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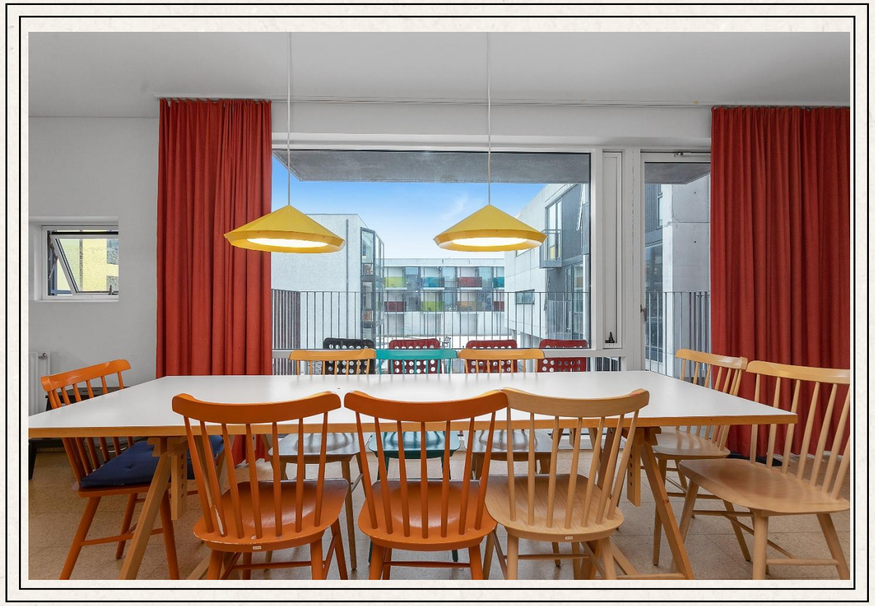


