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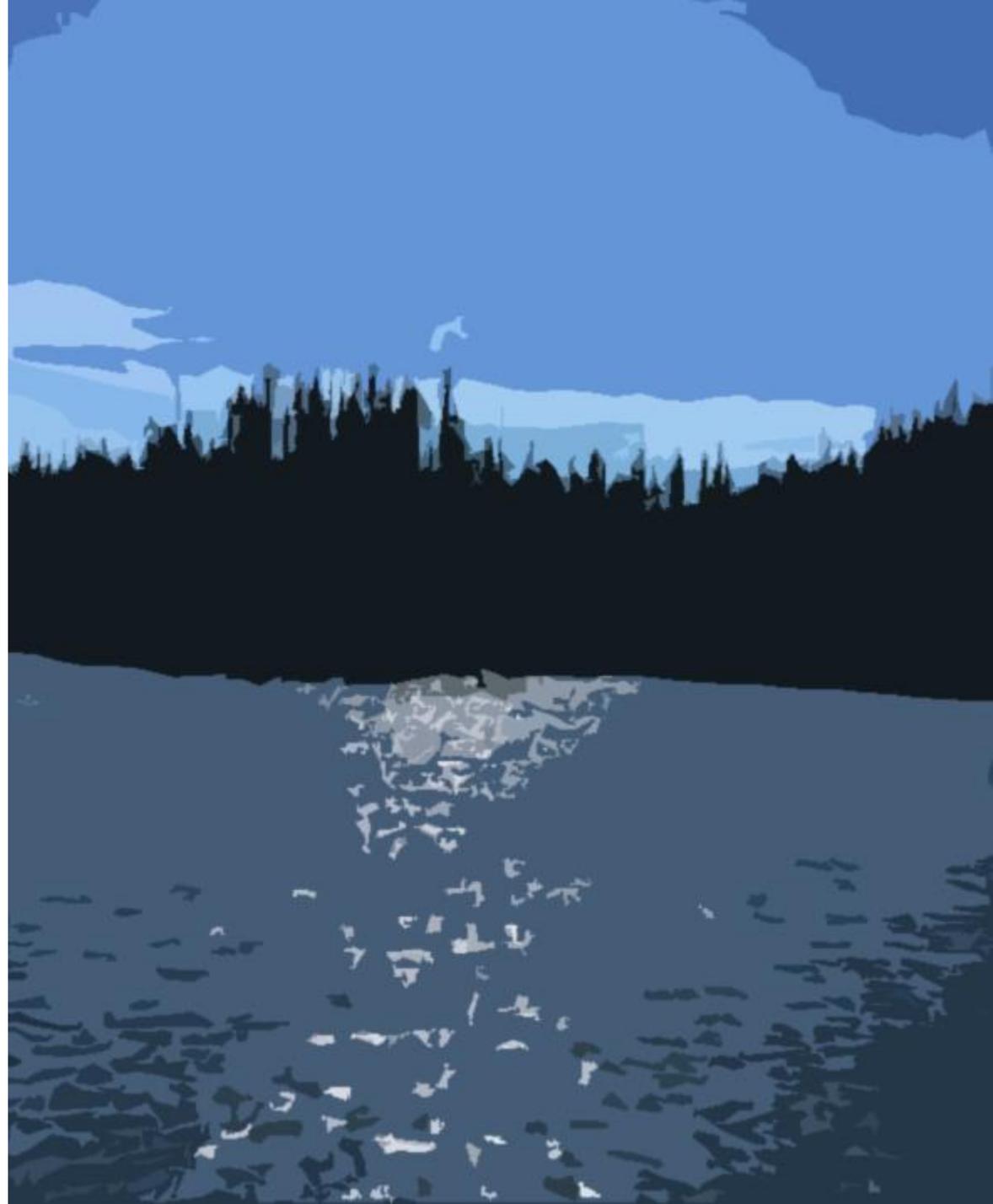


Using traditional and interdisciplinary knowledge to create a Heiltsuk home

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Presentation contents

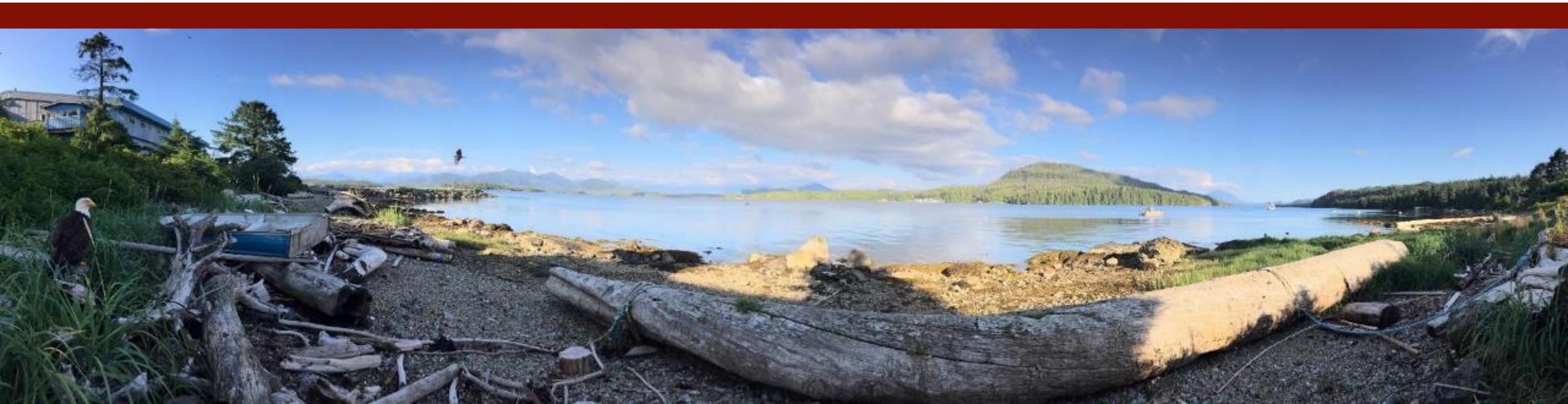
- › **The Heiltsuk Nation: a brief background**
- › **The challenge: lack of suitable housing in Bella Bella**
- › **One solution (among many): 'tiny' homes**
- › **What does a Heiltsuk 'tiny' home look like?**
- › **Reflection on Heiltsuk aspirations and lessons**



The Heiltsuk ownership of territory

In addressing the McKenna-McBride Commission in 1913, Heiltsuk chief Bob Anderson strongly asserted Heiltsuk ownership of these territories:

“The Government have not bought any land from us so far as we know and we are simply lending this land to the Government. We own it all.....we consider that the Government is stealing that land from us, and we also understand that it is **unlawful for the Government to take this land.**”⁴



The Heiltsuk Nation today

- › The Heiltsuk Nation's traditional territory has been reduced to 23 reserves over 14km², and Bella Bella is the largest of the 23 reserves.
- › The island village of Bella Bella, British Columbia (400km north of Vancouver) represents the amalgamation of all Heiltsuk tribes.
- › Approximately 1,450 residents live in Bella Bella with more than 50% of Bella Bella's population under the age of 25.
- › Bella Bella is home to the band office, a hospital and health centre, the community hall, three schools (an elementary school, a secondary school, and a college), a daycare centre, two churches, and more than 350 homes on reserve land.³

October 28, 2015, through the signing of the Declaration and community approval of their Title & Rights Strategy, the Heiltsuk established their own agenda to seek reconciliation with Canada and BC.

