

Staley: The Rural Village as a Mode of Urban Growth

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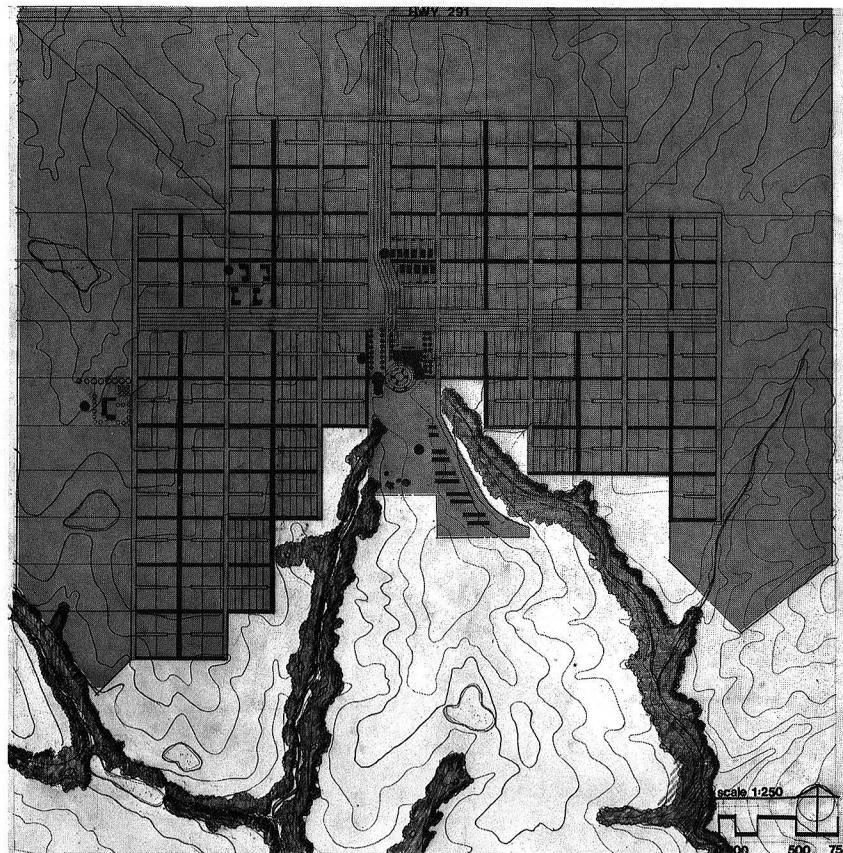
Background

Staley is a model for accommodating potential growth in the Northlands area of Kansas City. It was designed by students from Kansas State University during the 1979 AIA Convention's Student Charrette. Some of the recommendations made in a RUDAT team study prior to the convention were used as the premises for design projects done by teams from six universities during the four-day charrette. Staley was KSU's selected project.

The design applies the concept of the rural village to the problem of accommodating an expanding commuter population in a major metropolitan area. The designers attempted to capture the quiet, protected quality of rural village life, while developing the potential for lifestyles which are respectful of land, energy and related resources. The population was assumed to be 700 households, with about 50% of the workers commuting to Kansas City.

Solution

Staley is laid out on a grid which is oriented north-south to permit development of lot and building positions with unobstructed solar access. The grid is subdivided into quadrants by two boulevards. At their intersection is a village plaza and green. The grid is eroded on the south edge to permit the green to merge with the surrounding countryside. Thus, an emphasis is placed on the visual and symbolic connection to the land.



Village Plan

Superimposed on the vehicular grid is another one for pedestrians. The vehicular grid is broken at alter-

