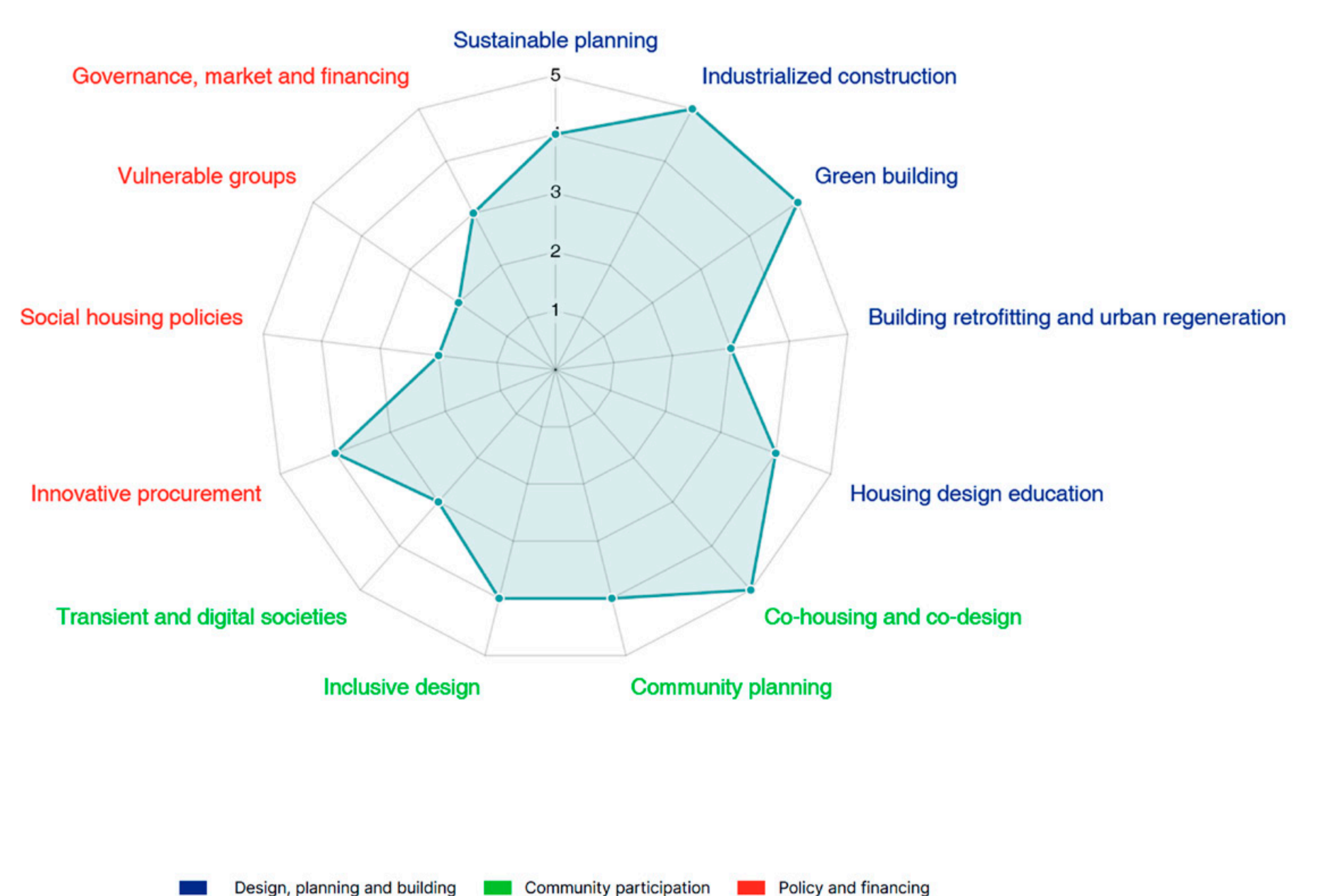
“We should go about designing in such a way that the result does not refer too outspokenly to an unequivocal goal, but that it still permits interpretation, so that it will take on its identity through usage. What we make must constitute an offer, it must have the capacity to elicit, time and again, specific reactions befitting specific situations; so it must not be merely neutral and flexible – and hence non-specific – but it must possess that wider efficaciousness that we call polyvalence.”

Hertzberger, H. (1991). Lessons for students in architecture (Vol. 1). 010 Publishers



“Housing is still designed according to what local governments bodies, investors, sociologists and architects think people want. And what they think cannot be other than stereotyped: such solutions may well be roughly adequate, but they can never be wholly satisfactory.”

Hertzberger, H. (1991). Lessons for students in architecture (Vol. 1). 010 Publishers



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