DECLARATION of HEILTSUK TITLE & RIGHTS

- A. This declaration is based on Uxawoi (our inherent jurisdiction that flows from ownership of our lands) and Gw'las (our governing authority over all matters related to our lands and people).
- B. Throughout our history, our ancestors, Henas and leaders have worked to reconcile our differences with Canada and BC. Each generation preserved our history and culture, and protected our territory. We acknowledge Elders who imparted teachings, stories, songs and dances that allowed us to maintain the traditions of our government institutions and our way of life. We honour our children and future generations who will carry on this important work until reconciliation is achieved.
- C. Together, we the Henas (hereditary Chiefs) and Heiltsuk Tribal Council (elected leaders) acting in our capacity as the official governing body mandated to represent citizens of the Heiltsuk Nation, on this day, October 28, 2015 declare that:
1. We are the Heiltsuk people, descendants of ancestors who exercised sovereign authority and ownership over our land and waters for thousands of years. Today, we reaffirm the continued existence of Heiltsuk title, and our right as a Nation to exercise jurisdiction and management authority and to derive economic benefits from lands, waters and resources within our territory.
 2. The source of Heiltsuk title flows from our historic ownership, occupation, stewardship, use and control of our territory. Our title predates and survives the assertion of European sovereignty. Each generation is taught the history of our lineage and how it connects our People to ownership and responsibilities related to our territory.
 3. Heiltsuk territory includes Wuyalox, Q'uq'wajotow, Wulitox, Yisatow and Xais encompassing 35,553 sq. kilometers on the central coast of British Columbia. We have never surrendered title to our homeland, sea-systems and resources, as they are essential to our way of life.
 4. We continue to exercise jurisdiction and political authority as owners of our territory and resources when engaging with other governments, industry partners, First Nations and those seeking to carry out activities on Heiltsuk lands and waters.
 5. We will uphold stewardship responsibilities passed on by our Henas and nuyem-giwa (house, crest and family systems) and allow traditional laws to evolve into our contemporary government system.
 6. To advance legal recognition of our title, we have undertaken extensive strength of claim analysis to demonstrate that our assertions are based in fact. We are prepared to launch an Aboriginal title case if this fundamental reality is not recognized or respected.
 7. We remain committed to existing agreements and to establish strategic alliances and cooperative relationships with partners who share Heiltsuk interests. These interests include the principles of ecosystem-based management over our land, water and resources, and the establishment of sustainable economic development and a conservation economy within our territory.
 8. We remain committed to seek appropriate solutions to reconcile Heiltsuk title with the Crown and engage on a government-to-government basis with Canada and BC to establish a process of reconciliation through negotiation.
 9. It is our position that reconciliation requires our free, prior and informed consent to development on Heiltsuk territories and waters as we move forward in a collaborative-management regime.
 10. The renewed mandate from our People is to obtain a declaration of title to our lands and waters; and for Heiltsuk to exercise maximum control over our territory.

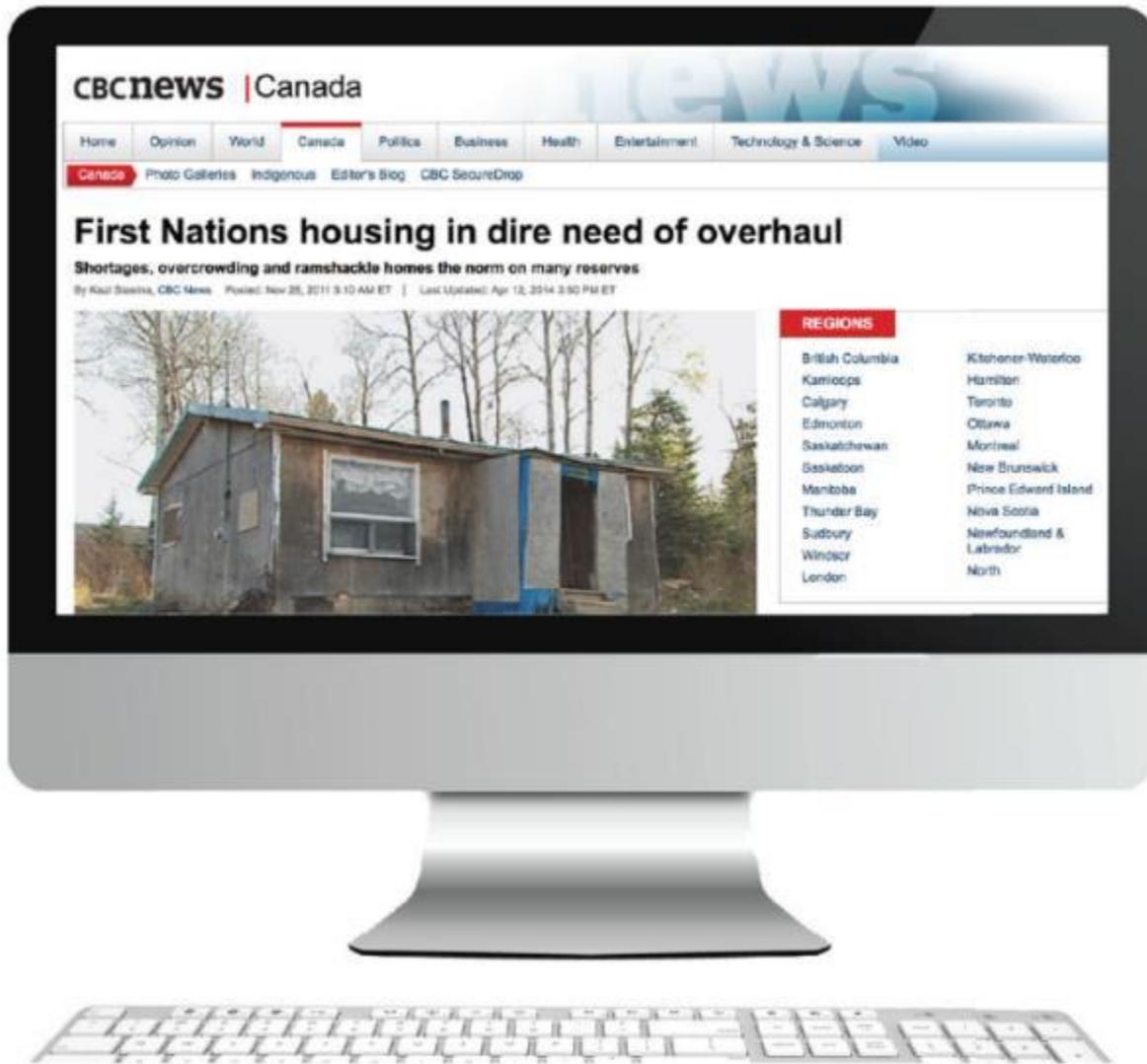
Henas Herbert 'Toby' Moody-Humschitt
Wuyalox - Head Chief of Uyakitw Territory



Marilyn Slett (Ga-gwi-ya)
Chief Counselor Heiltsuk Tribal Council



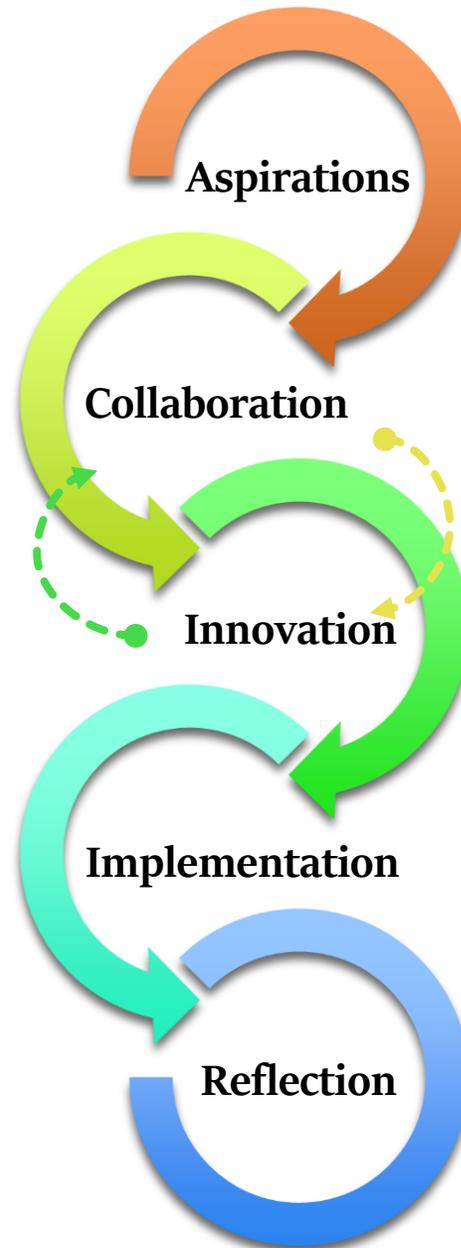
Over the years Heiltsuk have been proactive in advancing their title and rights through seeking legal, political and economic solutions to reconcile their relationship with Canada & BC.⁵