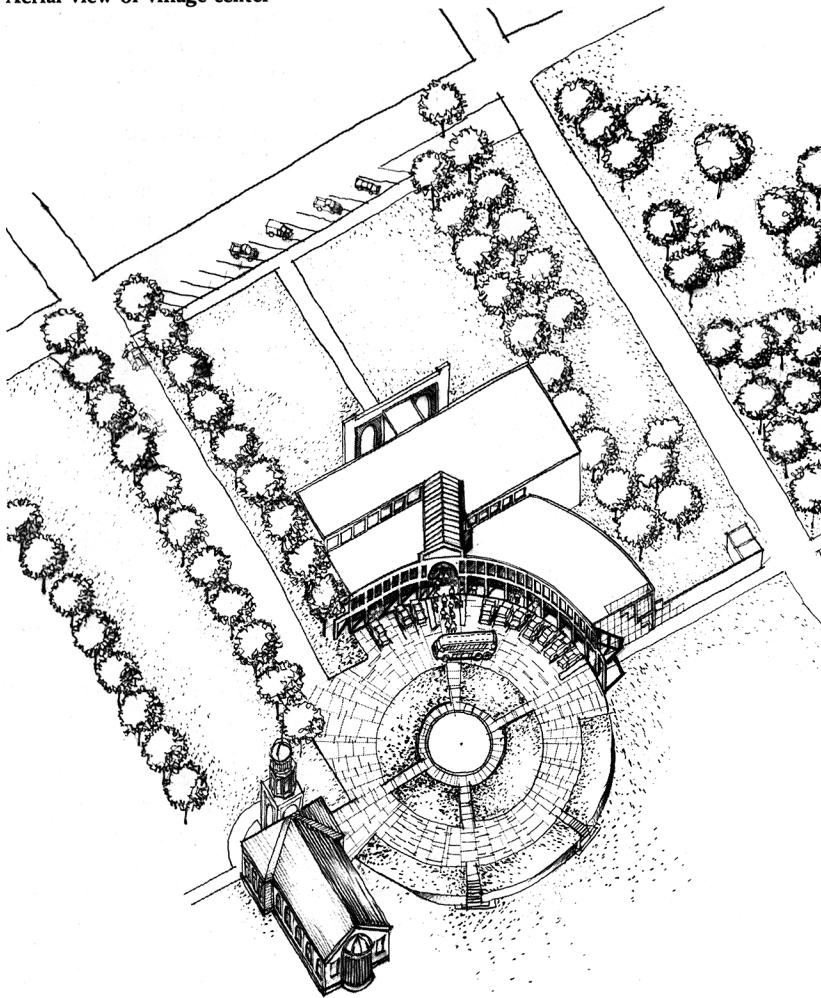
native crossings on the east-west streets. Most living places are therefore located on quiet, dead-end

streets. In addition, the number of crossings between the two grids is reduced, permitting the pedestrian ways to be quiet, shady lanes. Commercial and institutional uses are located on the plaza, the center of public activity and the collection point for a commuter bus system.

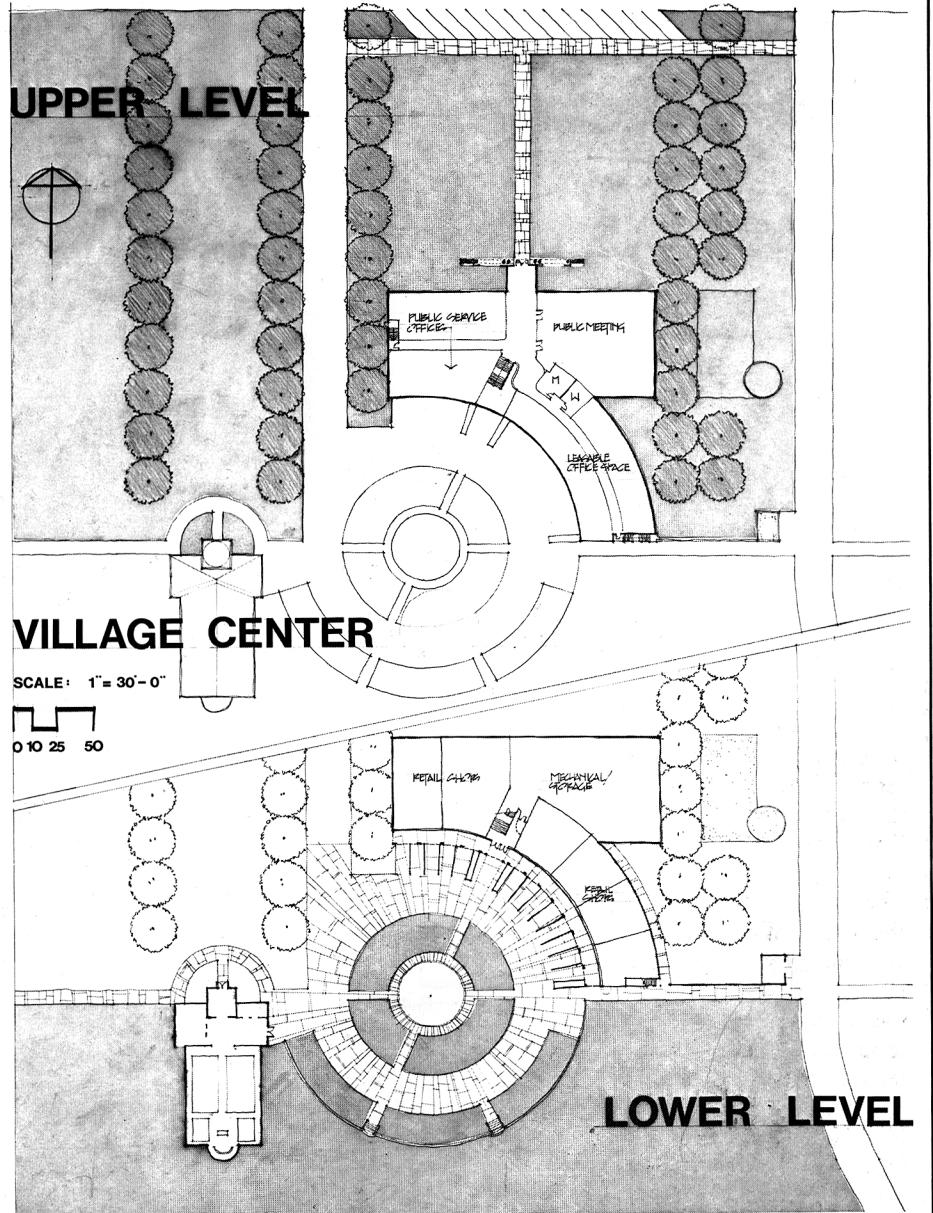
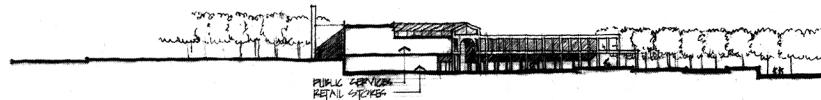
Four types of living places are provided in the village, ranging from row houses at 10 units per acre to small farms at 5-10 acres per unit. All dwellings have tangible relationships to the land. Each has direct vehicle access, a bordering pedestrian way, outdoor use areas and gardens of varying sizes. The density of the village is greatest near the center and least at the outside edges where the small farms blend into the agricultural landscape.

