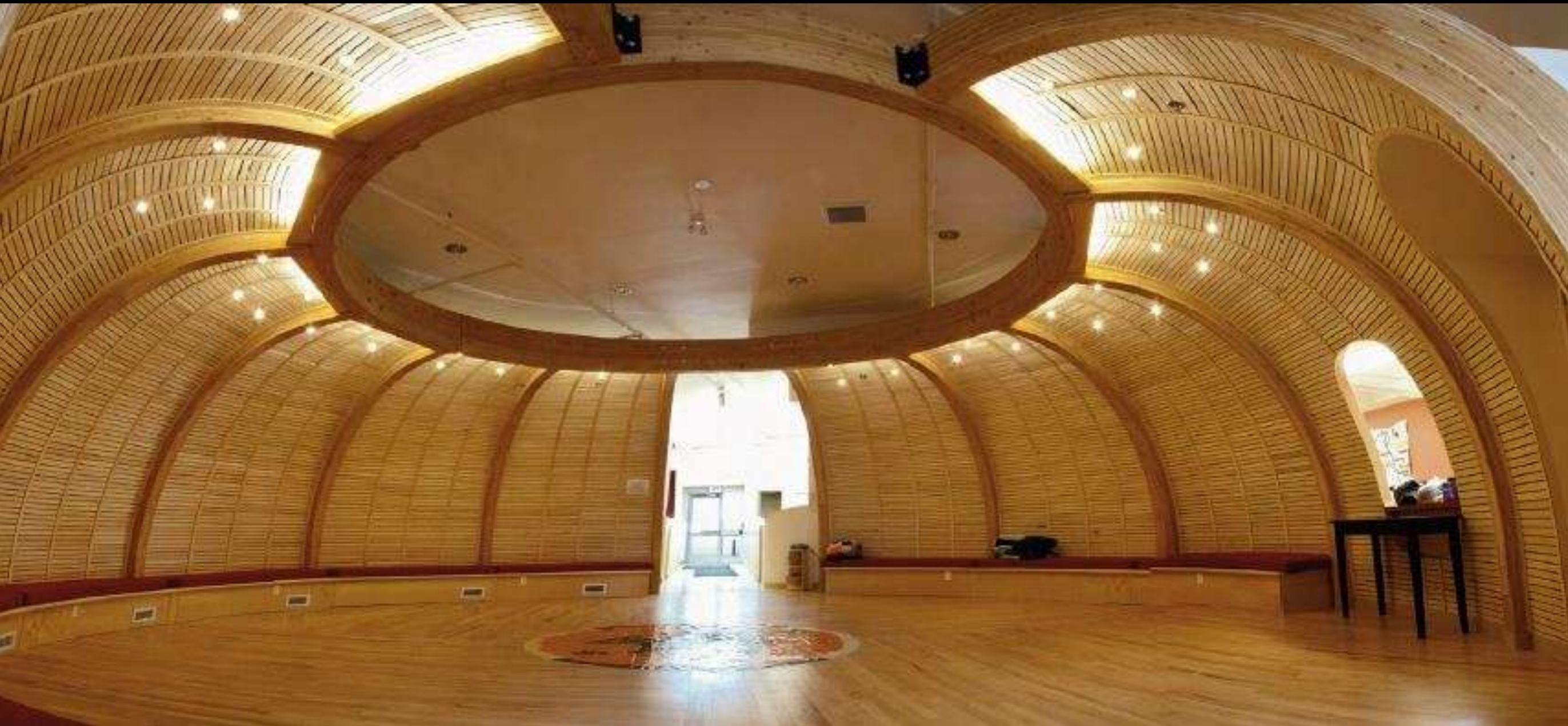




Anishinaabek

Architectural Planning

First Nation Housing Conference 2018
Thunder Bay, ON



Eladia Smoke | KaaSheGaaBaaWeak
Smoke Architecture, Inc.

Architectural Planning

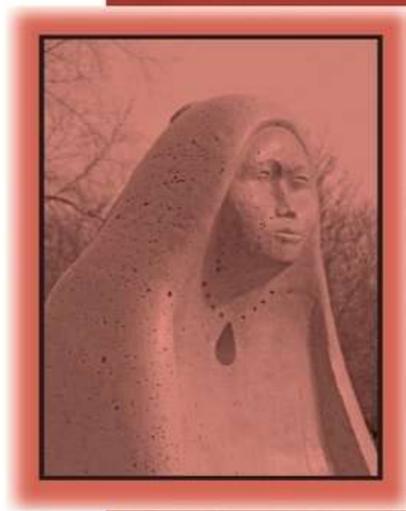
First Nation Housing Conference 2018
Thunder Bay, ON

- History of suburban development style
- New trends in First Nation approach
- What do architects bring to the table?

Architectural Planning

First Nation Housing Conference 2018
Thunder Bay, ON

- Why are architects almost never involved in FN Housing developments?



**ANISHINAABE
WAYS OF
KNOWING
AND BEING**

Lawrence W. Gross





Giiwednong (North)
Wiingushk (Sweet Grass)
Mkwa (Bear)
Bboon (Winter)
Naakshik (Evening)
Gaatesid (Elder)
Waabshkaa (White)
Jichaag (Spirit)



Waabnong (East)
Semaas (Tobacco)
Mgizi (Eagle)
Mnookmi (Spring)
Gizheb (Morning)
Binoojiinhs (Baby)
(O)zaawaa (Yellow)
Nendmowin (Mind)



Epingishmok (West)
Mshkwoodewashk (Sage)
Bwaji Bizhiki (Buffalo)
Dagwaagi (Autumn)
Naakshik (Evening)
Ntaawgid (Adult)
Mkadeewaa (Black)
Enmanjiwang (Emotion)



Zhaawnong (South)
Zhgob (Cedar)
Waawaashkeshi (Deer)
Niibin (Summer)
Naawkwe (Noon)
Shkiniigewin (Adolescent)
Mskwaa (Red)
Wiiyow (Body)



Levittown

- Why do we build homes the way we do?
- How did this come about?



Levittown

- Post-WWII North American suburban development represents the largest transformation of land area in a single period of time in human history

An aerial, black and white photograph of a densely packed residential neighborhood. The houses are small, uniform in style, and arranged in a grid-like pattern. The roofs are dark, and the walls are light. The overall appearance is that of a planned suburban development.

Levittown

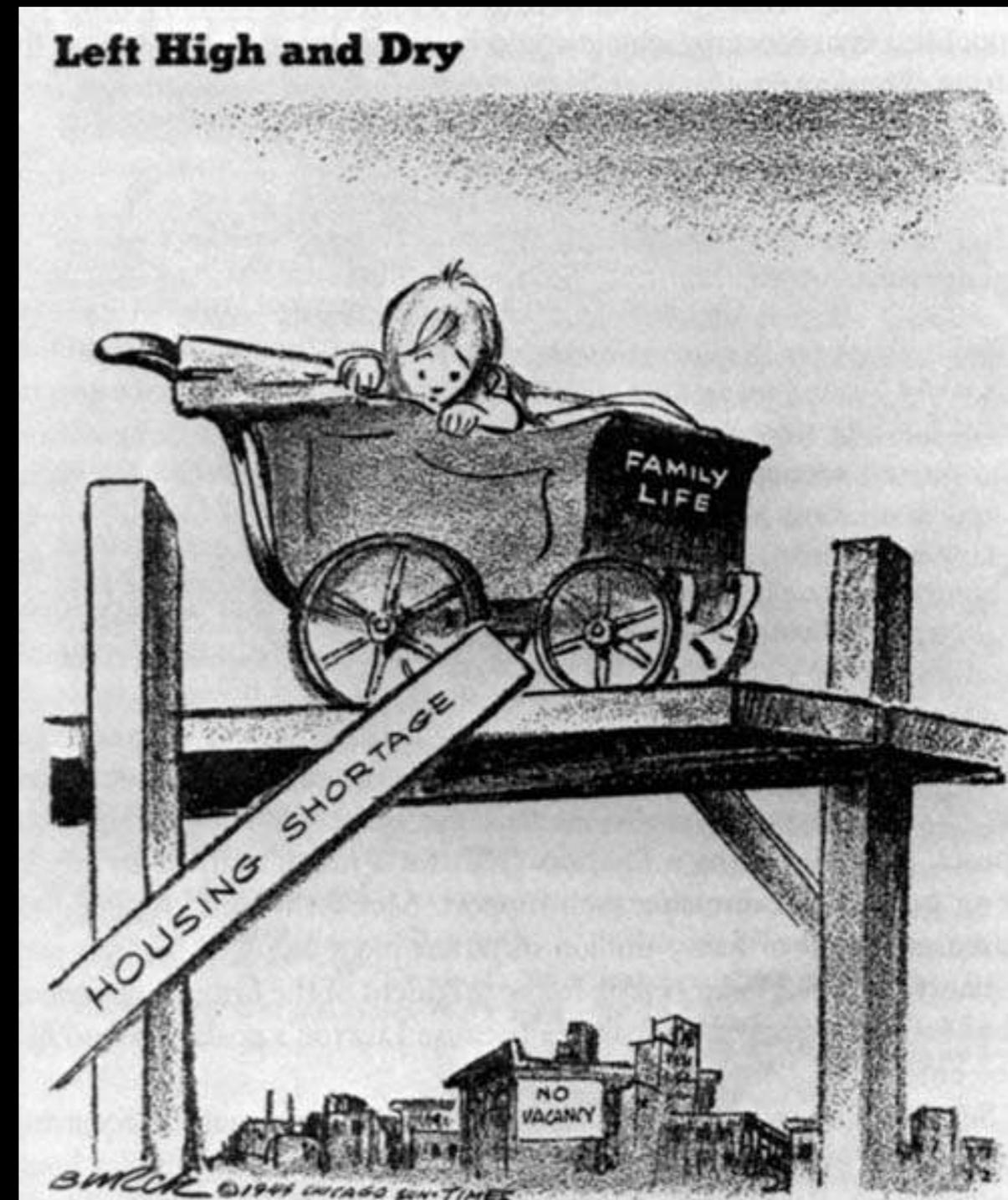
- The first suburbs of this type were the Levittowns: first in New York, Pennsylvania, New Jersey
- William Levitt's planned developments continued in Puerto Rico, Illinois, Maryland, and Virginia
- This development pattern spread across the entire continent

Levittown

Significant market push to development:

- The Great Depression and two world wars had artificially suppressed housing production
- Suburban development had been incremental, custom-built, and expensive. Majority of housing stock was (often cramped) apartments.

1947 Cartoon



Source: <http://statemuseumpa.org/levittown/one/b.html>

Levittown

Significant market push to development:

- The Servicemen's Readjustment Act of 1944 (G.I. Bill): Veteran's Association insured zero down-payment, low-interest mortgages, free education, and other benefits for returning US WWII veterans - Canada had a similar version.



It's a promise!

JIM'S going away tomorrow . . . and there will be long, lonely days before he comes back.

But that little house sketched there in the sand is a symbol of faith and hope and courage. It's a promise, too. A promise of gloriously happy days to come . . . when Victory is won.

Victory Homes of tomorrow will make up in part at least for all the sacrifices of today . . . and that's our promise!

They will have better living built in . . . electrical living with new comforts, new conveniences, new economies to make every day an adventure in happiness.

Plan for your Victory Home now . . . the one sure way is to buy War Bonds. Every Bond you buy is an investment in your future happiness and security . . . every dollar you put into Bonds helps bring our boys back sooner—and safer. Buy another Bond today.

The General Electric Consumers Institute at Bridgeport, Conn., is devoted to research on wartime home problems such as Nutrition • Food Preparation • Food Preservation • Appliance Care • Appliance Repair • Landscaping • Home Heating and Air Conditioning. Helpful booklets are available from your G-I Appliance Dealer, or General Electric Consumers Institute, Dept. L-5-B.

APPLIANCE AND MERCHANDISE DEPARTMENT, BRIDGEPORT, CONN.

GENERAL ELECTRIC

That is an Electric Heat and the Snow-melting Plow, Washers, Automatic Washers and C.E.S. On the right side there is the "Star of Honor" and N.R.C. See the catalogue for this, and more.

Levittown

Significant market push to development:

- The US National Housing act of 1934 established the Federal Housing Administration to insure low down-payment, low-interest loans to the general public.
- The equivalent in Canada is CMHC, founded 1946. (First as the Central Mortgage and Housing Corporation; 'Central' changed to 'Canada' in 1979)



It's a promise!

JIM'S going away tomorrow . . . and there will be long, lonely days before he comes back.

But that little home sketched there in the sand is a symbol of faith and hope and courage. It's a promise, too. A promise of gloriously happy days to come . . . when Victory is won.

Victory Homes of tomorrow will make up in part at least for all the sacrifices of today . . . and that's our promise!

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APPLIANCE AND MERCHANDISE DEPARTMENT, BRIDGEPORT, CONN.

GENERAL ELECTRIC

That is an Electric Heat and the Snow-melting Furnace, Washers, Automatic washers and C.E.S. On another night listen to the "Star of China" and N.R.C. See the catalogue for more details.