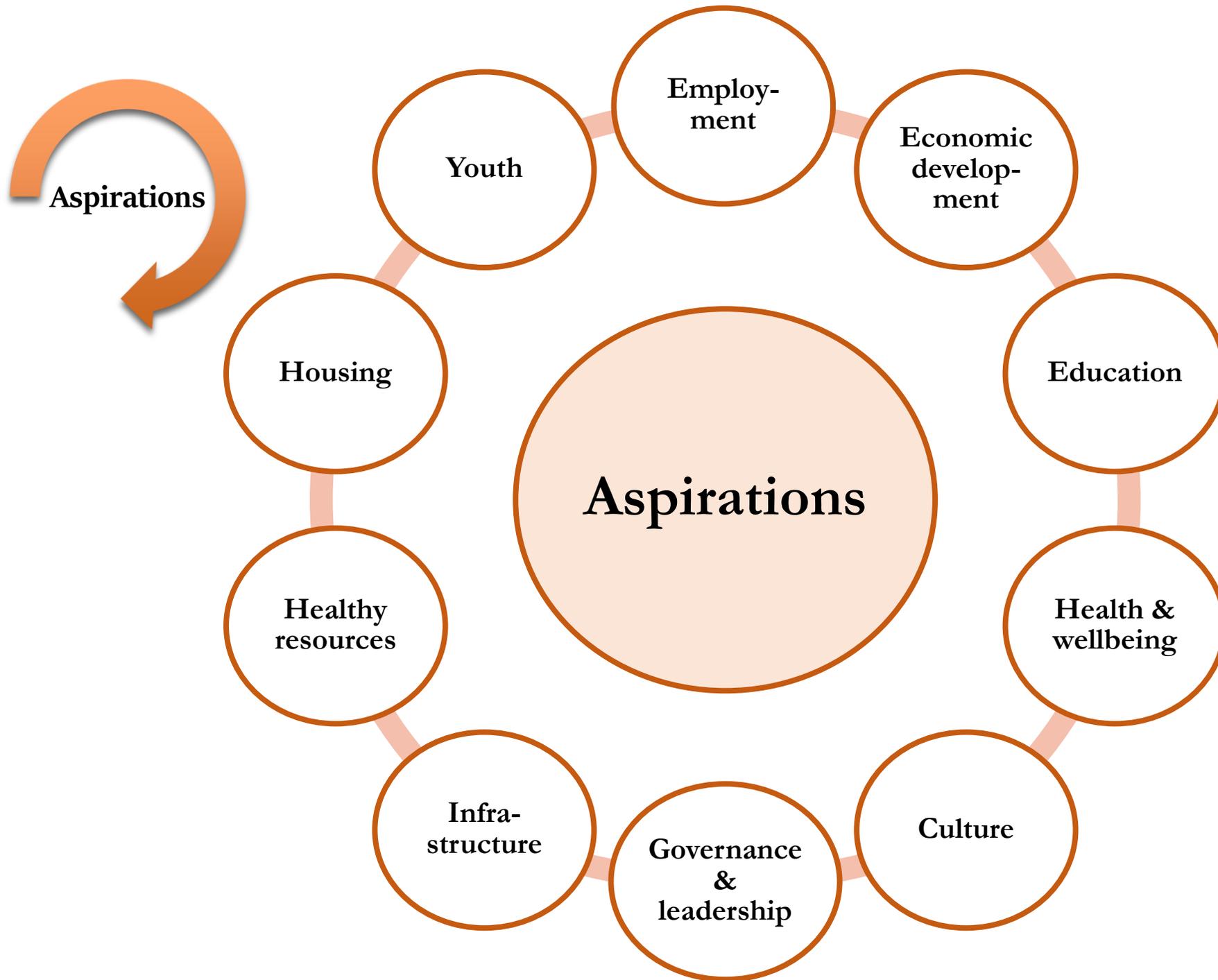
The challenge

- › Severe lack of available housing in Bella Bella.
- › Many urban members wish to return home but cannot due to the lack of housing.
- › In order to meet housing demand over the next 10 years, the community will need 150 mold remediations, 160 home renovations, 100 new homes, and 120 new lots.
- › In particular, there are no culturally- and environmentally-suitable home designs available to the Heiltsuk community.

Methodology and methods



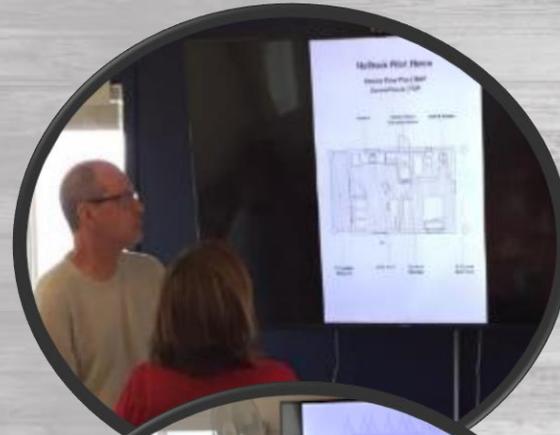
- › Gvi'ilas: the ultimate Heiltsuk guiding principle
- › Co-developed the Participatory Approach Towards Holistic Solutions (PATHS) framework – based on transformative theory, constructivism, and mixed methods
- › Triangulation of data
 - › Individual semi-structured interviews, surveys
 - › Document review
 - › Group workshops
- › Iterative feedback and design improvement



