

Alameda Ridge Cohousing

Portland, OR



SITE & PROGRAM

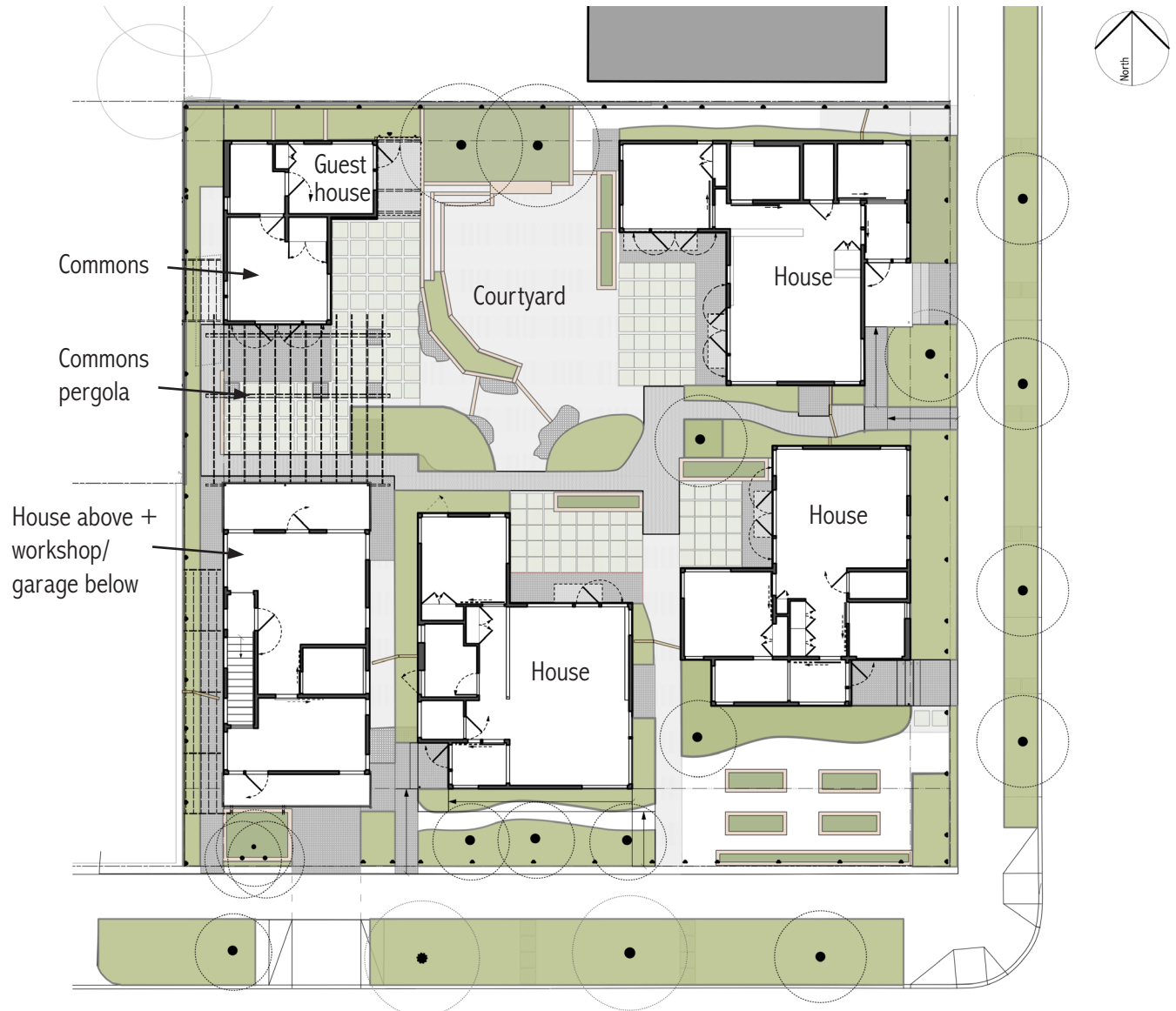
A group of individuals came together to build an intentional co-housing community to create a collaborative and supportive aging-in-place environment. The design team led this project for individual dwellings, common culinary and crafting spaces, a future caretaker space, and the exterior design on this relatively low slope site along the Alameda Ridge geological formation in Northeast Portland.

The buildings are arranged to maximize interior daylight, to balance rooftop shade and sun zones to allow for solar panels, and to create privacy from both the adjacent streets, and in between the community's common spaces and individual patios at each dwelling. Additionally, the buildings are clustered around a common green, within which are a series of outdoor rooms: a shade structure that blocks hot western light; an outdoor cooking zone and meeting area; covered outdoor workshop-studio spaces, and a regenerative oak micro-habitat located at the north, which also acts as both a privacy from neighbors as well as a biodiverse backdrop for the outdoor spaces.

Building Type: New Construction
Project Type: Residential, Cottage Cluster
Project Scope: Full Contract, Architecture and Landscape Design
Client: RBL Commons
Size: 10,000 sq. ft. site
~800 sq. ft. houses
Team: Geotech, Survey, Structural, Landscape