Levittown

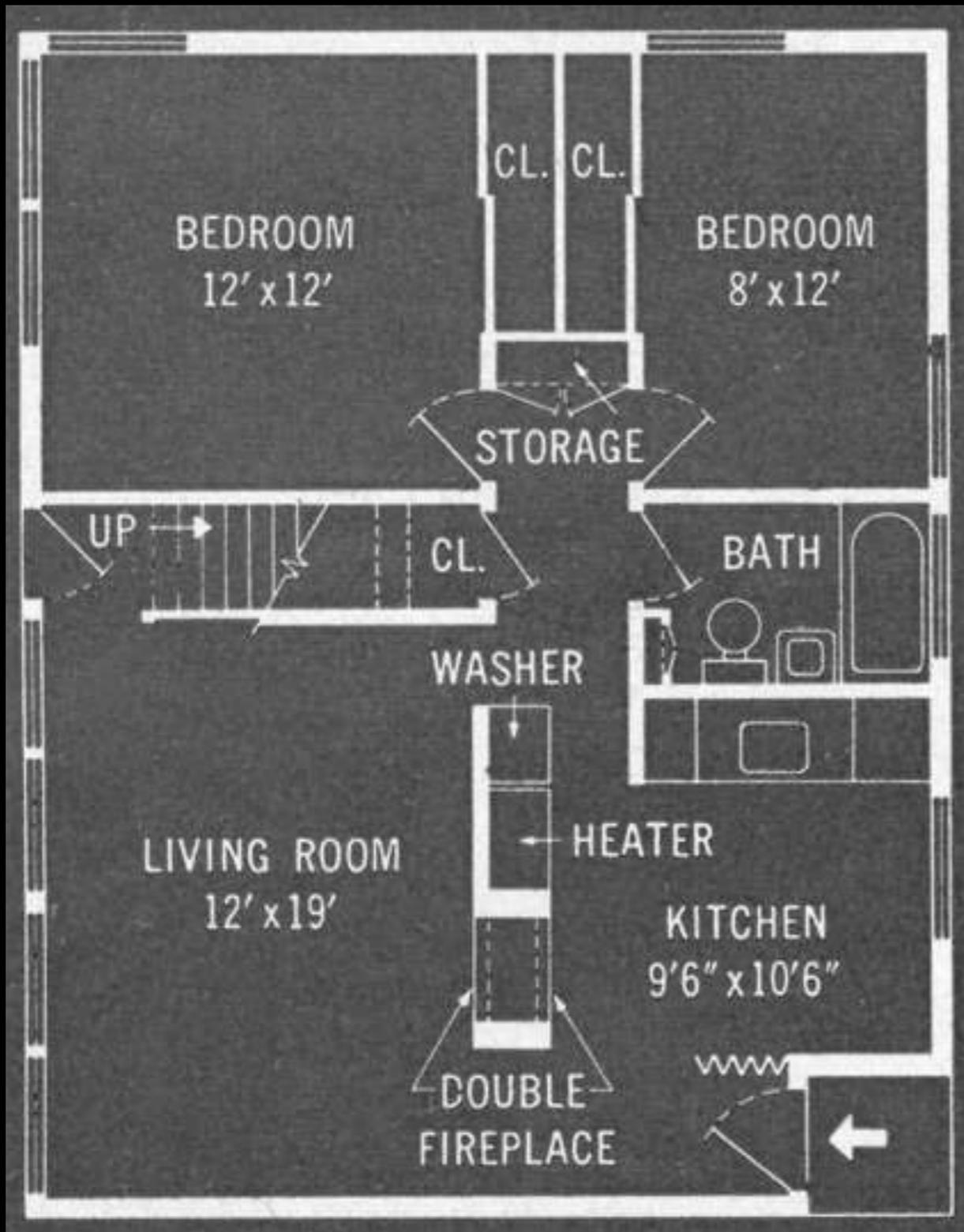
- Levitt & Sons was run by father Abraham, and two sons William, and Alfred (an architect). The firm had been building custom suburban homes in Long Island, NY.



Levittown

- Most loans were comparable to renting, with zero down payment
- By 1951, using two plans (Cape Cod and Ranch), Levitt & Sons had built 17,447 homes.





“Ranch” and “Cape Cod” Plans

Source: <http://statemuseumpa.org/levittown/one/c.html>

Levittown

Characteristics:

- Development has high land-use impacts: displaces agricultural land and greenfield sites



Levittown NY before and after

Source: <http://statemuseumpa.org/levittown/one/c.html>

Levittown

Characteristics:

- Indiscriminate erasure of existing biosphere, topography, and drainage systems.



Levittown NY before and after

Source: <http://statemuseumpa.org/levittown/one/c.html>

Levittown

Characteristics:

- Multiple lifestyles were not included - neighbourhood variety & housing choice is limited



Levittown

Characteristics:

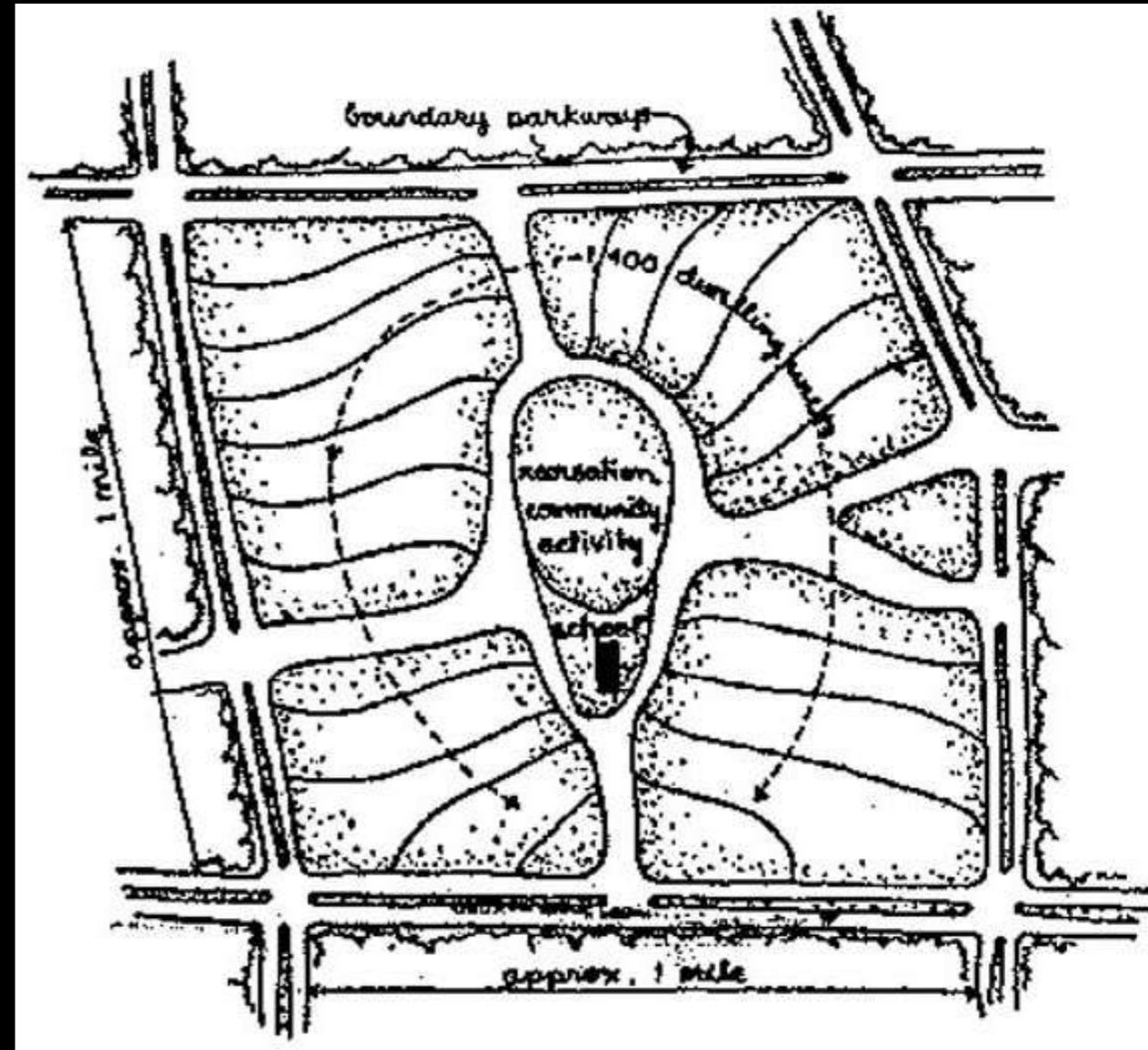
- Infrastructure intensive: low-density development means that cities must pay for the maintenance of more overall infrastructure



Levittown

Characteristics:

- Mass clearing and regrading of site
- Orientation of homes not related to north, east, south, or west
- differences in exposure
- Vegetation completely erased & replaced

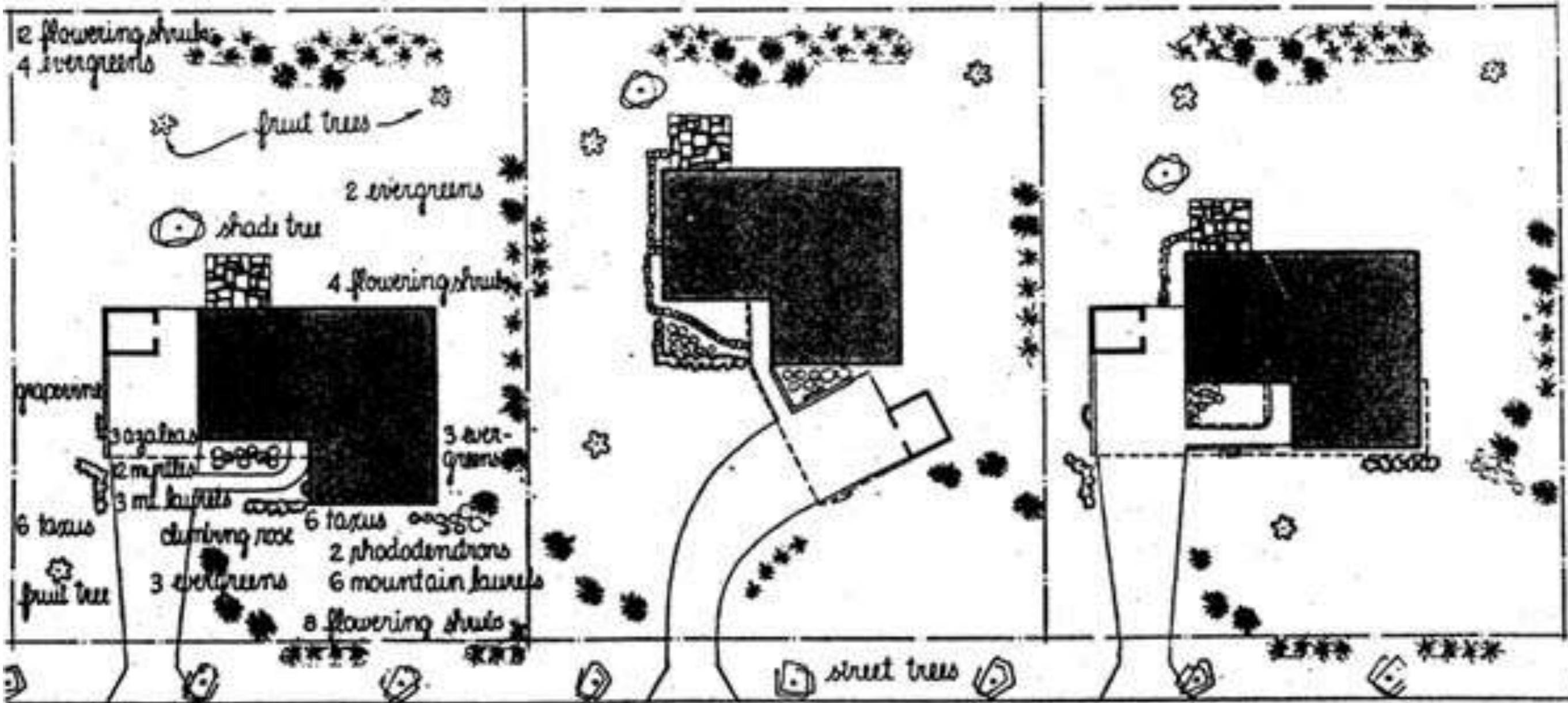


The Master Block diagrammatic Levittown Plan

Source: <http://statemuseumpa.org/levittown/one/c.html>



How about a temporary truce for lunch General?