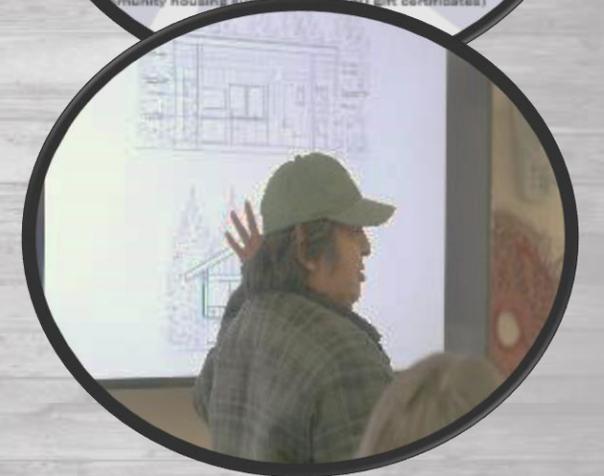
Heiltsuk home design process



Open-house
workshops



Heiltsuk Tribal
Council meetings



Focus
group

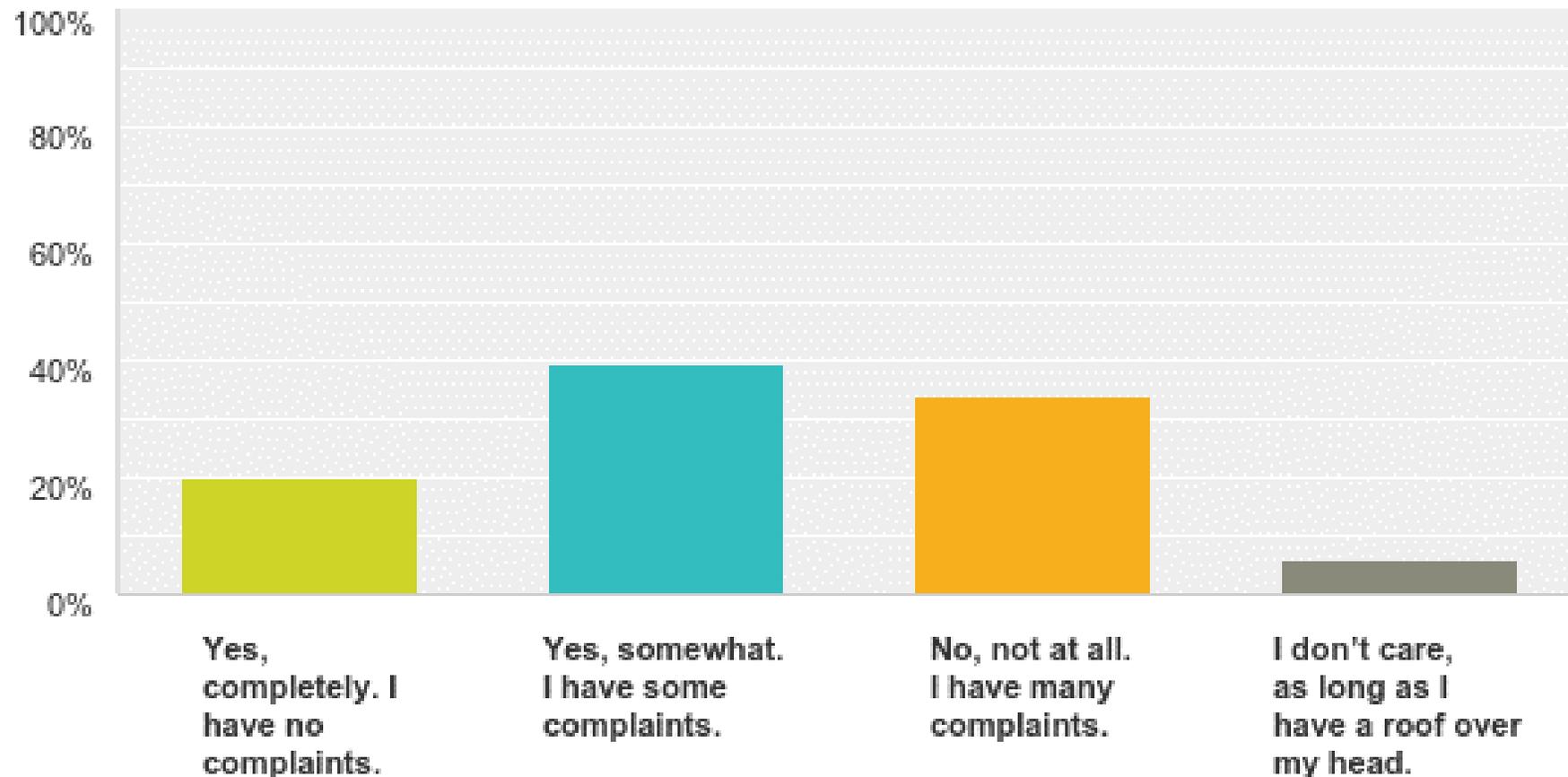
Collaborative partnerships



Heiltsuk housing needs assessment survey

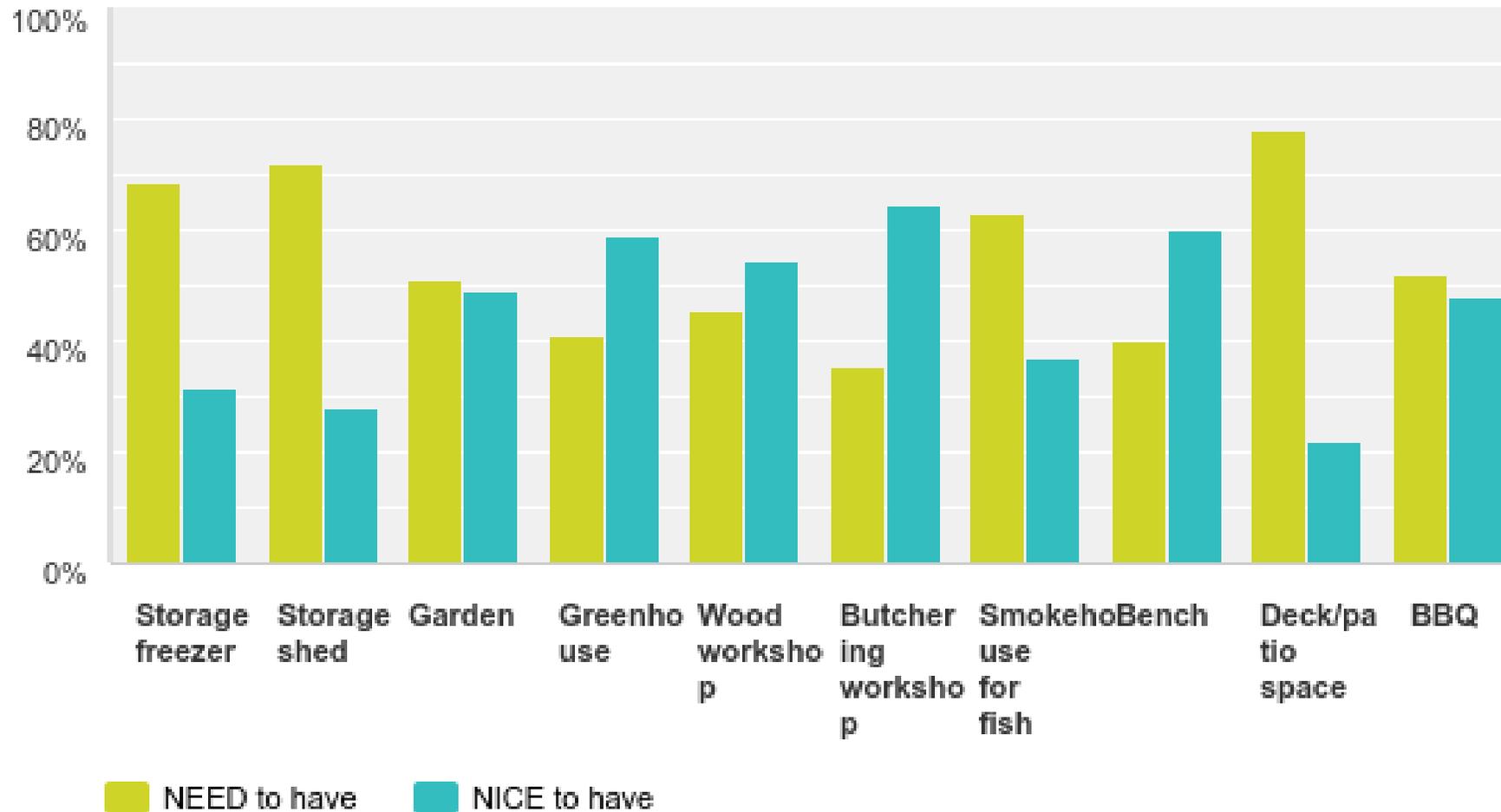
Q9 Does your living situation meet your needs?

