



**Entre village et territoire : La maison inuite identitaire**

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Program Architecture

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Partners involved : none



**// ABSTRACT** .....

This project focuses on the contemporary inuit houses in Nunavik. It takes interest in the relationship between inuits and their built environment through the connection to the land. Inuits have faced Inuit many cultural changes in both lifestyle and traditional practices. Sedentarization has had many impacts on Aboriginal identity, partly because of the change in the relationship to the territory, and partly because of the construction of dwellings different from their cultural model.

The project is constructed in Umiujaq, on the outskirts of the village to maintain a strong visual link with the territory while remaining close to services. It takes the form of a complex of housing and community spaces including 5 homes for 5 to 8 people, a community center, a hunting and fishing workshop and a technical pavilion. The technical pavilion contains water tanks connected to a utilidor system that will



carry water to each dwelling. There is also an outdoor community space that aims to promote exchanges and meetings. One of the main design goals is to promote the practice and sharing of traditional knowledge within the domestic space. It also proposes a reflection on the construction using prefabricated elements to optimize the efficiency in terms of transport of materials, space and time.

**// OBJECTIVES AND CHALLENGES .....**

The main mission of the project is to create spaces promoting the practice of traditional activities while being in a contemporary context. It also aims to provide places that are adapted to Inuit values and needs. Finding architectural solutions related to a culture that is not mine is a considerable challenge because my understanding of Inuit lifestyles remains incomplete. However, the project pays particular attention to the numerous issues present in Nunavik such as cultural, social, economic and climatic issues.

**// CONTEXT AND COLLABORATORS .....**

**// RESULTS AND SOLUTIONS .....**

The final project presents a complex of dwellings and community spaces connected by a circular footbridge which creates a unifying and dynamic central space. This gateway covers a utilidor system that allows water to be conveyed to buildings. Houses, for their part, try to reinterpret the layout of the igloo in a contemporary way. That's why we find, among others, a central circulation, a form that expands as well as sets of levels. The interior design of the homes was thought according to the practices and not the rooms. Indeed, there are flexible areas that can accommodate a multiplicity of activities. The inhabitants are therefore free to adapt their environment according to their needs. In addition, the project focuses on transportation and construction issues. This is why each house is designed with prefabricated panels that can be inserted in containers. One house requires 4 containers for the transportation and all housing requires about 38 containers.



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**RESEARCH NOTE**  
RESEARCH-CREATION PROJECT