

Schemata Workshop

Our Practice

Schemata Workshop is a diverse architecture & urban design practice with two decades of success empowering people and their communities. Our work enhances the well-being of communities through improved livability and resilience. By actively engaging with the communities for whom we design, we advocate for and are true to the community and our clients' vision throughout the design and process.

We are experts in working with both public and private organizations, with expertise in a wide range of market-rate and affordable housing communities. In addition to high-level planning and place-making, we engage in developing comprehensive planning documents for municipalities to ensure smart growth that serves present and future communities.

Affordable Housing

We are passionate advocates for affordable housing and believe in the importance of equitable, resilient neighborhoods. We know housing is an essential element for maintaining a sense of dignity, steady employment, and a stable family life. In our practice we strive to design homes and communities that support people of all backgrounds in their daily lives. Schemata Workshop has extensive experience navigating the public funding process and has designed over 1000 affordable homes in the region.

Community Engagement

We specialize in participatory design that attempts to actively involve all stakeholders in the design process to help ensure the results are responsive and appropriate to inhabitants' cultural, emotional, and spiritual needs in addition to practical ones. This is achieved through a myriad of methods including in-person and virtual workshops, surveys, walking tours, and precedent exploration. Throughout our community engagement process, we intentionally incorporate community feedback into each subsequent engagement.

Sustainability

Schemata Workshop views environmental sustainability as a key part of resilient communities. Special attention must be paid to integrating green building into an overarching view of sustainability - including social sustainability and universal design principles, as well as environmental sustainability. We prioritize sustainability as an integral value in providing affordable housing. We understand that sustainability strategies are integral to improving quality of life, including indoor air quality, utility costs, access to green space and sunlight, and durable and renewable materials. These not only enhance the

resident experience, but also contribute to a lower building footprint on a larger scale. We always design for long-life, low-energy buildings. We make sure to select durable systems and materials with long-term maintenance in mind, considering how buildings are occupied and maintained over time, and which systems will likely be upgraded in the future. We work closely with our contractor and MEP consultants to evaluate life cycle costs and building envelope performance and come up with the ideal flexible solutions to meet the project goals.

Resilient Neighborhoods

Schemata Workshop champions a holistic and comprehensive vision for neighborhood design. This vision elevates social and cultural issues to the same high level of importance and aspiration as environmental concerns. Schemata strives to blend a strong sense of place and identity with an opportunity to enhance livability for all by fostering connections on a social, cultural, and environmental stewardship level.

Master Planning

Schemata Workshop has extensive experience creating master plans for large sites that are responsive to the surrounding community and context. As part of the team with Habitat for Humanity of East Jefferson County and Cap Ex, Schemata Workshop is leading the effort to design an attractive and vibrant neighborhood that supports Habitat's goal of a permanently affordable neighborhood.

Our scope has included:

- Community Outreach (initial and final)
- Program Development
- Site Analysis
- Zoning Review
- Planning Concepts
- Building Massing
- Final Site Plan
- Team Selection
- Coordination with Civil Engineering

- Coordination with Geotechnical, Environmental Consultants
- Scheduling/ Phasing
- Budget development
- Funding Research

Modular/ Alternative Construction Methods

Schemata has been a leader in alternative construction techniques. We are one of only two firms who has used volumetric modular for affordable housing in western Washington. We have designed several projects for modular construction and have looked at cross laminated timber (CLT) for several projects. Schemata hopes the modular industry holds the key to the "Missing Middle" in home construction and can assist communities in creating housing swiftly to alleviate the current housing shortage crisis.