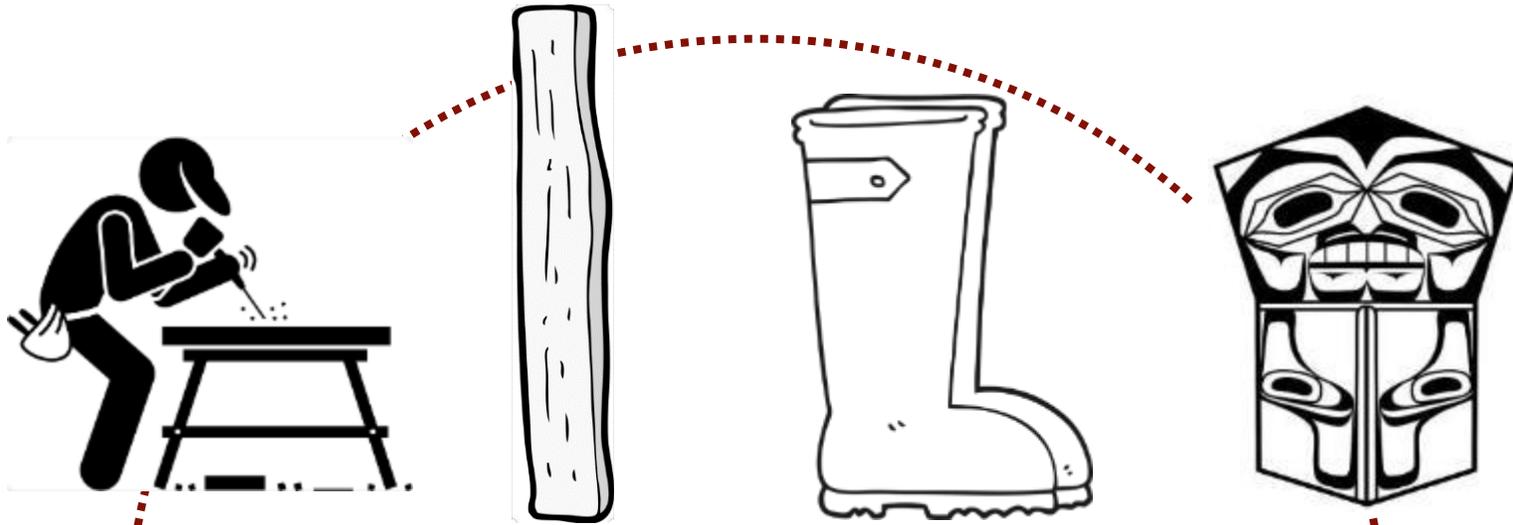
Answered: 114 Skipped: 3



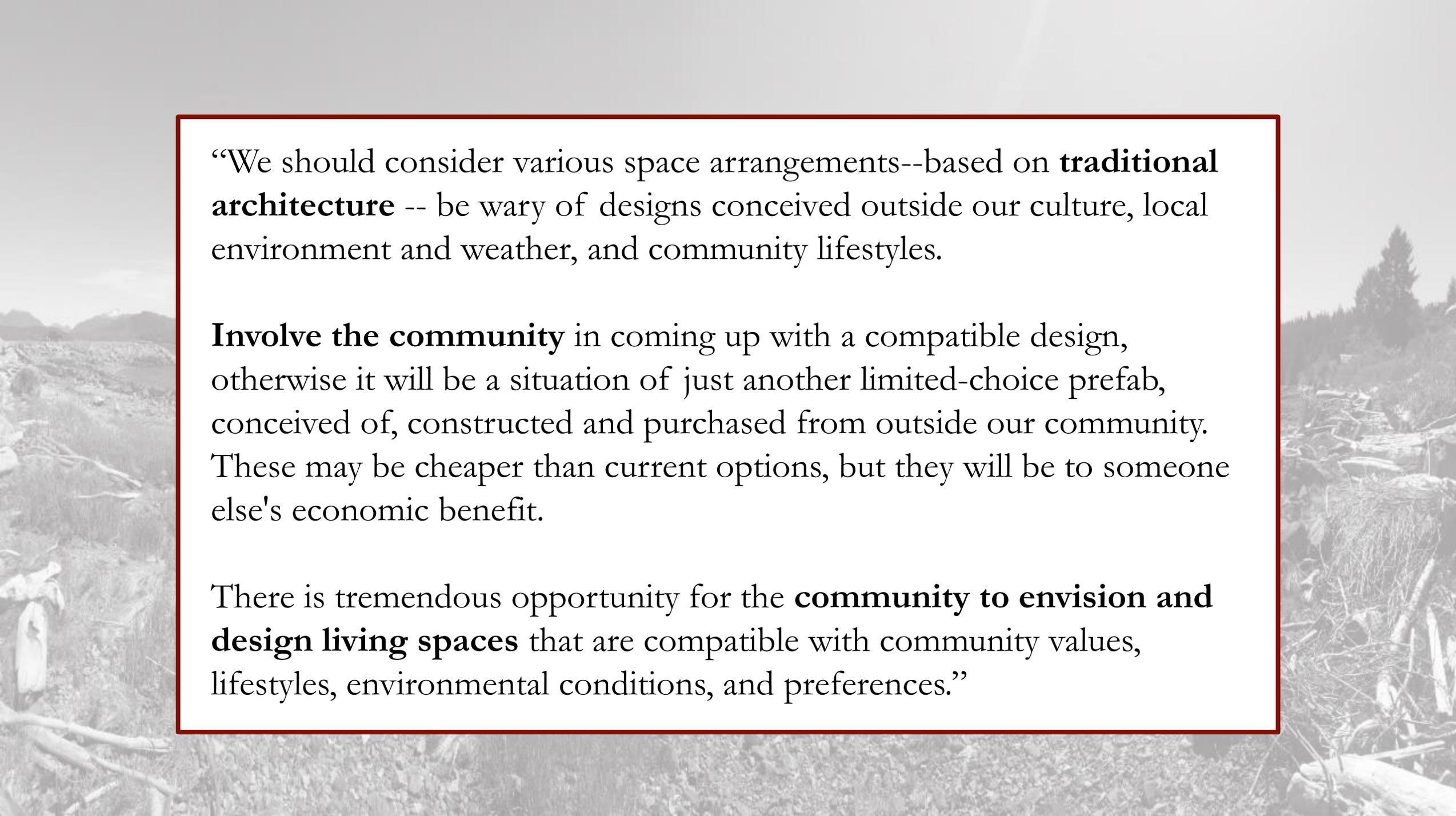
What aspects would you **NEED** to have or **NICE** to have inside and outside a 'tiny' home?

Answered: 90 Skipped: 27





What Heiltsuk
Nation cultural
designs or
other attributes
would you like
to see in a
'tiny' home?

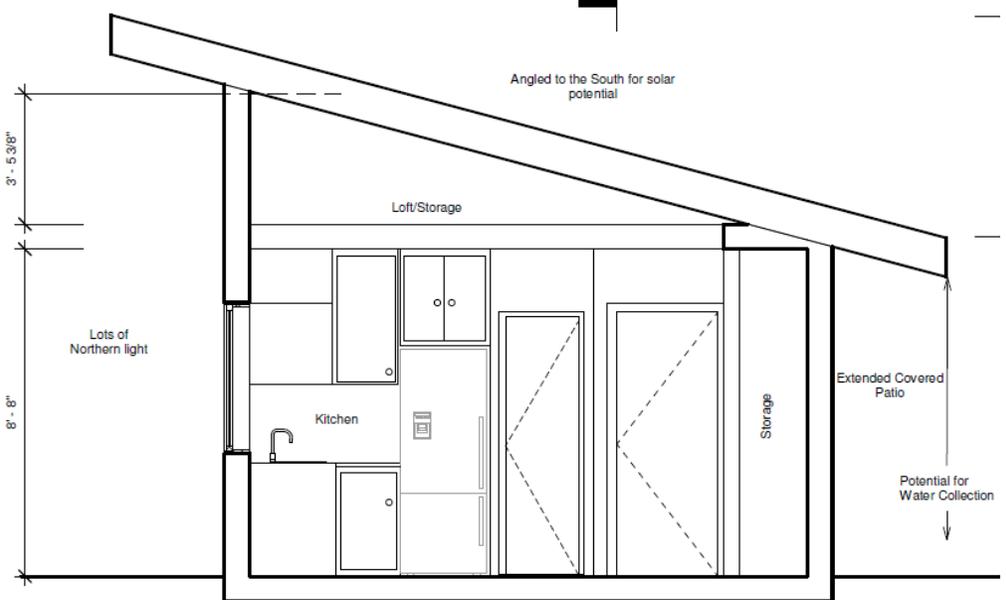
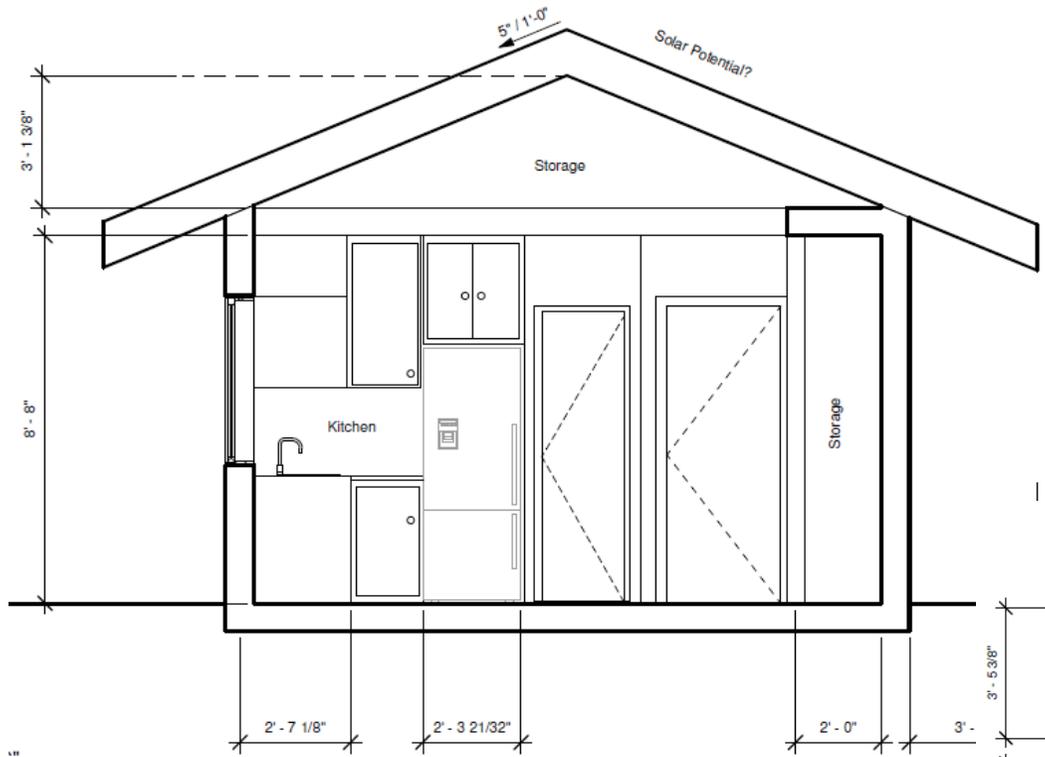
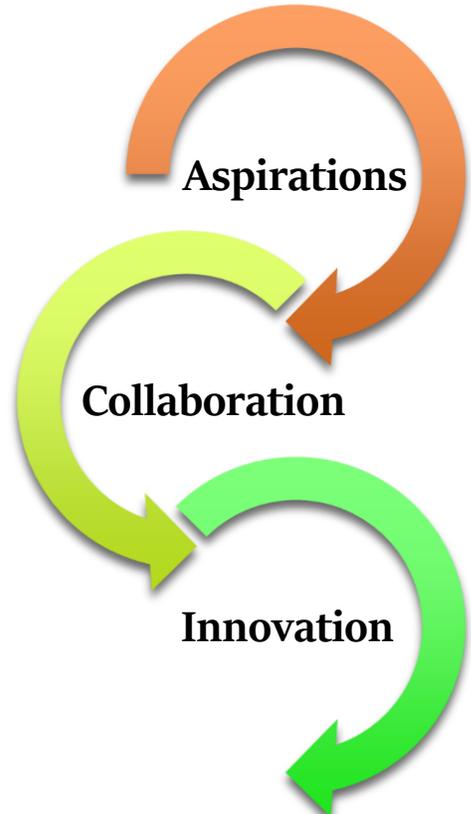


“We should consider various space arrangements--based on **traditional architecture** -- be wary of designs conceived outside our culture, local environment and weather, and community lifestyles.

