Co-living space has been a trendy word these years. However, I believe it can also be a design solution and strategic tool to combat the lack of affordable housing in the downtown Los Angeles metropolitan area. Through putting efforts in providing people with housing options that are not just practical and reasonably priced, but also attuned to aesthetics and quality of life, the project Ascend.Co aims to address urban spatial inadequacies and the concept of home; and examine how the dynamics of downtown living can attract a vibrant and creative community.

In Ascend.Co, it provides urbanites with cost-efficient living options while enhancing a sense of community, connection and collaboration with neighbors. To achieve that, I propose an open configuration of space, a fun central stairs; maximized shared space, and have entertainment facilities interconnected by bridges, stairs and stadium seating so that the communal experience is enhanced. It aims to strike a balance between simple and sophisticated, and public and private.

The concept of the project is a fun central stairs that create dynamic adjacencies and diagonal views. We name it the path of discovery. It starts from the mezzanine level with access key card only residents have; stops in the mid floor for resident’s connection and encounter on the platform; and continues to take you to different communal destinations on each level. As one climbs up the stairs, wonders around, one looks, explores, and discovers. Places and paths reveal themselves to you slowly. This is just like the design creating process. One experiments and tries, an art piece starts to reveal itself.

The space consists of four sections with the co-living space focused from the second level to the fifth level; located in the space where it’s the most quiet and private with street view; coworking space locates on both ground and mezzanine level where it provides residents with a relatively quiet, fluid and flexible working environment; there are communal spaces on every level including a gym, a library, a theater and a lounge; and lastly some thoroughly selected retails shops on ground level that offer convenience. The goal is to combine design aesthetics and quality with privacy in an environment where there are also shared resources in a communal space. With features like garden like co-working space/library, relaxing test kitchen and coffee tasting bars, gym, enriching workshops and counseling sessions, and large en suite
bedrooms place, what really sets the co-living space apart from hotels or a traditional residential setting is the community and built-in social life aspect. Residents of co-living spaces come from all walks of life and range in age from the 20s to the retiree. However, they’ll typically include hardworking professionals, creatives, and artists. I hope Ascend.Co is where creative community can feel empowered to be open, inventive, and collaborative. The space is all about community, but it also supports individuality and privacy.

**Keywords:** Co-living Space, Cost efficient living options, Collaboration and community

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