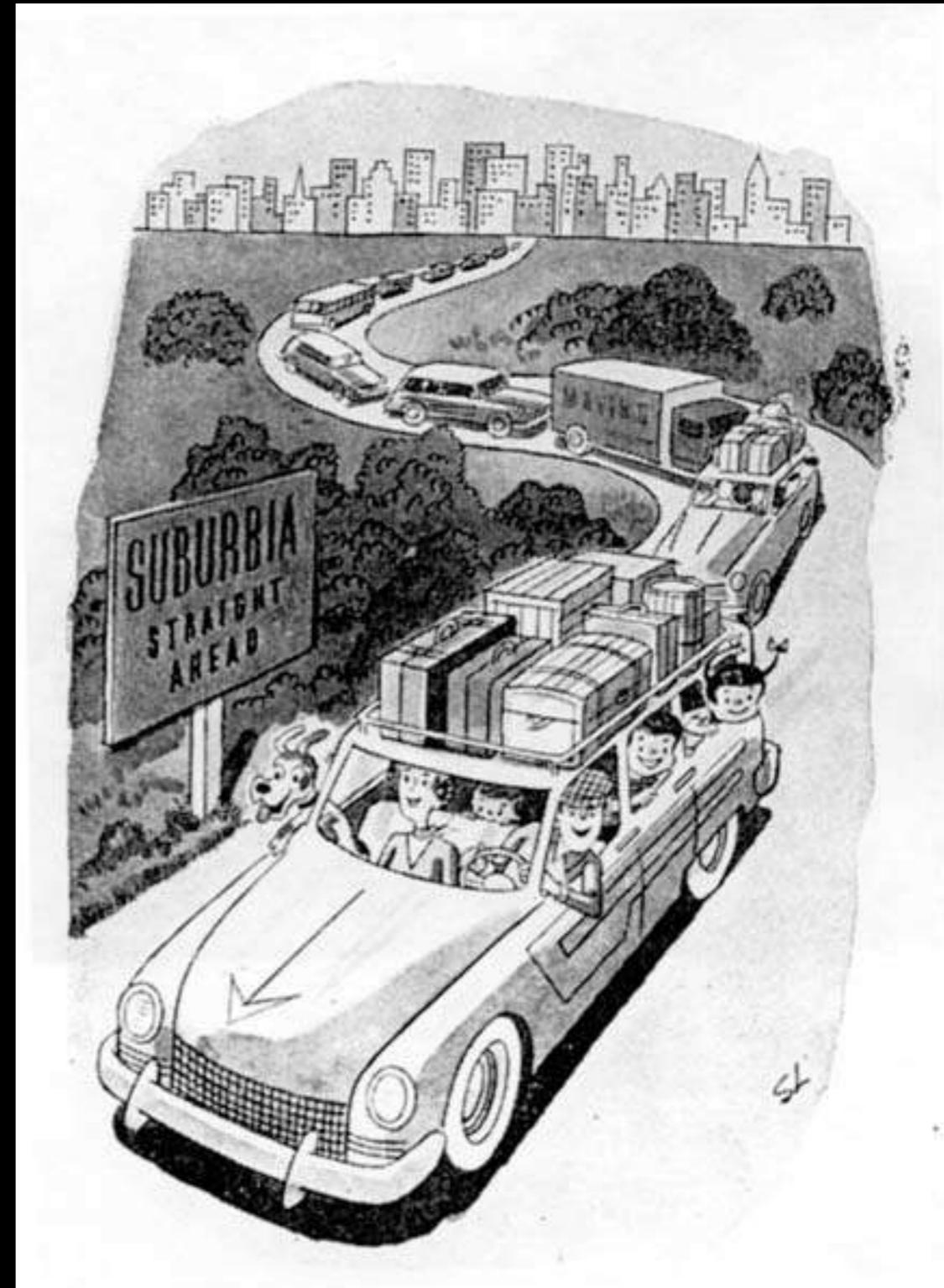
Variety provided by different setbacks and landscape plantings

Source: <http://statemuseumpa.org/levittown/one/d.html>

Levittown

Racially segregated:

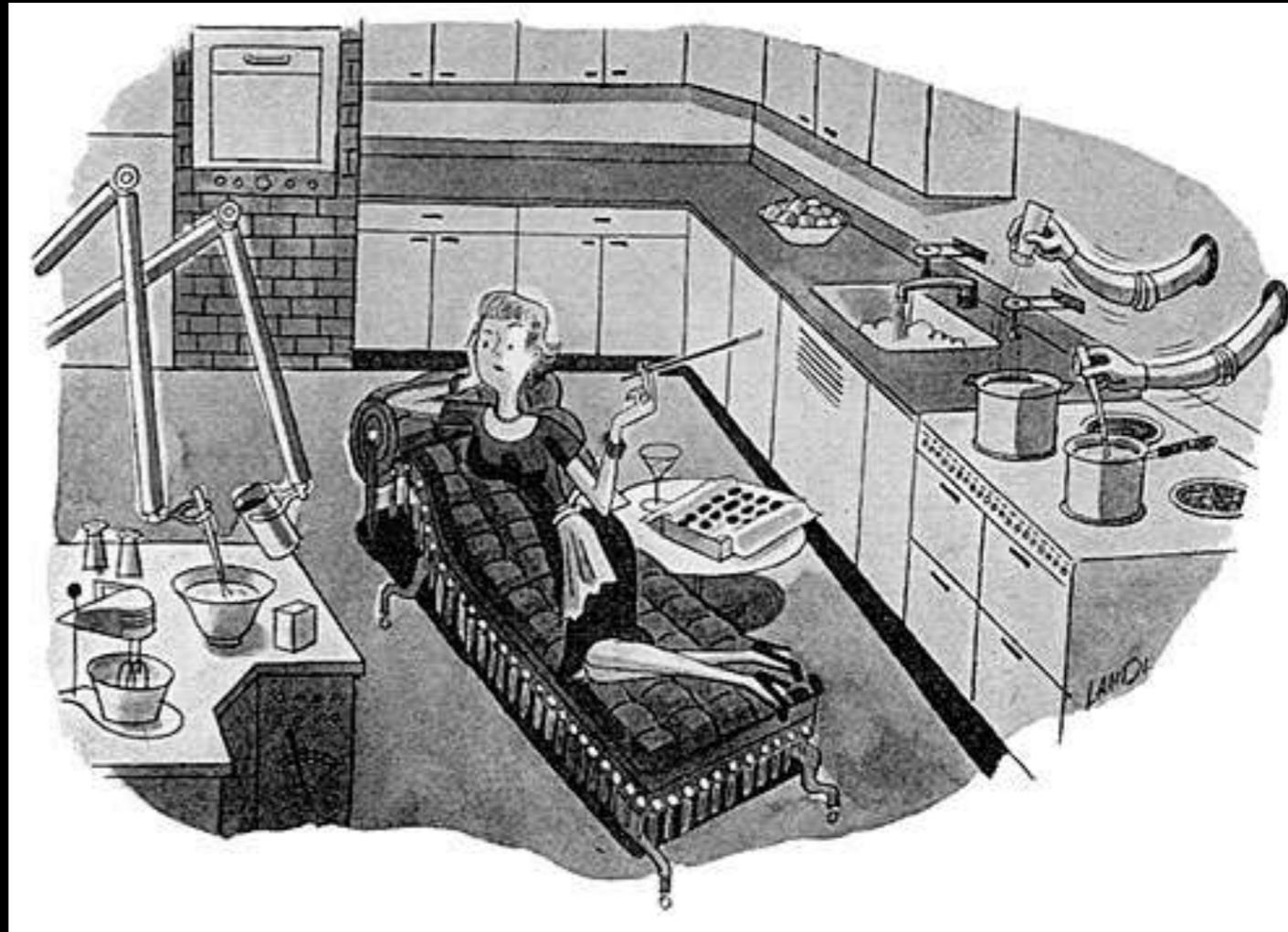
- FHA & VA loans often not approved for African Americans
- African Americans and Jews excluded by covenant from owning property in Levittowns, despite the Levitts being Jewish
- To this day, Levittowns are primarily Caucasian



Levittown

Gender biased:

- Vehicle traffic was privileged, indirect routes, no sidewalks, and communities were not walking distance to most amenities
- It was assumed that males would drive to work, females would stay home and care for the house and children

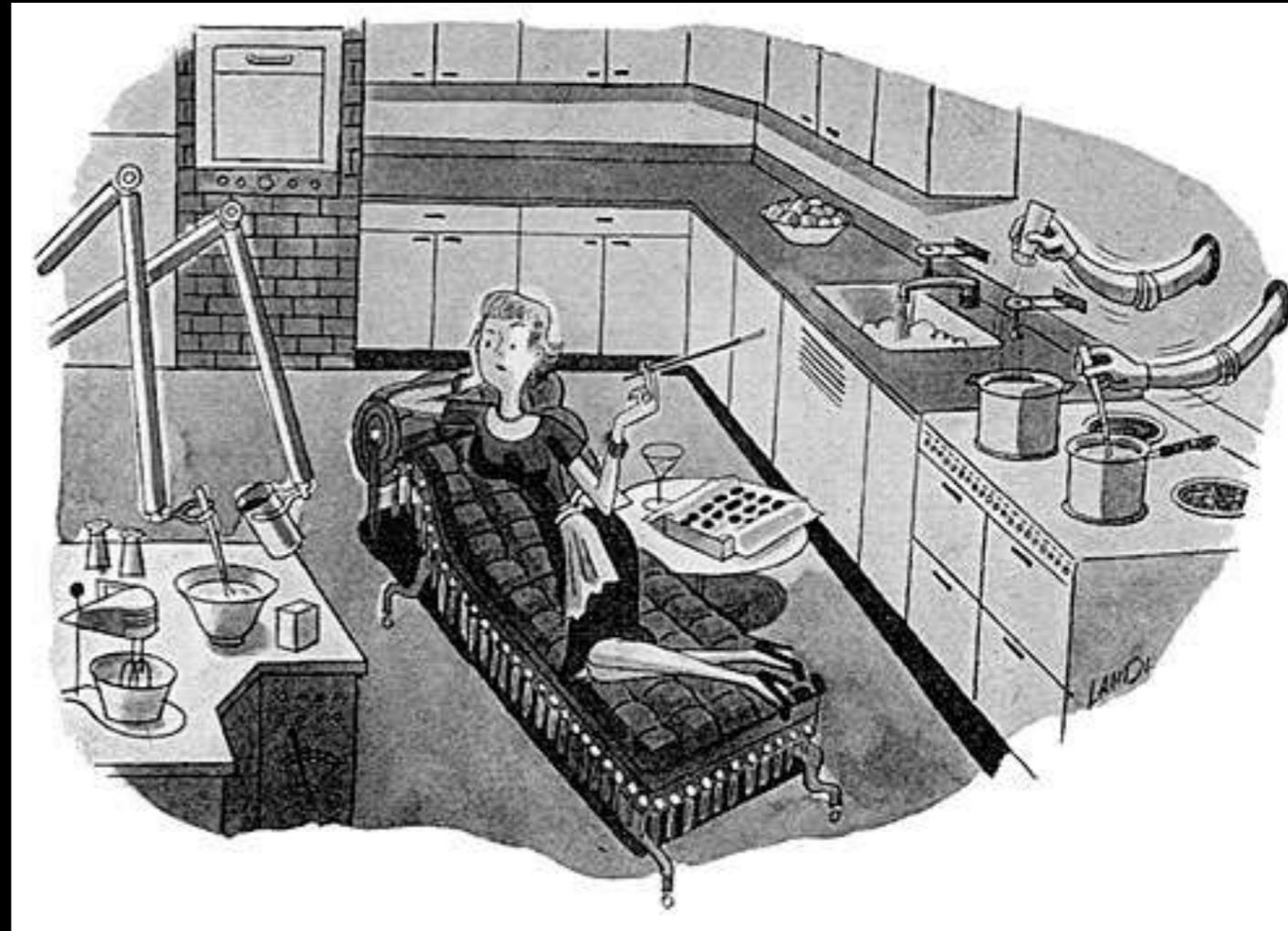


Source: <http://statemuseumpa.org/levittown/one/b.html>

Levittown

Gender biased:

- Nuclear family only: extended family members are not easily integrated
- Women were thus geographically isolated from the public sphere of urban life, and from key personal support networks



Source: <http://statemuseumpa.org/levittown/one/b.html>

Levittown

Characteristics:

- Transportation costs are significant, especially as energy costs increase
- Favours large-scale distribution systems of food, energy, and commercial goods, predicating losses due to waste in transport



Levittown

Characteristics:

- Investment pattern in labour and materials is large-scale and short duration, reducing local economic circulation of capital



Source: <https://helmofthepublicrealm.files.wordpress.com/2012/10/house-materials-shot-smaller.jpg>

Levittown

Characteristics:

- Means of production shifted entirely to industry: large-scale developers make all decisions in design and delivery; profits are consolidated, not recirculated



Source: <https://helmofthepublicrealm.files.wordpress.com/2012/10/house-materials-shot-smaller.jpg>

Levittown

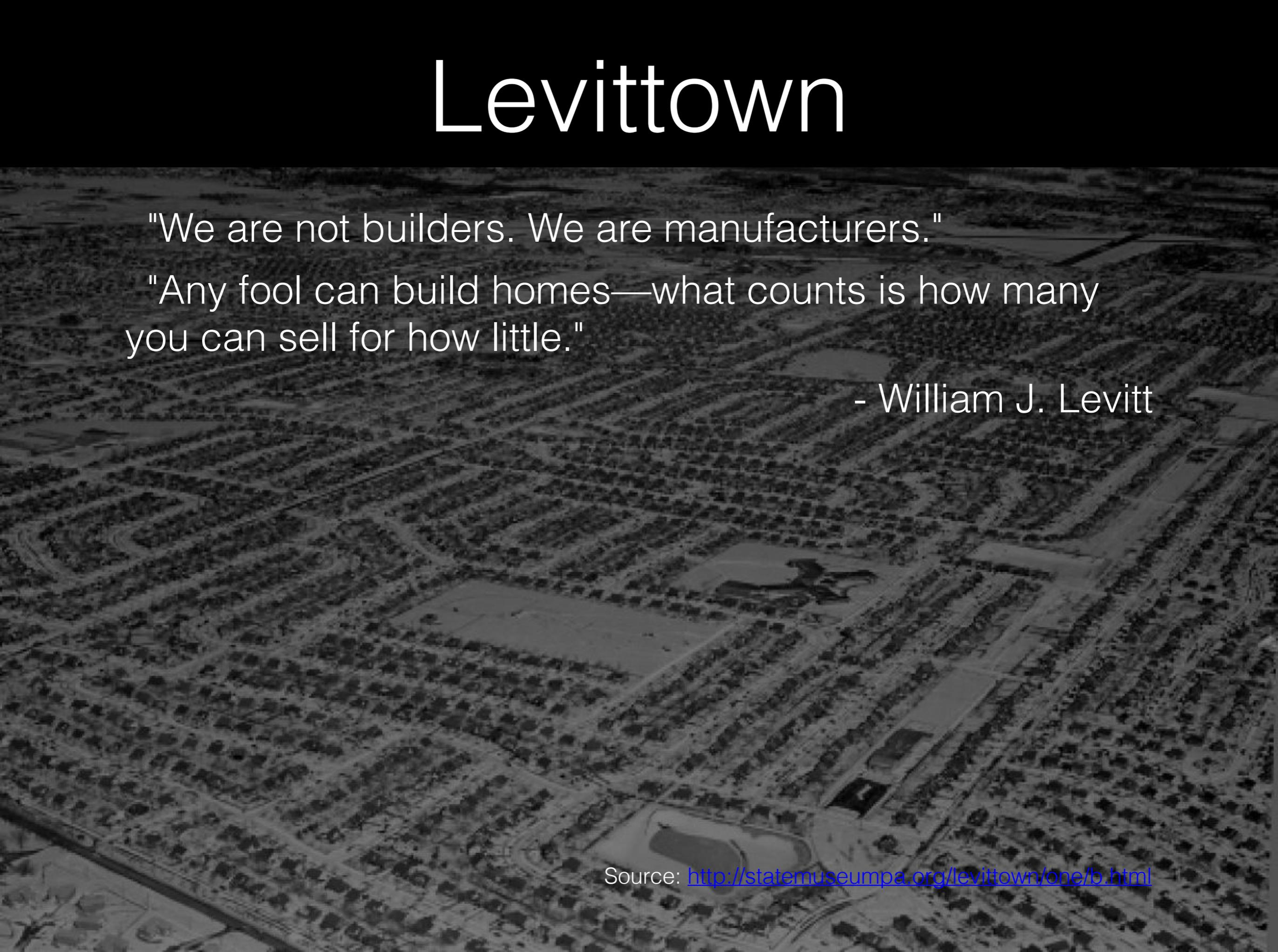
Characteristics:

- Decision-making process, management, and labour is top-down, and exclusively male



Source: <https://helmofthepublicrealm.files.wordpress.com/2012/10/house-materials-shot-smaller.jpg>

Levittown

An aerial photograph of Levittown, Pennsylvania, showing a dense grid of houses and streets. The houses are small and uniform in design, typical of the Levittown development. The streets are laid out in a precise, rectangular pattern. The overall appearance is that of a well-planned, mass-produced residential area.