The characteristics of Staley result in part from image memories which have helped influence the shaping of its spaces and the qualities of its proposed buildings. The gridiron firmly connects Staley to the past and present forms of many midwestern towns and cities. The boulevards and community center recall those of Kansas City and its historic Union Station. The green with its spired meeting house is a memory of the archetypal New England village. The paved central plaza and pedestrian lanes are representative of western man's most positive tradition of urbanity. Finally, the building forms employed in the design of Staley's houses evoke memories of treasured rural and village home places.

Aerial view of village center

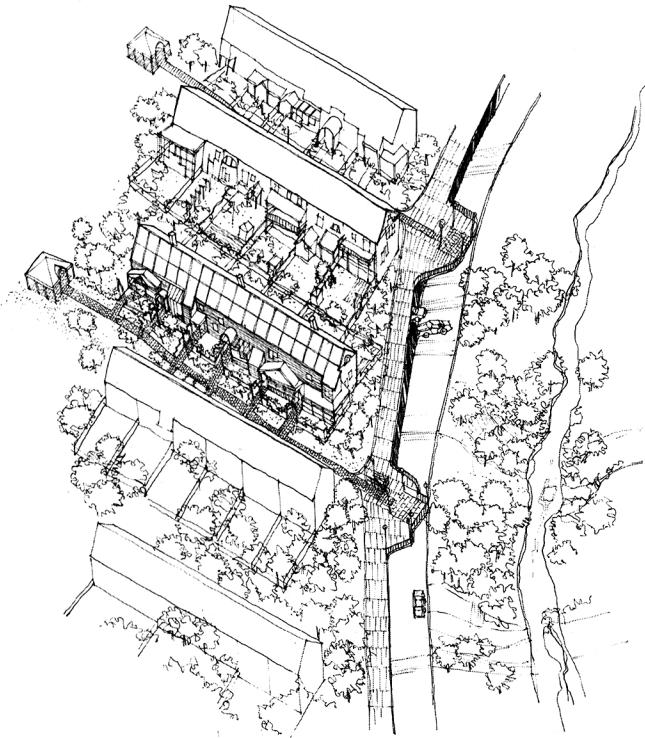


VILLAGE CENTER



Upper level plan of village center

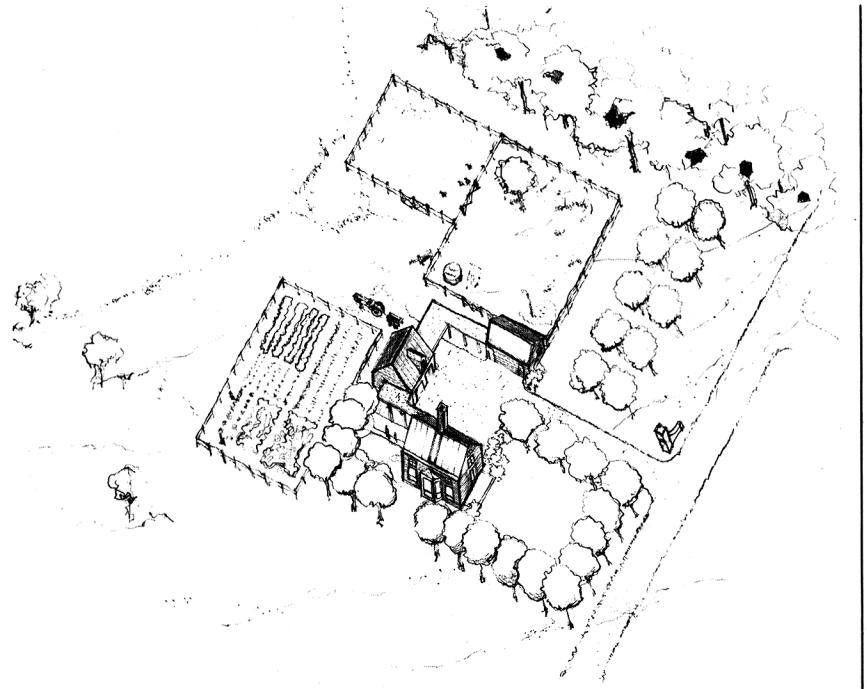
Lower level plan of village center



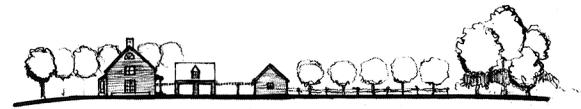
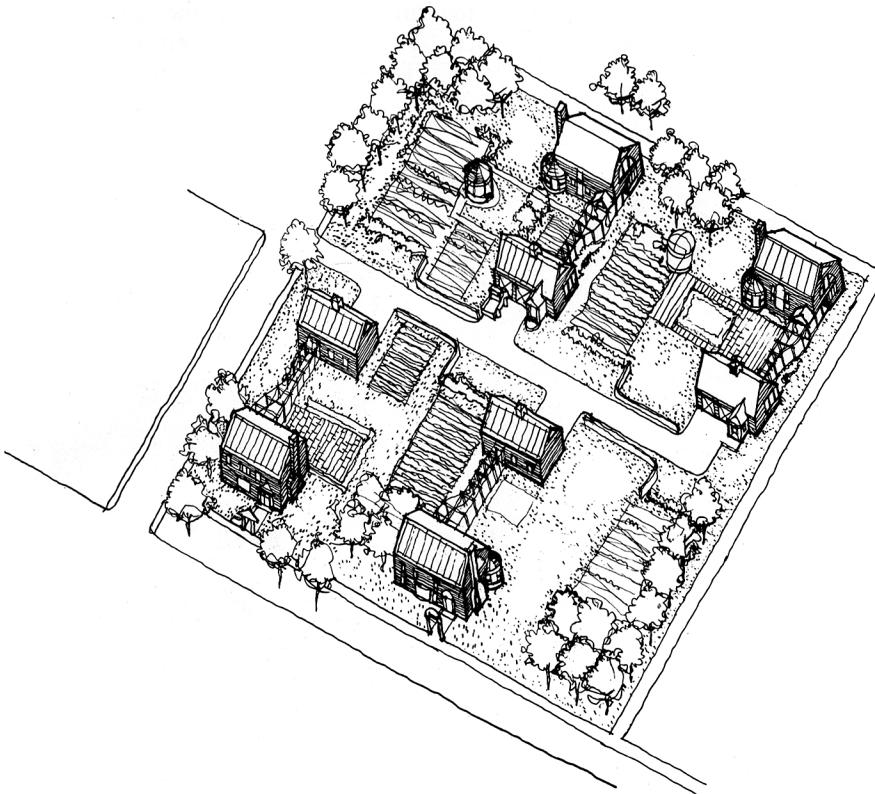
Village housing Type 1

Type 2





Type 3



Type 4