

mddl School

Description

The mddl School Program actively engages the community by involving municipal representatives, housing providers, first-time developers and homeowners in the educational process of developing middle housing. Through this program, we have created an environment where community members learn, share experiences, and participate in discussions about housing development, fostering a collaborative spirit that empowers individuals to take action on housing.

The program enhances the public realm by promoting sustainable and inclusive growth within established communities. Educating participants about the benefits of middle housing encourages the redevelopment of homes at the end of their lifecycle. This approach maximizes land use, mitigates urban sprawl, and promotes sustainable living practices.

The mddl School Program is unique in its approach to create a diverse and inclusive physical environment. Through our programming, we integrate various disciplines—land acquisition, development, design, financing, and policy—into a cohesive educational experience. The curriculum is designed to equip participants with knowledge and practical skills needed to navigate the complex housing landscape.

The rationale behind the mddl School Program is rooted in the principles of community-driven development. The program emphasizes practical applications and real-world scenarios, ensuring that participants can envision how their learning translates into tangible results in the public realm.

By leveraging Calgary's cultural and demographic diversity, the mddl School Program promotes an inclusive approach to housing development. The program encourages dialogue among participants and industry from various backgrounds and experiences, allowing for a more comprehensive understanding of community needs and preferences. This emphasis on diversity not only enhances the educational experience but also results in housing solutions that are representative of and responsive to the community's unique characteristics.

The mddl School Program draws on the extensive experience of its industry-expert facilitators to offer education on fundamental concepts such as place, scale, amenity, legibility, vibrancy, and resilience, all based on real-world experience. The program aims to enhance Calgary's sense of place by focusing on housing solutions that are architecturally appropriate for the local context and responsive to community needs. By involving local industry experts to lead the Design Development module, we explore design options that align with the scale of often low-density environments. Participants are introduced to various plan types that incorporate amenities designed to improve residents' quality of life, with an emphasis on accessibility and inclusivity. Our design development methodology highlights the importance of establishing clear connections and pathways for people, ensuring that the resulting plans create meaningful experiences for users. Furthermore, we expand educational opportunities to include cost and viability considerations, ensuring that design solutions are grounded in the practical realities of project delivery.

Middle housing at its core is rooted in sustainability, diversity, equitability, and inclusivity, making it a vital housing form in our communities. By mobilizing an engaged audience in the delivery of middle housing, we provide a greater range of middle housing choices, contributing to neighbourhood vibrancy and economic vitality. The mddl School Program further prioritizes resilience by concentrating on the development of established communities, specifically through the redevelopment of areas that promote reduced car dependency, optimize use of serviced lands with nearby amenities, and deliver high-quality construction.