Housing Group - Housing Stories as a Methodological Frontier: A Workshop and a Manifesto
Organized by Gaia Caramellino (Politecnico di Milano) and Filippo De Pieri (Politecnico di Torino)

The third meeting of the Interest Group on Housing aims at exploring the specific ways in which housing history, as currently practiced by architectural historians, can contribute to current debates concerning the methodology, the goals and the public relevance of architectural history.

The workshop is intended as the first step of a collecting writing exercise that will result in a collective 'manifesto' to be submitted for publication to “Architectural Histories”, the digital journal of the EAHN. During and after the meeting the participants will actively contribute to the elaboration and writing of a statement on how recent research, teaching and public communication experiences in the field of housing history can play a role in exploring/encouraging innovative research approaches to architectural history. The final text will be copy-edited by the coordinators and submitted to “Architectural Histories” as a position paper by the end of July.

In order to prepare the ground for this collective writing exercise, we propose to concentrate the discussion on four topics, which address the question from different methodological perspectives.

1. **Cross-disciplinarity.** Do housing histories experiment interesting forms of exchange and contamination between different fields of knowledge?

2. **Comparison.** Do housing histories contribute to open the field of architectural history to the practice of cross-cultural and long-term comparison?

3. **Abstract vs. concrete.** Are housing histories marked by a special attention for the material aspects of buildings and the practical circumstances of their construction, use, and transformation? Do they, on the contrary, contribute to the elaboration of specific forms of abstraction?

4. **Micro vs. macro.** Do housing histories offer innovative points of view concerning the scales of observation and analysis of architectural history?

The initial and final parts of the meeting will be devoted to the presentation of the interest group’s activities for the next two years and to a general discussion.