

# Nanjing Vertical Village - Design for High Density Living

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The world is currently undergoing the largest wave of urban growth in history and in 2008, more than half of the world's population is living in towns and cities. This continuous growth of urban population in relation to limited resources and a fixed amount of space on earth is one of our major contemporary challenges. This growth will need adequate physical support and an unprecedented demand for housing is to be expected.

Within this background and these challenges this thesis takes place, with the site being located in the city of Nanjing, 300 km west from Shanghai, and the province capital of Jiangsu with nearly 10 million inhabitants. The programmatic task is to create a high density housing project for nearly 6000 people on a 7,8 ha large site with high quality of life and adequate natural condition for all. Since housing is a human primary need, the need of dwelling and it is a complicated multi contextual topic, this thesis contains of 3 parts for a holistic approach. The first part is cultural, with the experiences collected after studying residential design in Nanjing for 3 months, the second being theoretical with an analysis of how design high density living spaces should be made and the final part making a design proposal for the knowledge gained.

People living together in more collective living environments seems to be the best available option and with the recent economic crisis in mind, the number of people being able to afford their own house are decreasing and the environmental consequences of suburbia is not a viable option.

Striking the right balance between the positive and negative sides of high density architectural form will be a crucial part of this thesis, using part scientific evidence and part subjective perceptions. The traditional design methods needs to be reinvented and finding new ways to design high density environments is a necessity. In an ideal world, the best concept would be to achieve the perfect balance between the dream of the rural house in a dense and vibrant urban area.