Involve the community in coming up with a compatible design, otherwise it will be a situation of just another limited-choice prefab, conceived of, constructed and purchased from outside our community. These may be cheaper than current options, but they will be to someone else's economic benefit.

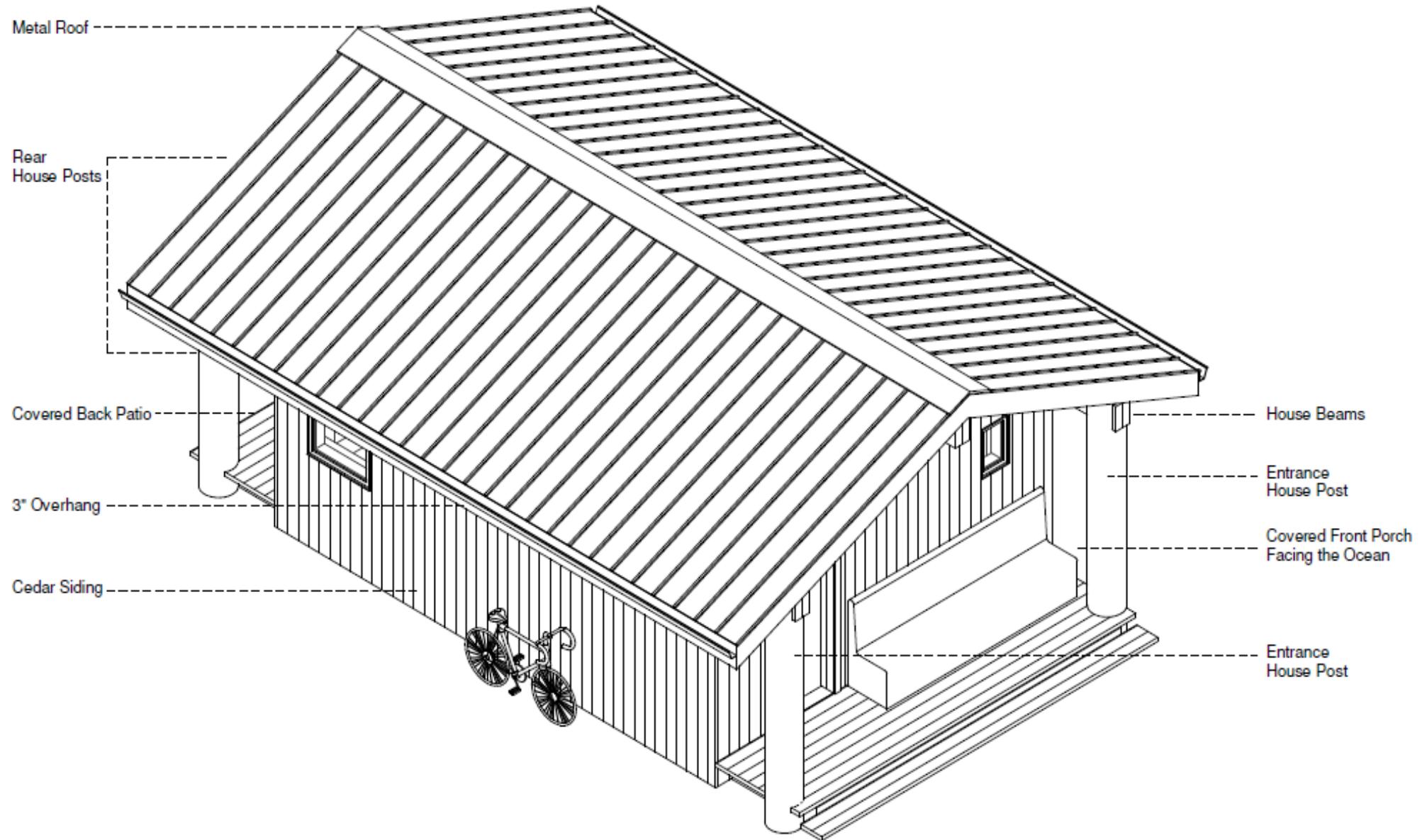
There is tremendous opportunity for the **community to envision and design living spaces** that are compatible with community values, lifestyles, environmental conditions, and preferences.”

Progression of home designs



(All housing sketch designs are credited to Ryder Thalheimer)