"We are not builders. We are manufacturers."

"Any fool can build homes—what counts is how many you can sell for how little."

- William J. Levitt

Anishinaabe Architecture



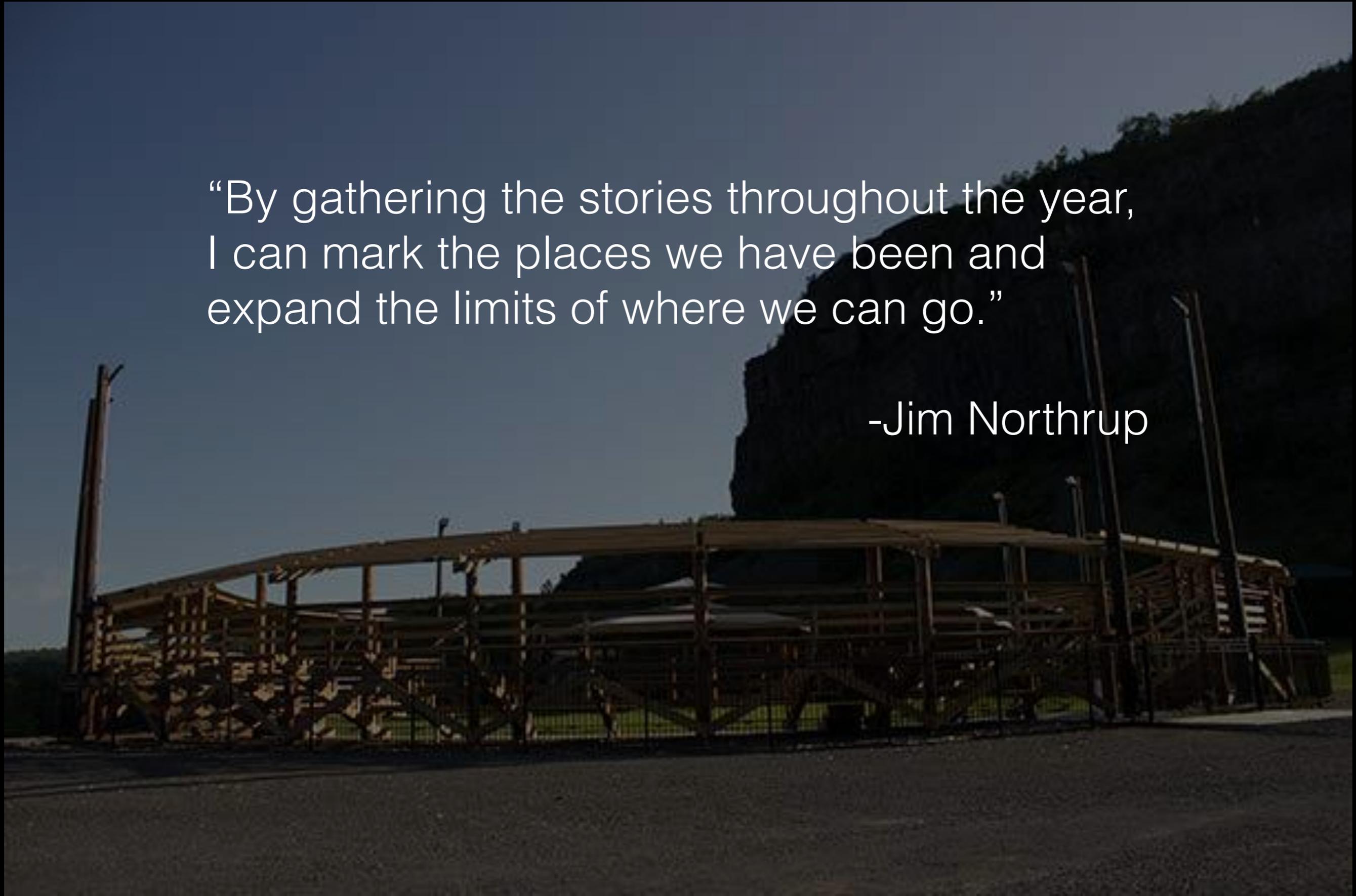
Pow-wow arbour at Fort William First Nation, near Thunder Bay.

Source: <http://www.netnewsledger.com/2015/06/18/national-aboriginal-day-2015-thunder-bay/>.

Anishinaabe Architecture

“By gathering the stories throughout the year, I can mark the places we have been and expand the limits of where we can go.”

-Jim Northrup





Source:
http://education.mnhs.org/sites/default/files/styles/nl_large_image/public/images/nl/4-13_0.jpg?itok=2f3kyPS3



INDIAN HOME LAKE MILLE LACS NEAR COVE MINN 789



Anishinabemowin language camp at roundhouse in Ponemah, near Red Lake, MN.

Source: <http://www.redlakenationnews.com/story/2013/08/15/news/ojibwe-youth-camp-helps-restore-once-forbidden-language/14574.html>



Anishinaabe ethnobotanist Scott Herron addresses workshop in roundhouse at Watersmeet, MI.

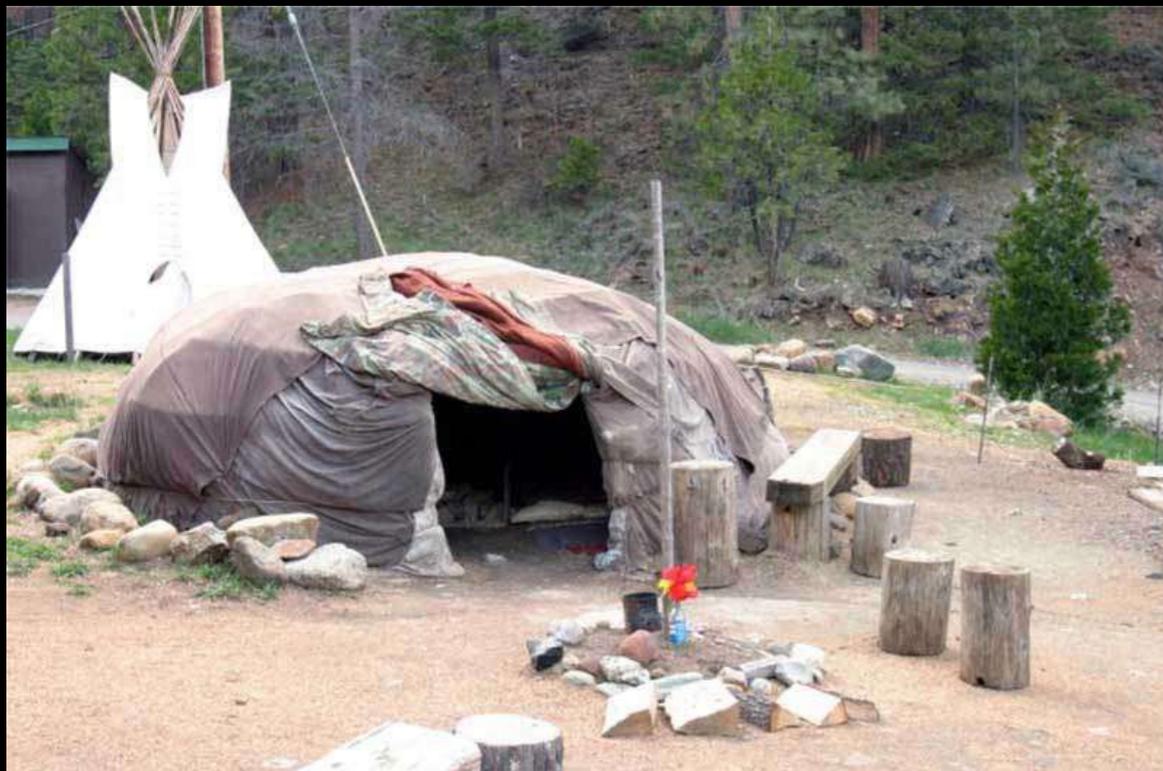
Source: <http://wingsandseeds.org/2012/11/26/kinomaage-success-story/>



Source: <http://www.crystalinks.com/sweatlodge.html>



Source: http://intersectingart.umn.edu/index.php?media/view_full/50



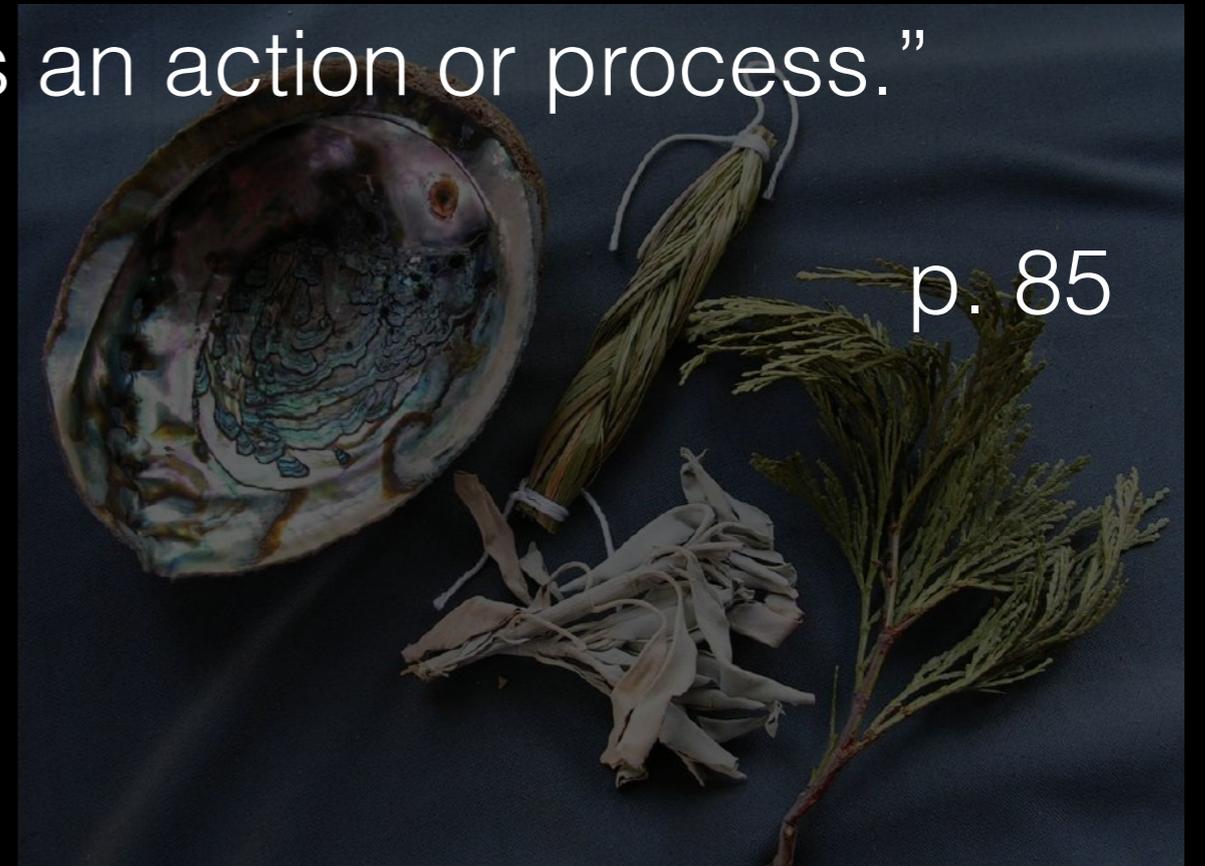
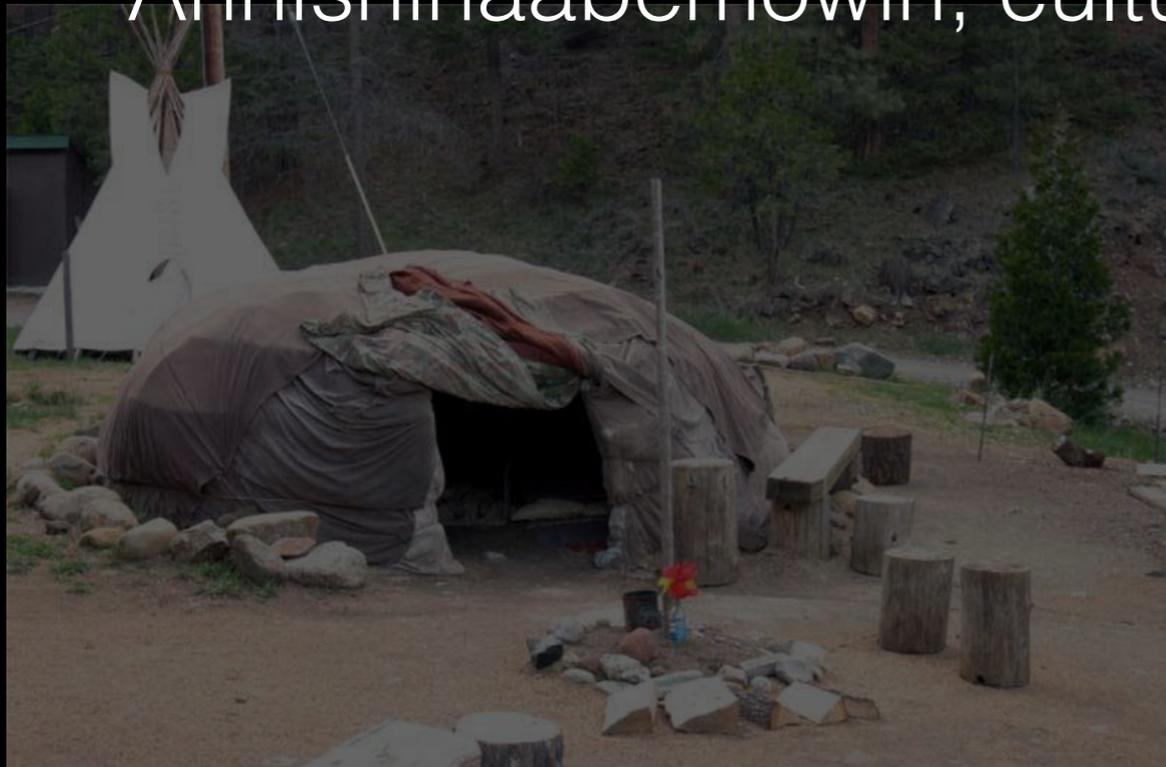
Source: <http://www.crystalinks.com/sweatlodge.html>



