

The Central Neighborhood

Ohio



Location: Cleveland, Ohio
Type: Affordable Housing, Urban Infill/Redevelopment
Year Design: 1992
Status: Largely Complete
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The Central Neighborhood is a historic section of Cleveland located 1.5 miles east of downtown. Over the last thirty years, a combination of “urban renewal,” demolition, and private abandonment resulted in the loss of a substantial portion of the privately owned housing stock in the area. At the time of the charrette in 1992, vacant land, public housing, and institutional structures were predominant.

Fortunately, recent efforts have demonstrated the potential for neighborhood rejuvenation in the city. Hoping to capitalize on this initial success, a local community organization proposed the construction of a minimum of 60 single-family houses in the neighborhood. Community leaders hoped to use this opportunity to develop an overall plan to guide public investment in the area and to set the standard for future development and redevelopment projects.

The goal of this project was to create a neighborhood that would incorporate the advantages of both city and suburbia. Through the design of its public spaces, streets, and squares, the Central Neighborhood reflects a strong sense of community and of being part of the city. At the same time, the individual house plans accommodate modern needs in terms of square footage, garages, and outdoor space.

The designs that have been constructed are flexible enough to be applied to lots of varying sizes, with or without alleys, and with attached or detached garages. All of the units provide a front or side porch that opens onto the street, and the setbacks of the new houses align with those of the existing houses, maintaining a continuous urban fabric.