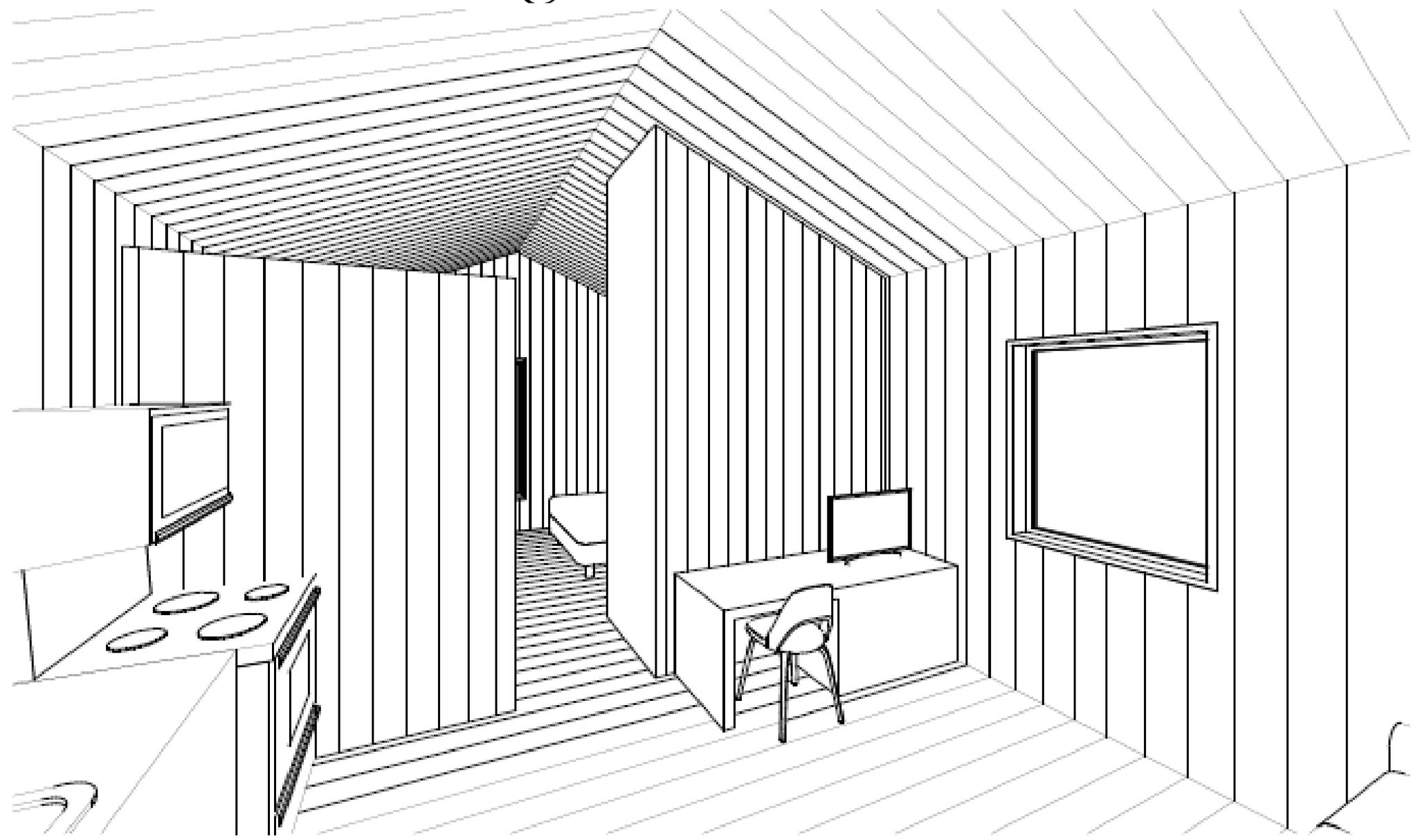
Progression of home designs



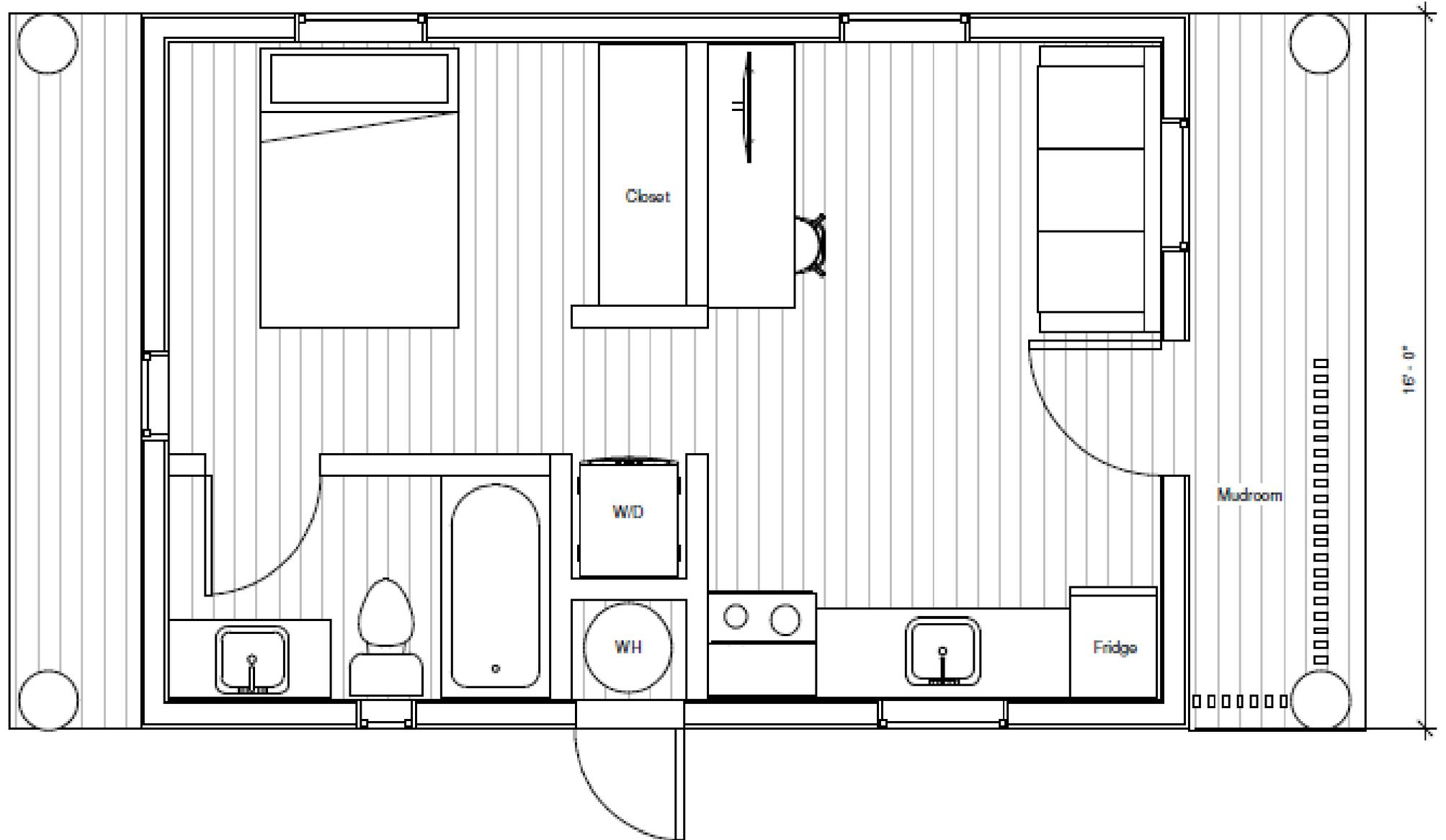
Progression of home designs



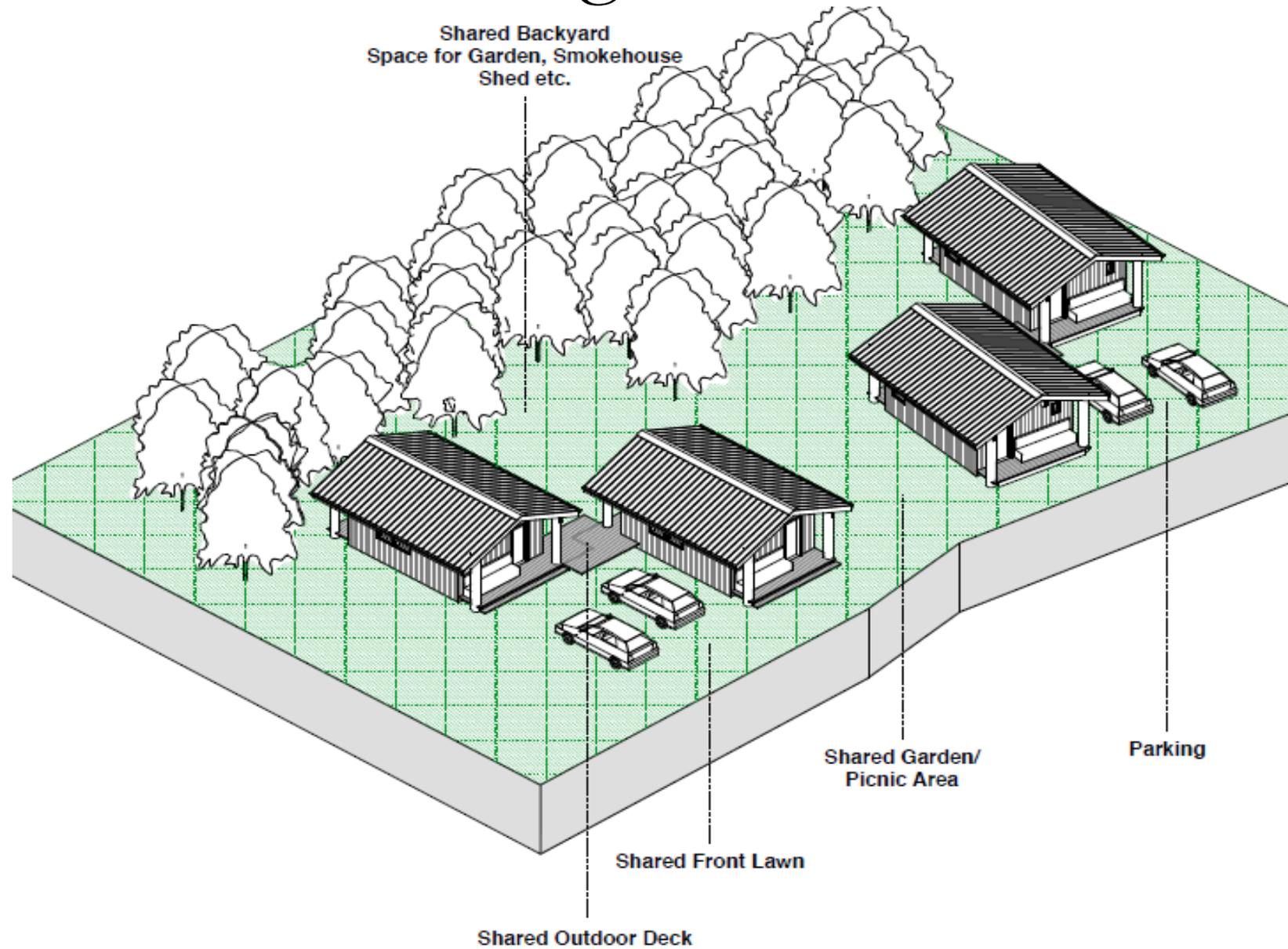
Progression of home designs



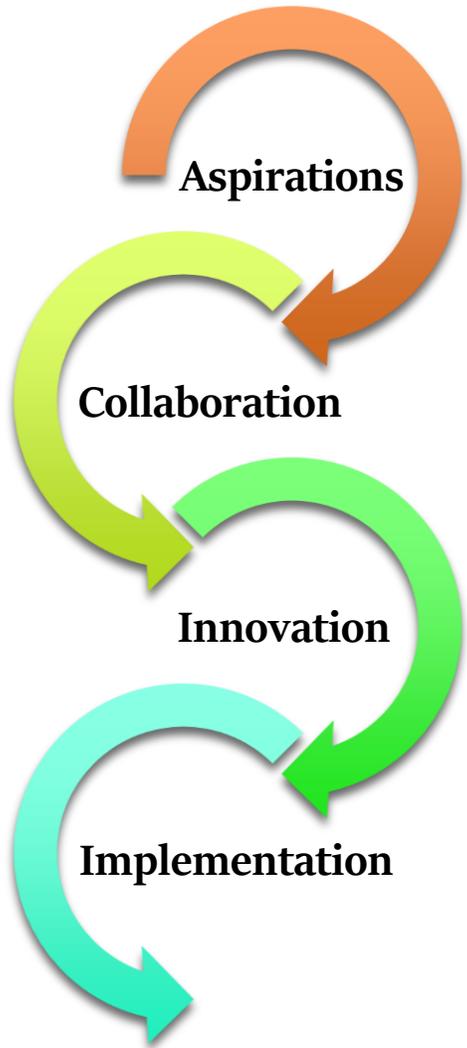
Progression of home designs



Progression of home designs

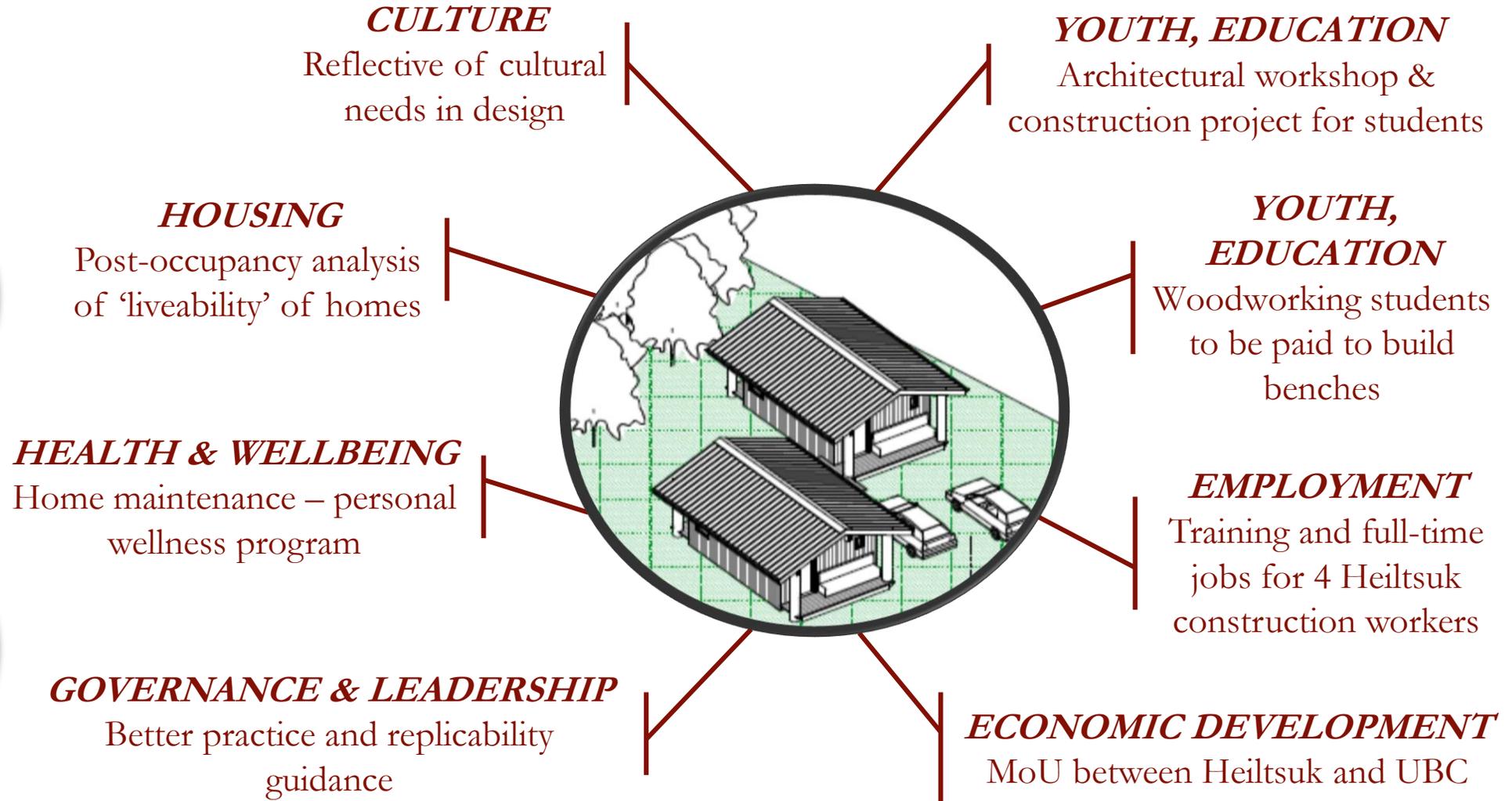
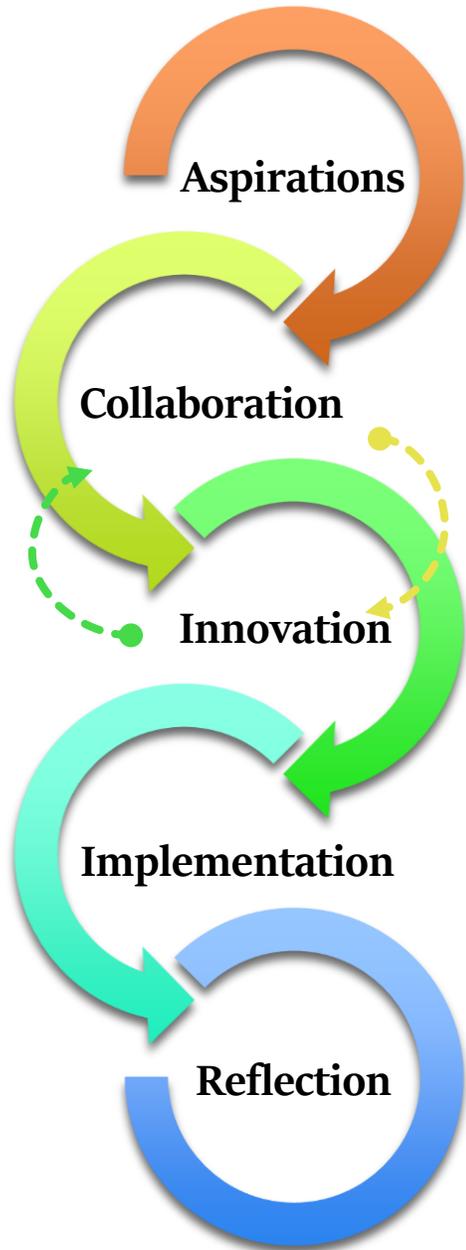


Cultural protocols





Realizing aspirations



Cross-cultural projects require external partners to:

- › Build and maintain relationships
- › Be generous
- › Be humble
- › Do their homework
- › Be patient
- › Be respectful
- › Be cautious and reflective
- › Be a familiar face
- › Look, listen, then speak ⁷



Walas Gíaxsixa! Thank you!



References

¹ Heiltsuk Nation. (2004). *Heiltsuk Nation 15-year economic development plan & strategy*. Bella Bella, British Columbia, Canada.

² <http://www.hcec.ca/heiltsuk.html>

³ Harrison, J., & Beninger, S. (2016). Heiltsuk economic development corporation: Balancing politics, business, and culture. *Ivey Publishing*(W16679), 1-12.

⁴ <https://www.ccira.ca/heiltsuk/>

⁵ <http://www.coastalfirstnations.ca/news-release/october-28-2015-833am>

⁶ Heiltsuk Nation. (2015). *Declaration of Heiltsuk Title and Rights*. Bella Bella, British Columbia, Canada.

⁷ Smith, L. T. and Cram, F. *Kaupapa Māori*. Retrieved from: <https://whatworks.org.nz/kaupapa-maori/>