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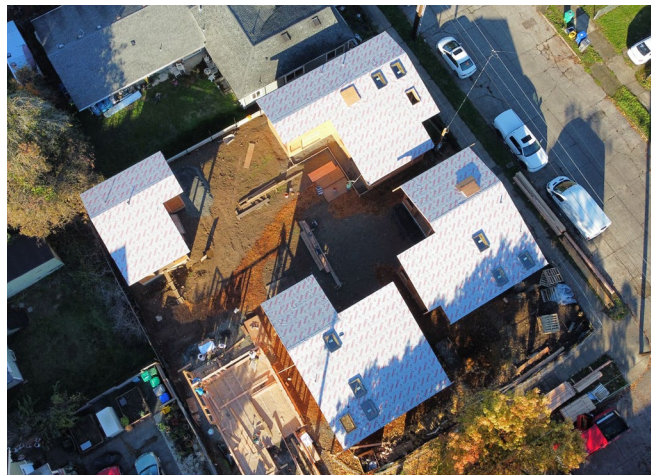
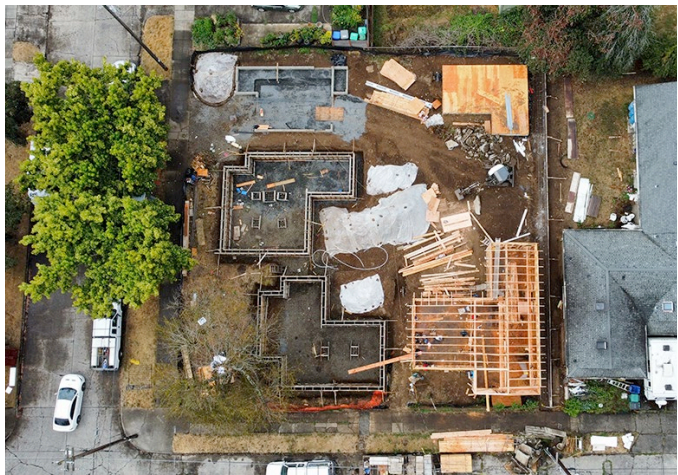
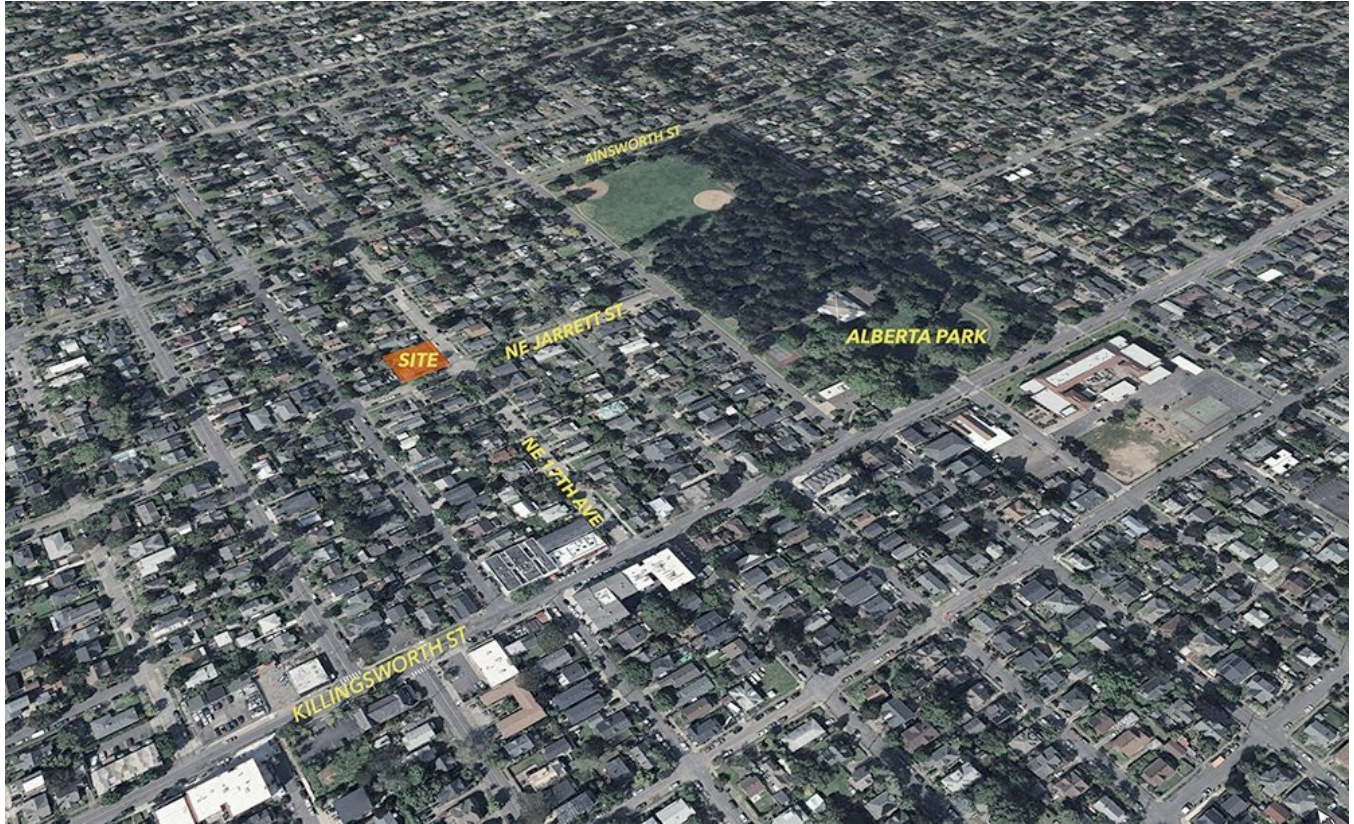


All rainwater is retained on-site, and is collected and fed through cisterns to irrigate the vegetated spaces. In addition to creating edible garden zones with planting beds and small fruit shrubs and trees, selective portions will be reforested with native trees oaks, silk tassel and quaking aspens, with mid and understory companion planting zones for each micro-zone.

Project landscape design intent also means leaving the locale better than when the site was first acquired. With the native plant palette, a goal is to build soil that can remove atmospheric carbon and create specific habitat zones that are mutually beneficial for flora and fauna, including humans. In this regard, the project aims to create connections to other green spaces throughout the Alberta- Killingsworth neighborhood and deepen community relations.

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