Source: <http://ojibweresources.weebly.com/ojibwe-medicines.html>



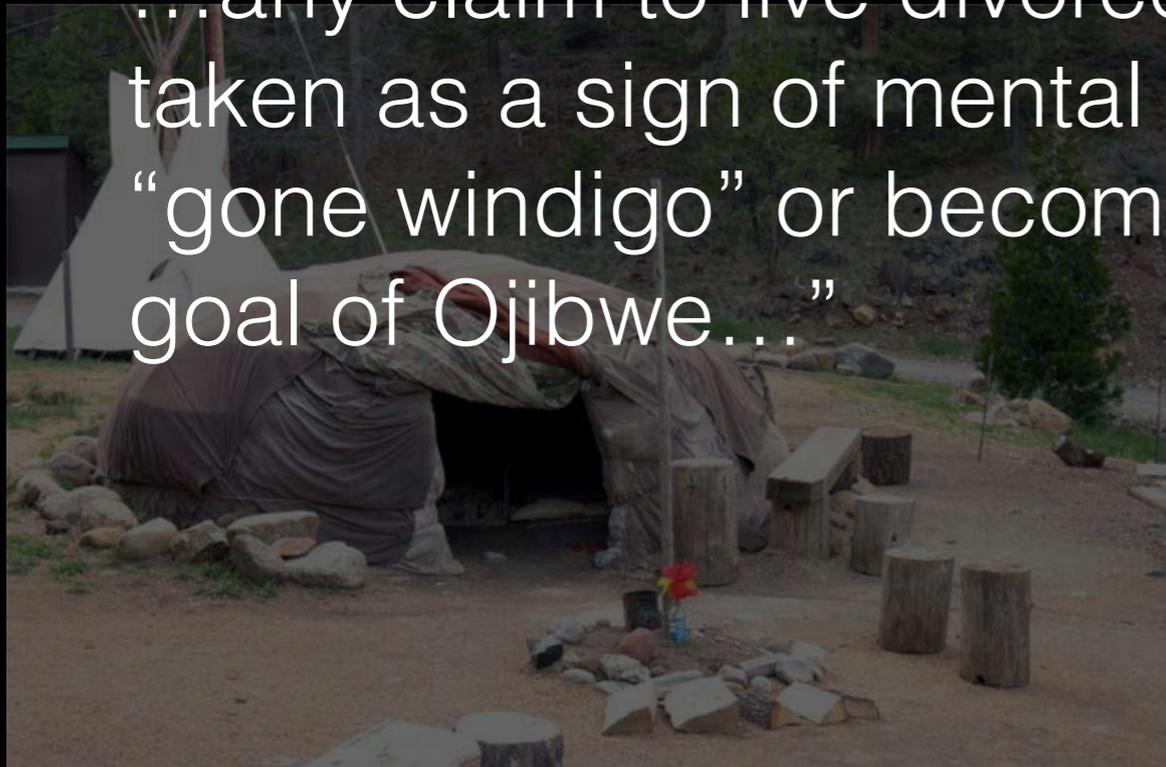
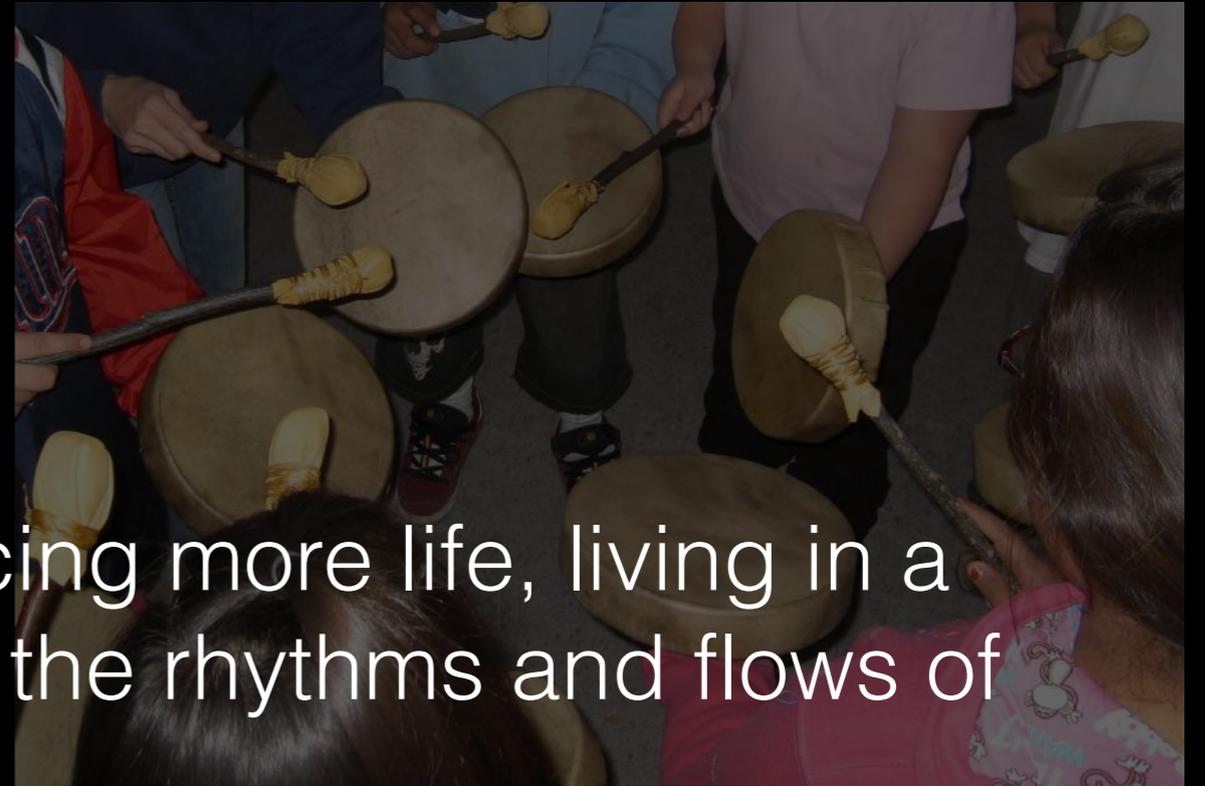
“In English, culture may be a noun, but for Anishinaabemowin, culture is an action or process.”



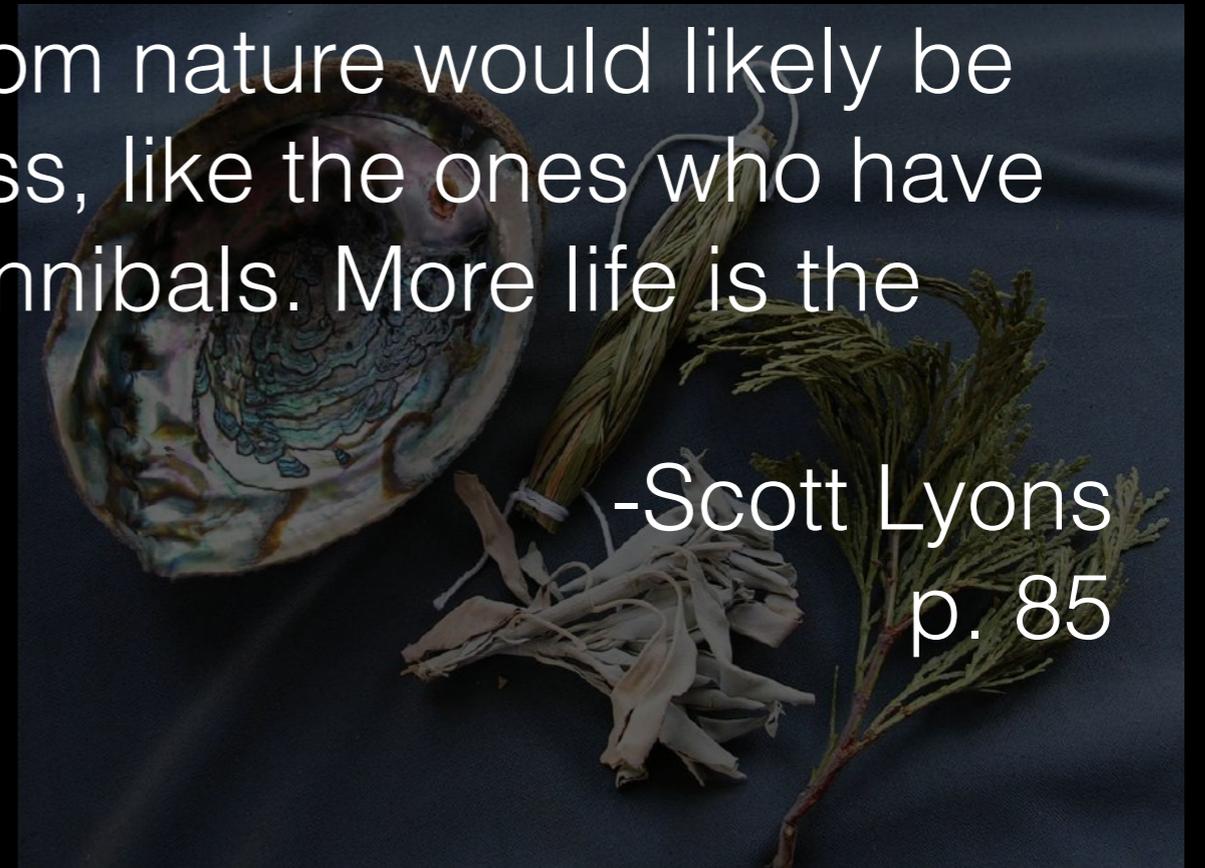
p. 85



“Culturing would mean producing more life, living in a sustainable manner as part of the rhythms and flows of nature...”



