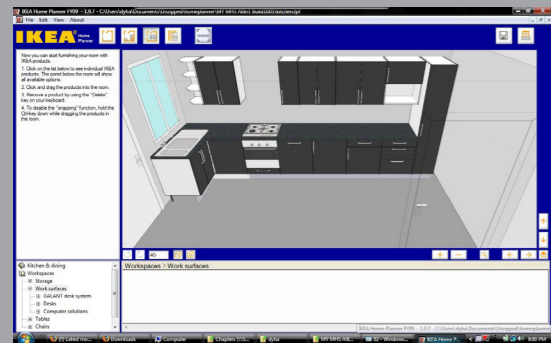
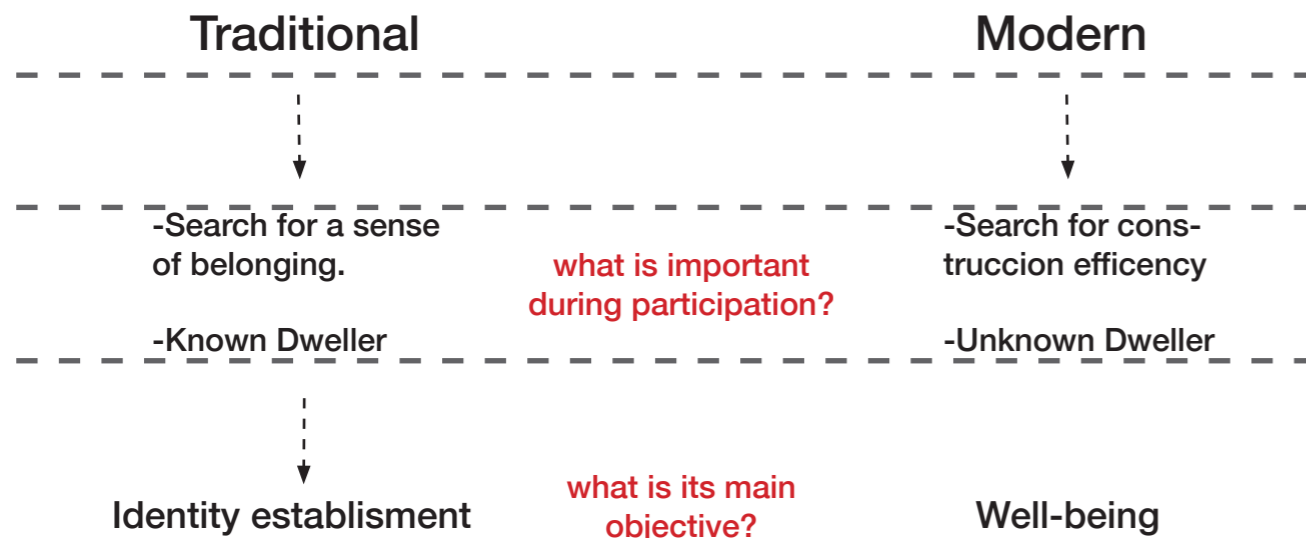


PAR T I C I P A T I O N

Participation: the state of being related to a larger whole

Participation in social science refers to different mechanisms for the public to express opinions - and ideally exert influence - regarding political, economic, management or other social decisions. Participatory decision making can take place along any realm of human social activity

Participation



IKEA HOME PLANNER is an interior design software from the brand of IKEA furniture, which allows the viewer to virtually recreate their home areas by introducing measures and details, by placing different pieces of furniture and decorative elements (of course, IKEA) and then display the environment created and estimate the cost. This is an example on how dwellers could participate during the design process.

Traditionally the individual who has built his own house has been intricately involved in the whole process. This made it possible for this identity to be established in his environment
Today mass housing has become synonymous with low cost housing and the entire national effort in this field has been diverted to producing a cheaper house. The task is, therefore, to evolve design strategies which allow the individual to participate once again in the building process.

John Turner has a much **MODERN** gives a radical view of participation in housing, he says “when dwellers control the major decisions and are free to make their own contribution to the design, construction or management of their housing, both the process and the environment produced stimulate individual and social well-being”. This has a lot to do with what Colin Ward understands as important about housing, is not what it IS, but what it DOES in people’s lives. The role of people establishing sustainable systems is crucial, involving them in the housing process can act as a powerful stimulus to addressing the issue of sustainability, even if only to reduce fuel and water bills.

Jon Broome refers to Sherry’s Arnstein “ladder of participation” to explain his experience in the housing field. He fits himself at the top of the ladder where groups of people design and build their own homes with the help of an architect. From his point of view involving people in the housing process is a necessary precondition for a sustainable housing process in contrast to the actual mass housing concept in which the occupant is left in a passive role.

The role of people establishing sustainable systems is crucial, involving them in the housing process can act as a powerful stimulus to addressing the issue of sustainability, even if only to reduce fuel and water bills.



It was initiated by Marleen Kaptein, who was looking for a more sustainable way of building housing in urban areas. The project was a strong partnership among future inhabitants and the city of Culemborg, consultants and other people.

It incorporates many of the principles of high environmental quality and ecotown but its principal originality is the promotion of the constant participation of the inhabitants. Indeed, this area (except for his masterplan) was designed and conducted with representatives of future residents in a creative process (bottom-up; from bottom to top and not imposed by management or administration).