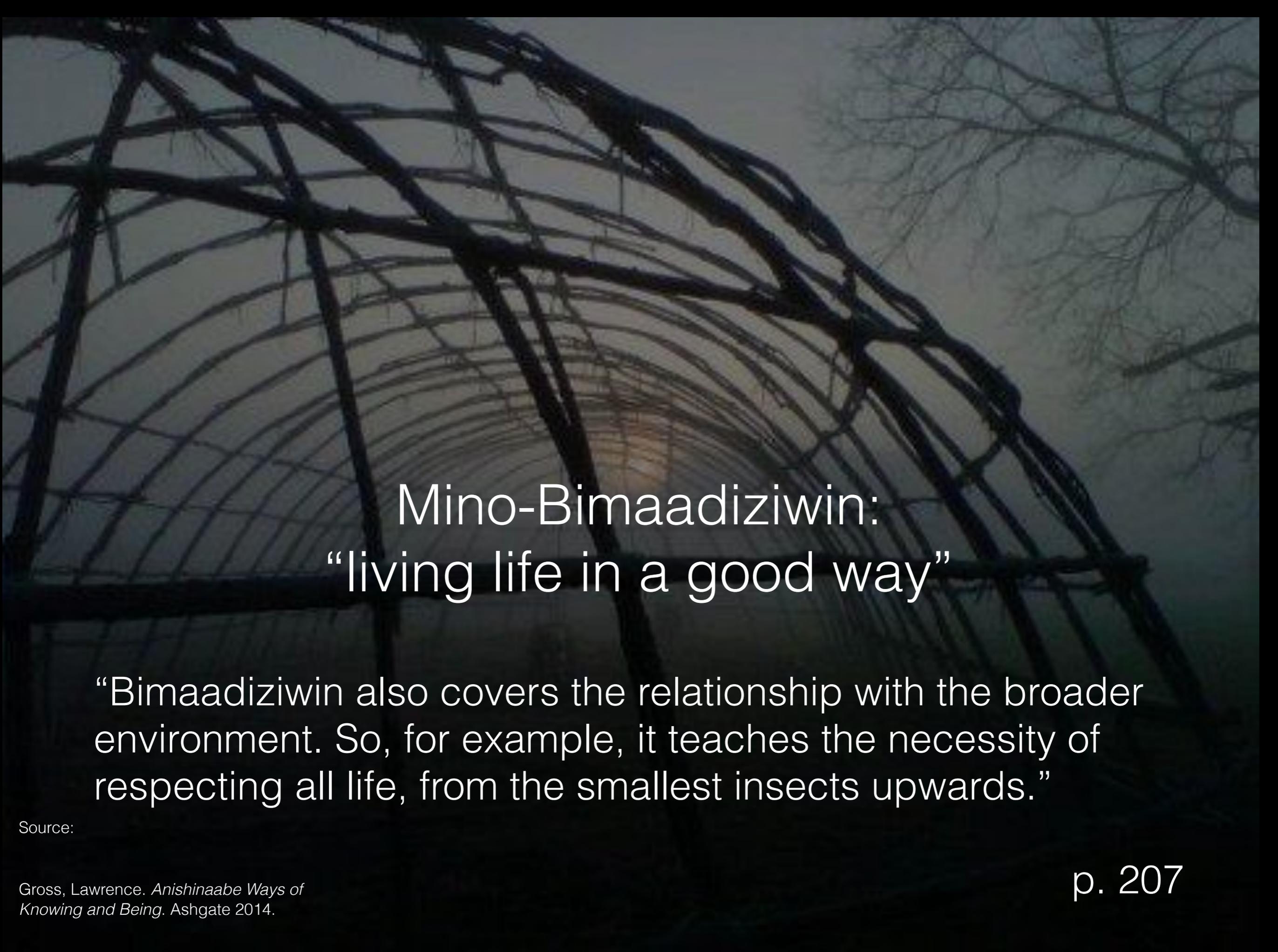
...any claim to live divorced from nature would likely be taken as a sign of mental illness, like the ones who have “gone windigo” or become cannibals. More life is the goal of Ojibwe...”



-Scott Lyons
p. 85



Midewigan. Source: http://zhaawanart.blogspot.ca/2013_05_29_archive.html



Mino-Bimaadiziwin:
“living life in a good way”

“Bimaadiziwin also covers the relationship with the broader environment. So, for example, it teaches the necessity of respecting all life, from the smallest insects upwards.”

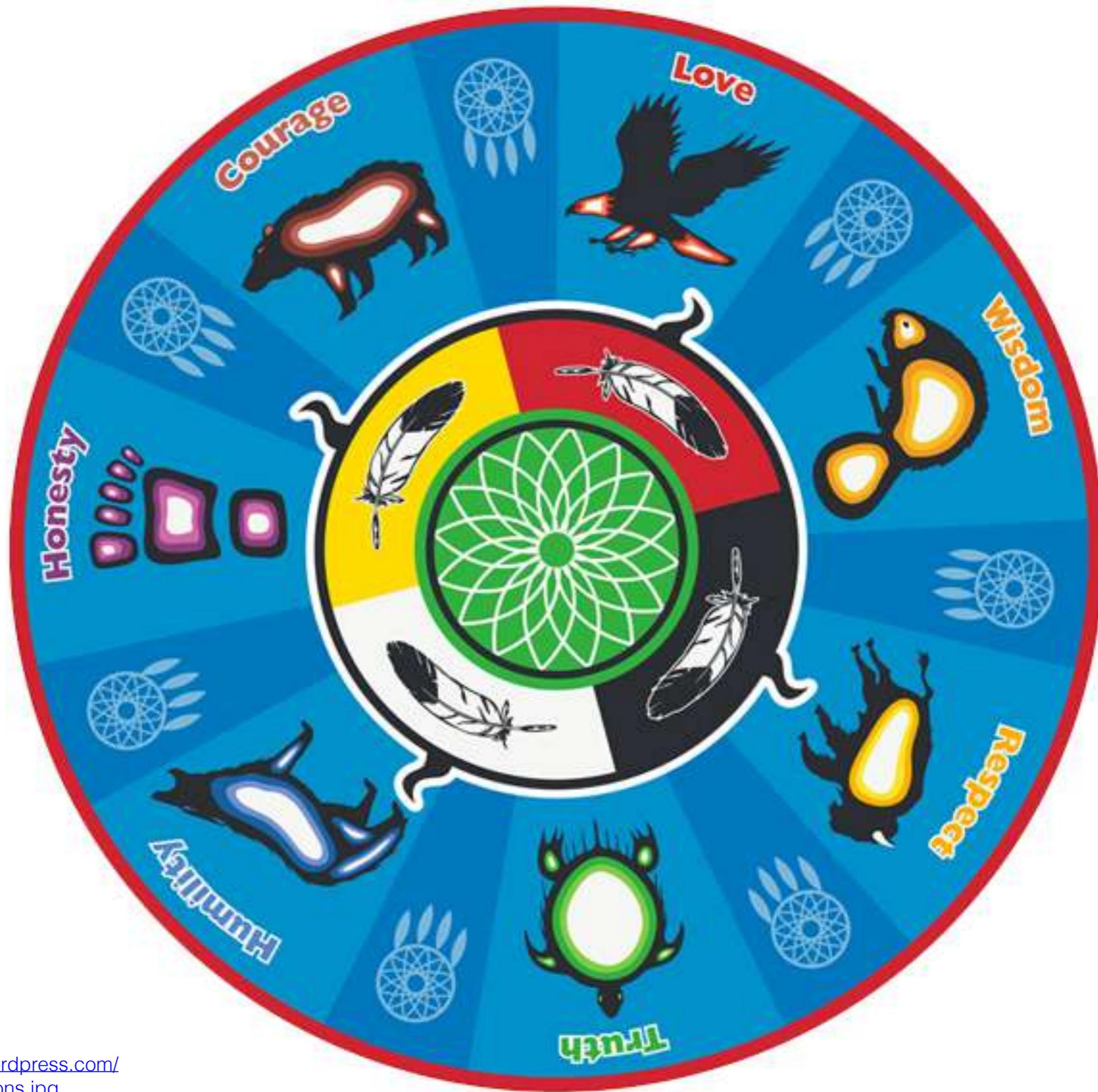
Source:

Gross, Lawrence. *Anishinaabe Ways of Knowing and Being*. Ashgate 2014.

p. 207



“...There is no need to change the world in this view of things. Rather, the emphasis is on celebrating one’s place in the world...”



Source:
<https://mettahu.files.wordpress.com/2013/11/native-reflections.jpg>

Anishinaabe Architecture

“Learn from your body. Solve the problems organically. You have a brain, a stomach, a mouth, a heart, a pair of lungs. You think, eat, talk, feel, breathe. Build around what you are and want to be.”

-Douglas Cardinal

















Laurentian University
Université Laurentienne

SCHOOL OF ARCHITECTURE
ÉCOLE D'ARCHITECTURE





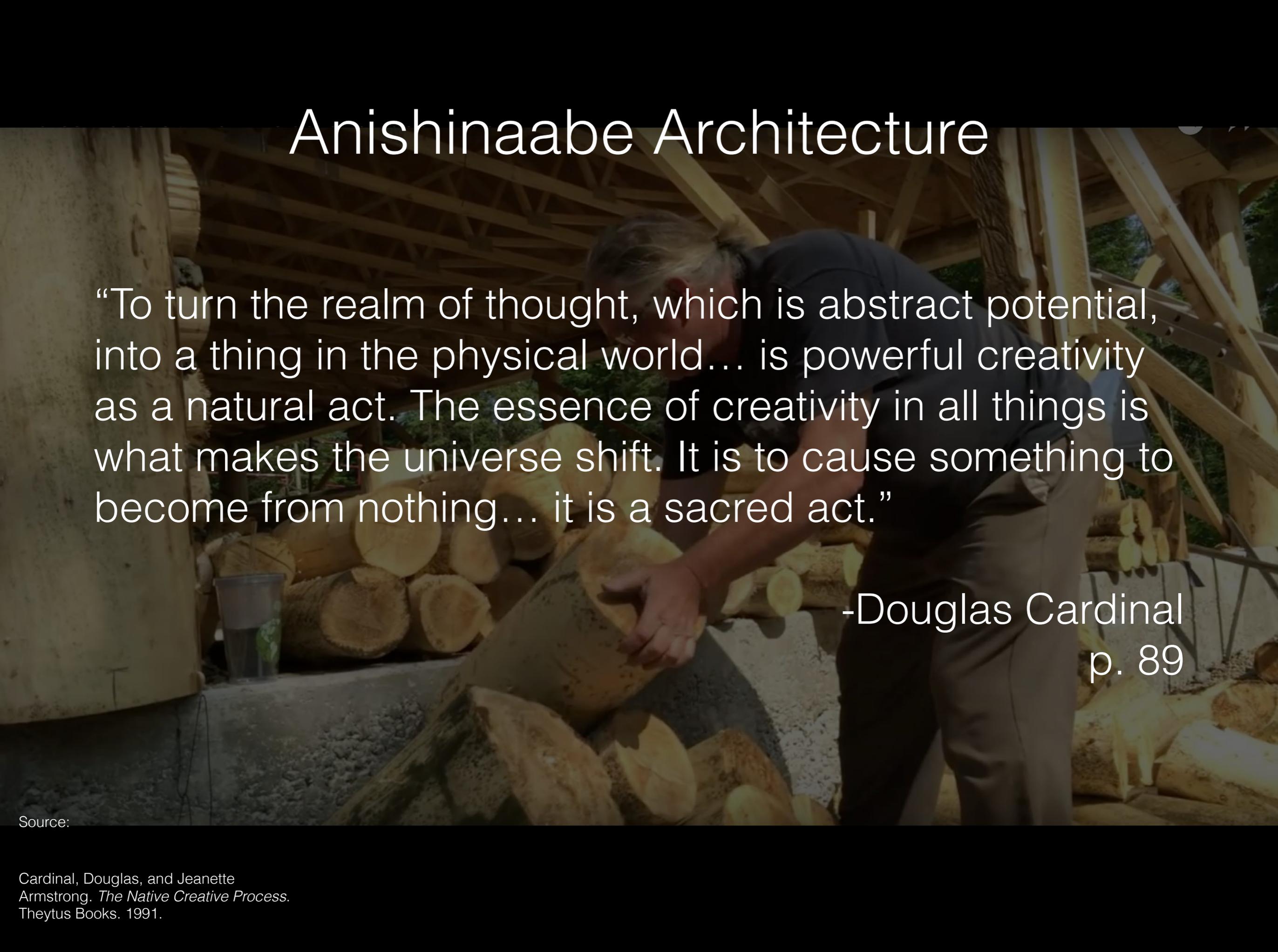


<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=-q7pJQ6gJo8>



<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=-q7pJQ6gJo8>

Anishinaabe Architecture

A person is shown working with wood in a traditional Anishinaabe structure. The structure is made of wooden poles and beams, with a thatched roof. The person is wearing a dark shirt and light-colored pants, and is focused on their work. The background shows a stack of logs and a concrete foundation.

“To turn the realm of thought, which is abstract potential, into a thing in the physical world... is powerful creativity as a natural act. The essence of creativity in all things is what makes the universe shift. It is to cause something to become from nothing... it is a sacred act.”

-Douglas Cardinal
p. 89

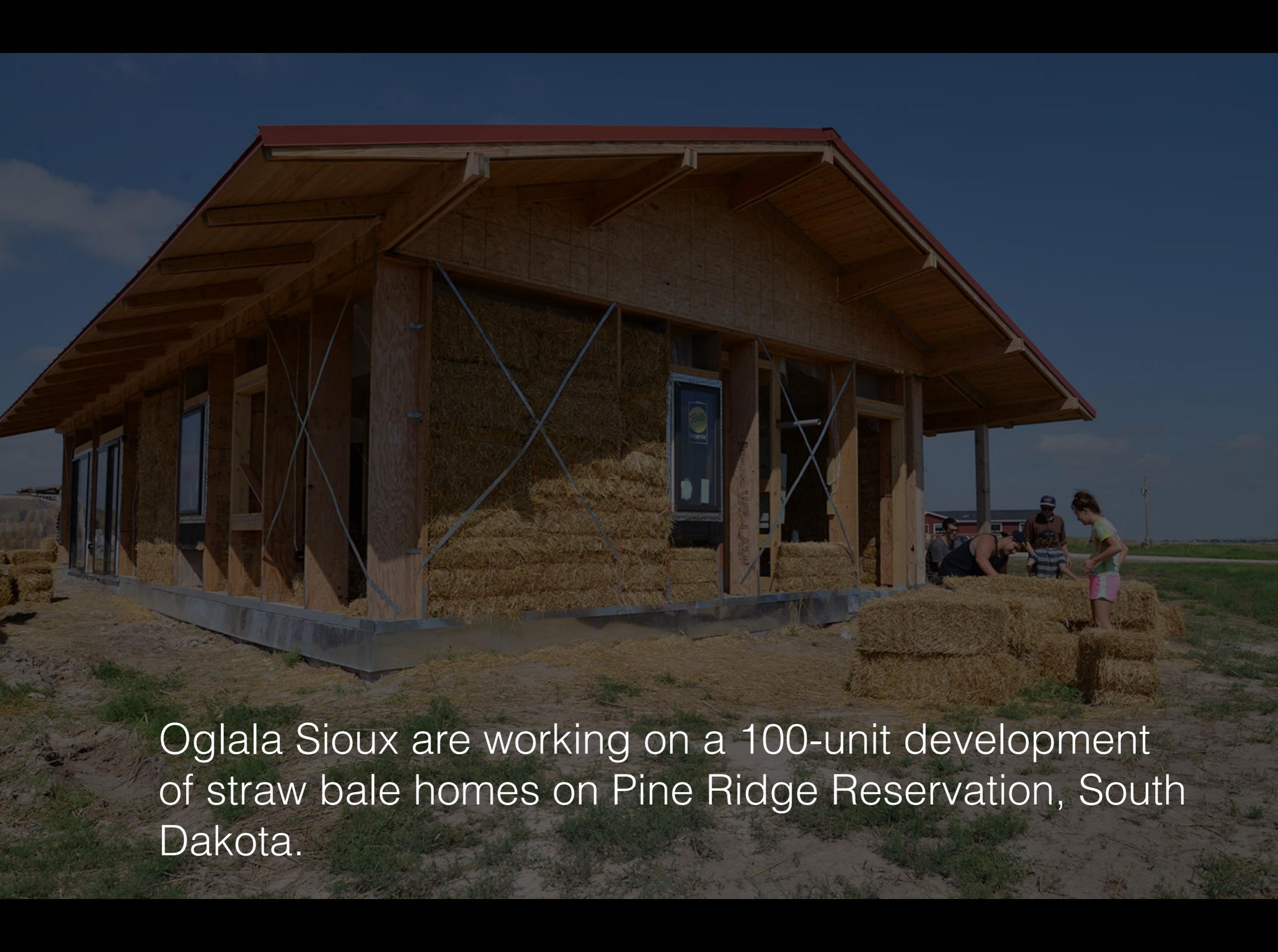
Source:

Cardinal, Douglas, and Jeanette
Armstrong. *The Native Creative Process*.
Theytus Books. 1991.

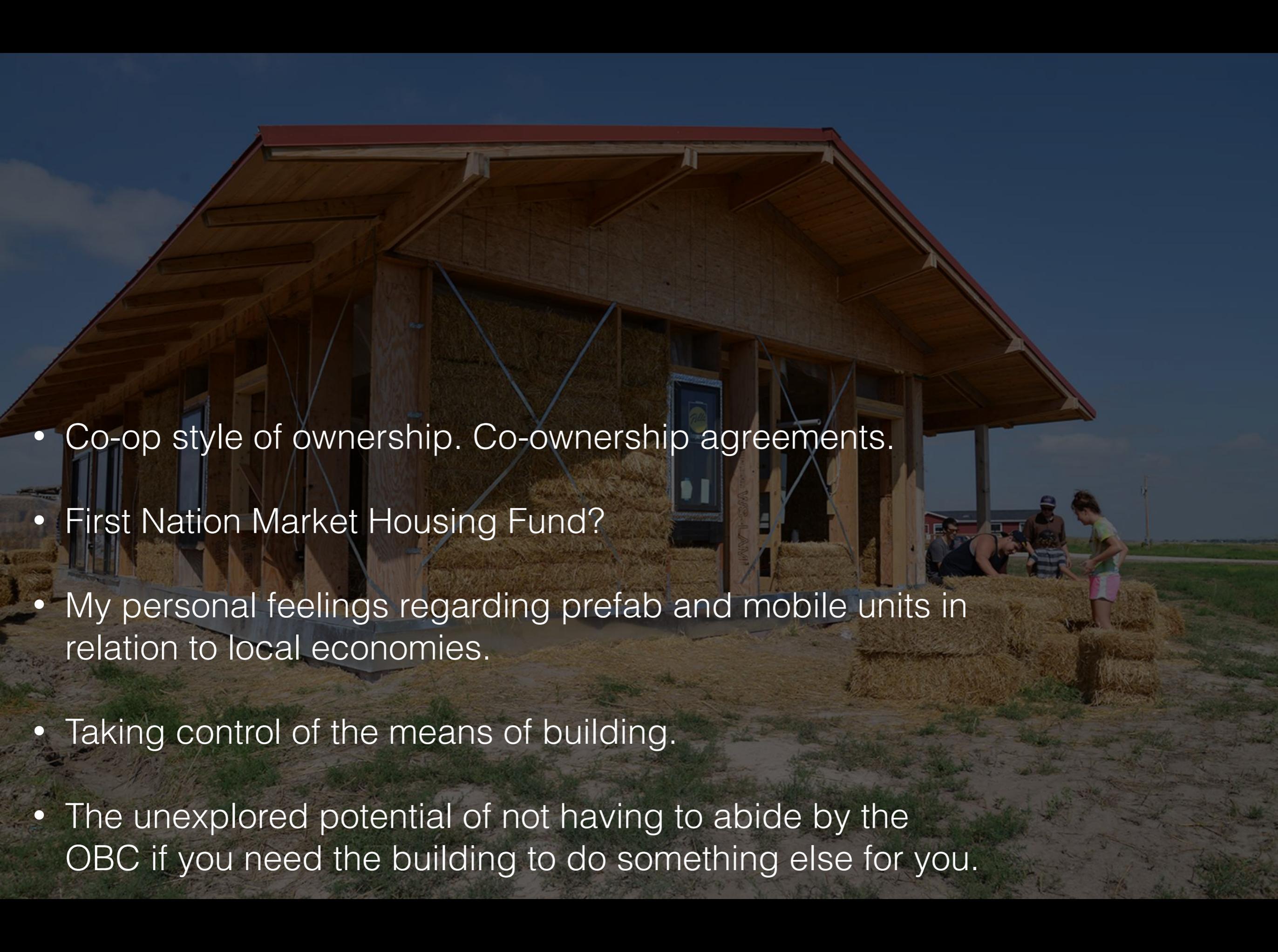


<http://www.wholetrees.com>



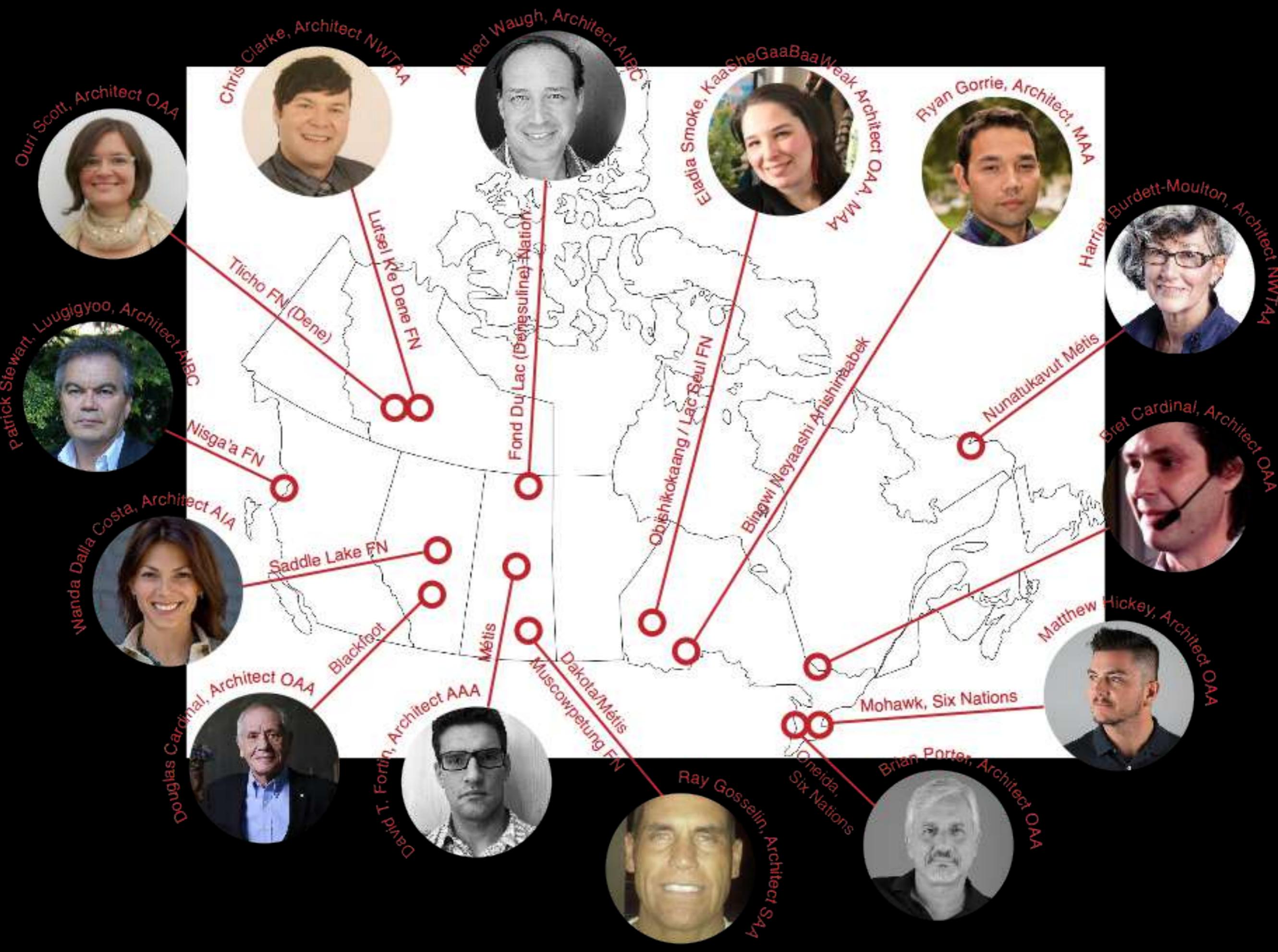


Oglala Sioux are working on a 100-unit development of straw bale homes on Pine Ridge Reservation, South Dakota.



- Co-op style of ownership. Co-ownership agreements.
- First Nation Market Housing Fund?
- My personal feelings regarding prefab and mobile units in relation to local economies.
- Taking control of the means of building.
- The unexplored potential of not having to abide by the OBC if you need the building to do something else for you.





Ouri Scott, Architect OAA

Chris Clarke, Architect NWTAA

Alfred Waugh, Architect AIBC

Eadla Smoke, KaaSheGaaBaaWeak Architect OAA, MAA

Ryan Gorrie, Architect, MAA

Harriet Burdett-Moulton, Architect NMTAA

Patrick Stewart, Luugigyoo, Architect AIBC

Nisga'a FN

Saddle Lake FN

Wanda Dalla Costa, Architect AIA

Douglas Cardinal, Architect OAA

Blackfoot

Métis

Muscowpetung FN

David T. Fortin, Architect AAA

Ray Gosselin, Architect SAA

Brian Porter, Architect OAA

Oneida, Six Nations

Matthew Hickey, Architect OAA

Mohawk, Six Nations

Bret Cardinal, Architect OAA

Nunatukavut Métis

Bingwi Neyaashi Anishinaabek

Obishikokaang / Lac Seul FN

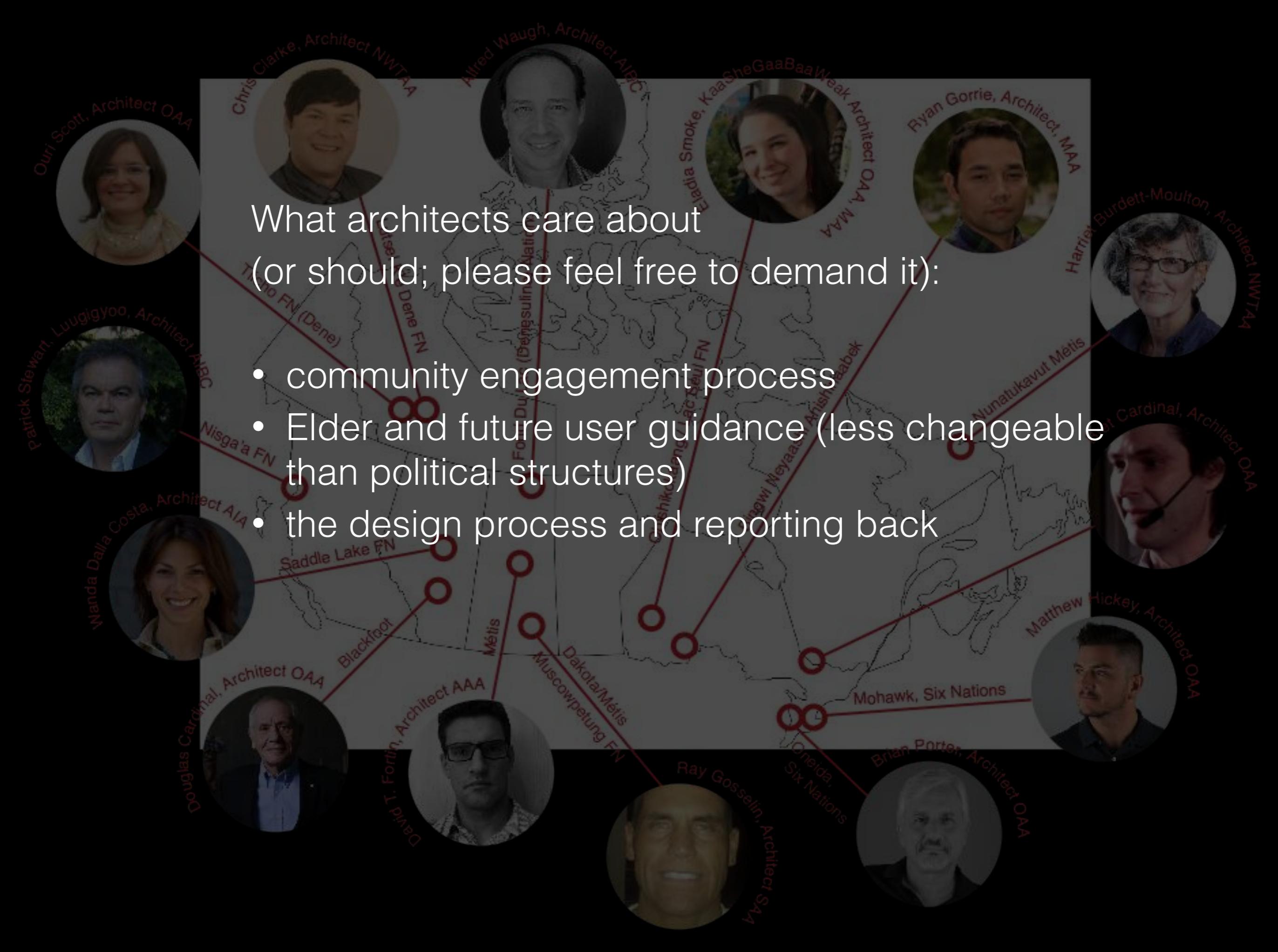
Fond Du Lac (Denesuline) Nation

Lutsel Ke Dene FN

Tlcho FN (Dene)

What architects care about
(or should; please feel free to demand it):

- community engagement process
- Elder and future user guidance (less changeable than political structures)
- the design process and reporting back





What is community engagement?

- Who is being asked?
- What is being asked?
- How are we asking?



What is community engagement?

- Here is what I heard - is it right?
- Specific directives - what really matters?
- Design responses

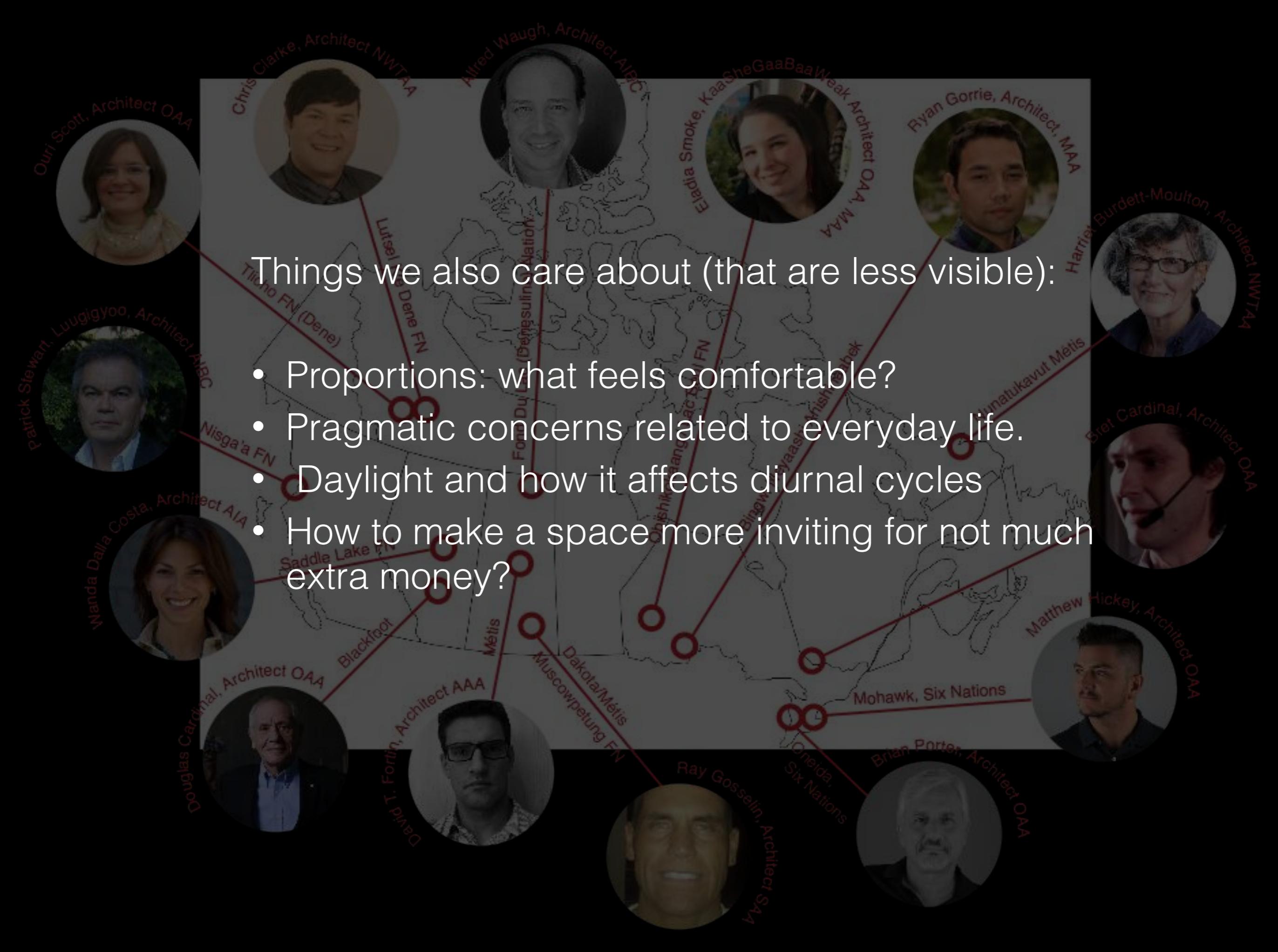


Things we also care about (that are less visible):

- Weaving in meanings that are specific to each nation.
- Careful material choice, weighing: durability, capital cost, cultural resonance, available craftsmanship, how it ages (palimpsest, patina)
- Attention to the way activities relate to space (how a space supports activity)

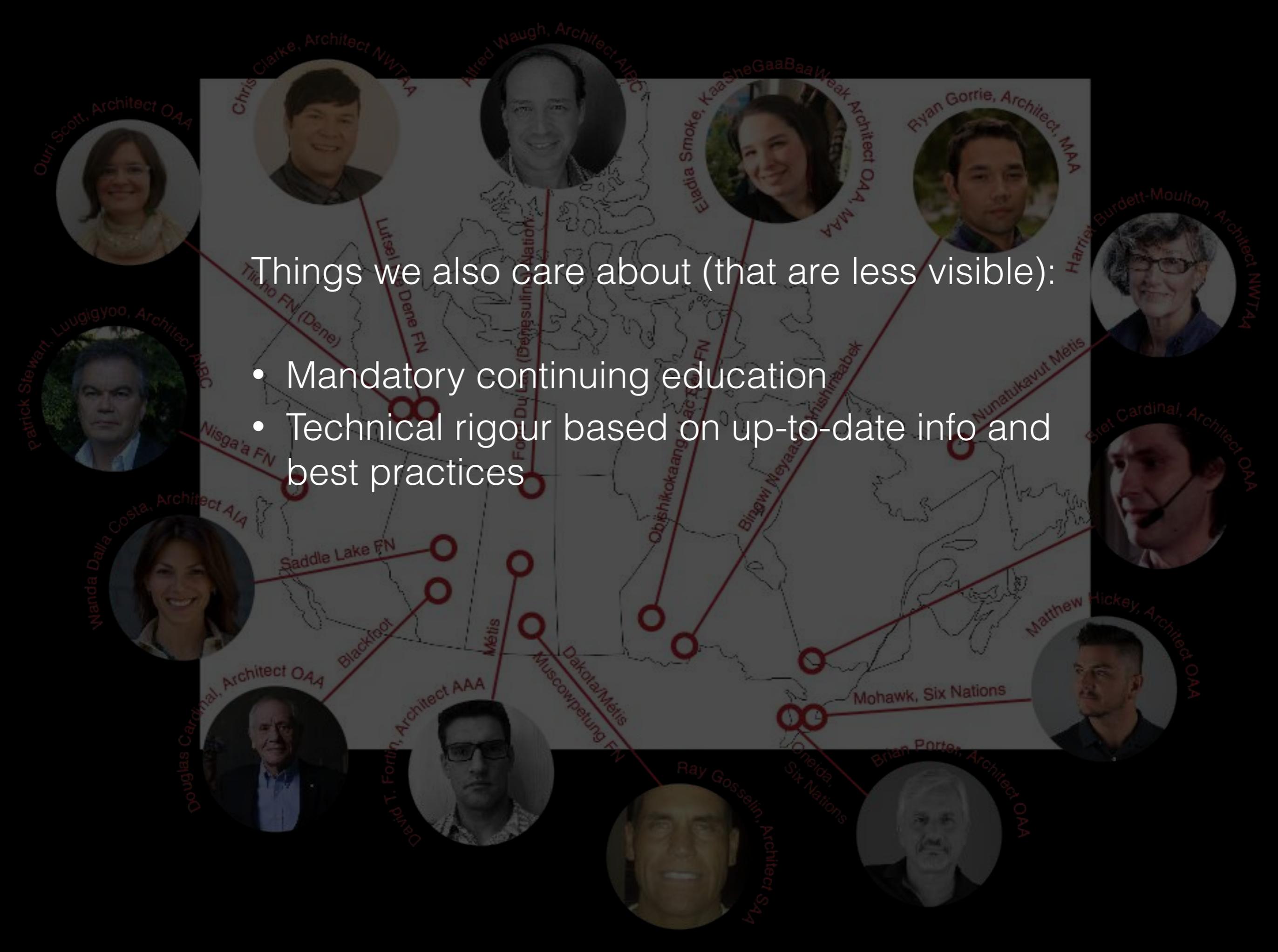
Things we also care about (that are less visible):

- Proportions: what feels comfortable?
- Pragmatic concerns related to everyday life.
- Daylight and how it affects diurnal cycles
- How to make a space more inviting for not much extra money?



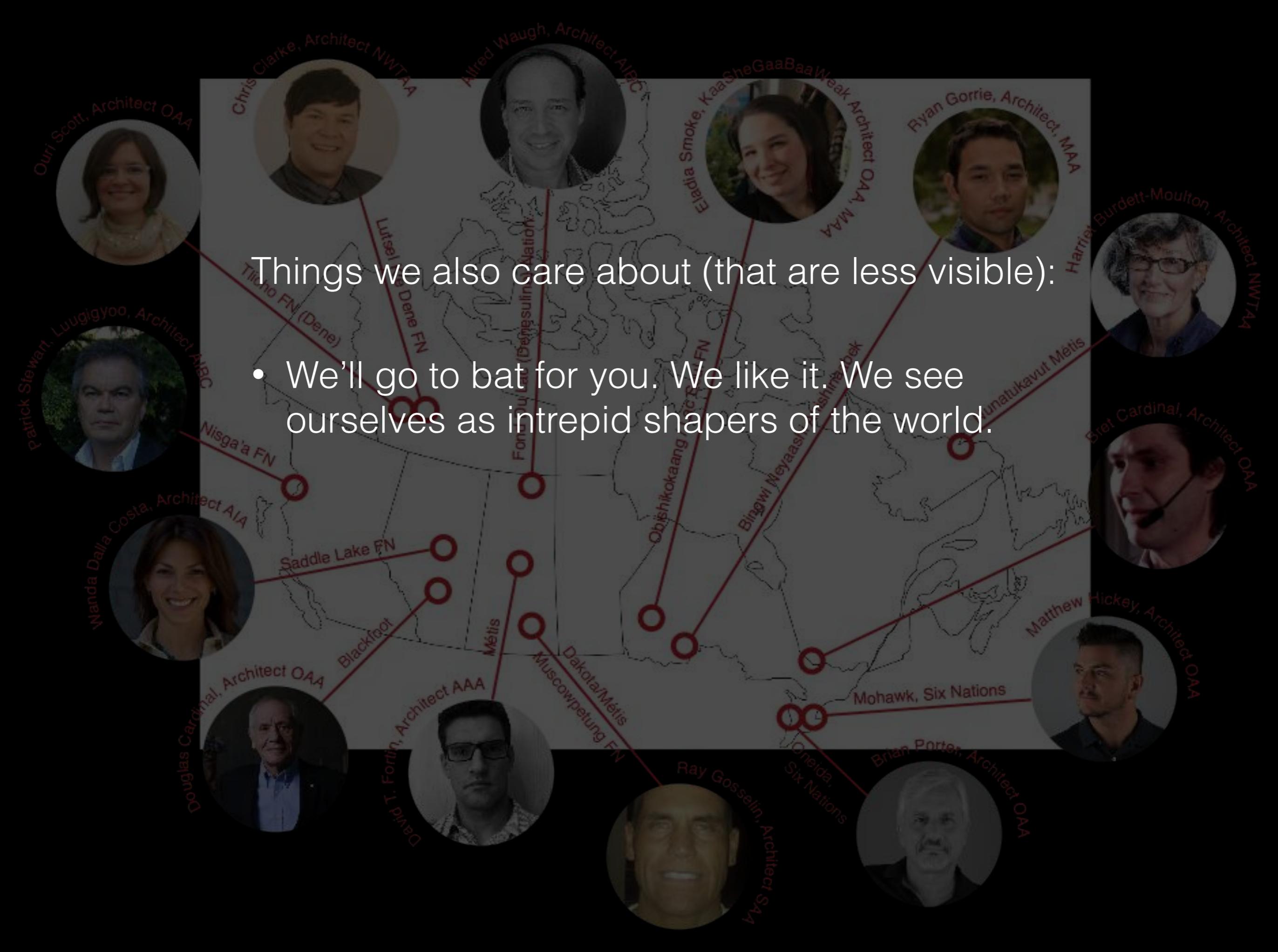
Things we also care about (that are less visible):

- Mandatory continuing education
- Technical rigour based on up-to-date info and best practices



Things we also care about (that are less visible):

- We'll go to bat for you. We like it. We see ourselves as intrepid shapers of the world.



“The measure of a man is seen through the prospering life that surrounds him.” - Douglas Cardinal



Source:
Cardinal, Douglas, with George
Melnick, editor. *Of the Spirit*.
NeWest Press. 1977.

Voices from the land
UNCEDED Venice Biennale 2018