Beyond the buildings

Designing and nurturing community in student housing

Heiður Anna Helgadóttir





More than a roof over your head

A place to feel safe

A place to feel at home

A place to belong

Designing for community

Shared living

7-10 residents per kitchen

Fewer entrances

More spontaneous encounters

Visual connections

Seeing activity in shared spaces

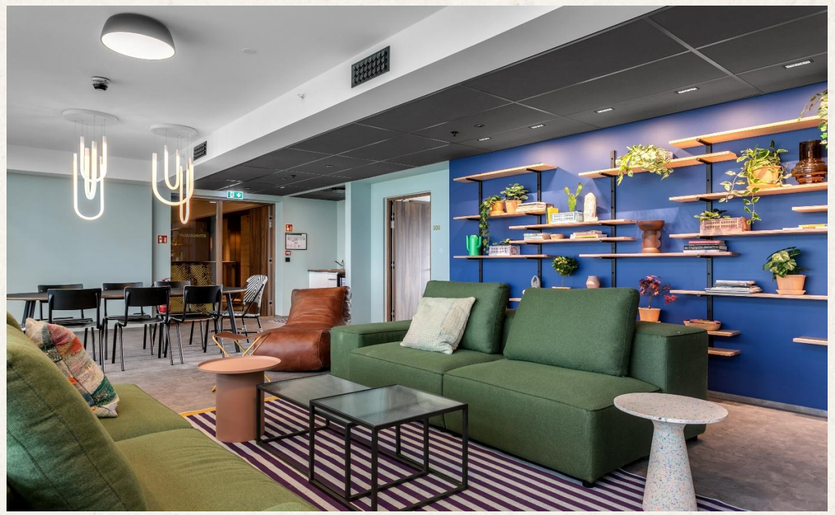
Oddagarðar



If we want residents to connect, we need to give them opportunities to meet

From shared kitchens to shared communities













Good design creates opportunities, not guarantees

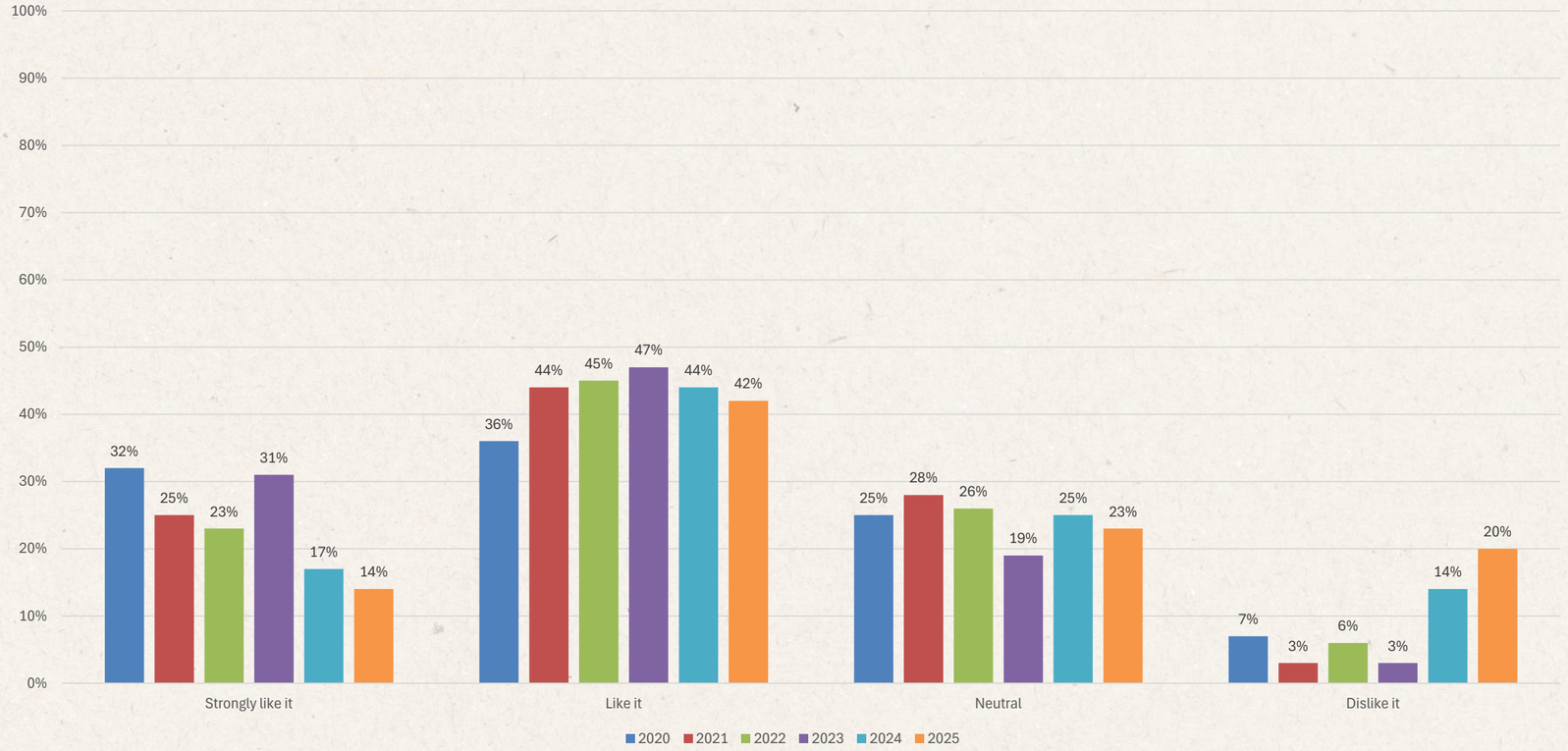
Creating the physical space is only half the job

What happens inside it matters just as much

The reality of shared living

Declining satisfaction with shared living

How do you like sharing your living area with other students?



Cleanliness

Different expectations

Communication

From rules to ownership

Before *Staff-led*	**Now** *Resident-led*
House rules	Open conversations
Reminders	Shared agreements
Conflict resolution	Resident ownership
Reactive	Proactive

Instead of telling residents how to live together,
we asked them how they wanted to live together

Did it make a difference?

The early results

Right after the workshop

87%

felt comfortable sharing their views

60%

gained useful tools for communicating with their roommates

Two months later

70%

still believed their kitchen agreement would be useful

80%

felt the initiative had contributed to a stronger sense of community

Building a community is an ongoing effort , not a one-time initiative

Rethinking what success looks like

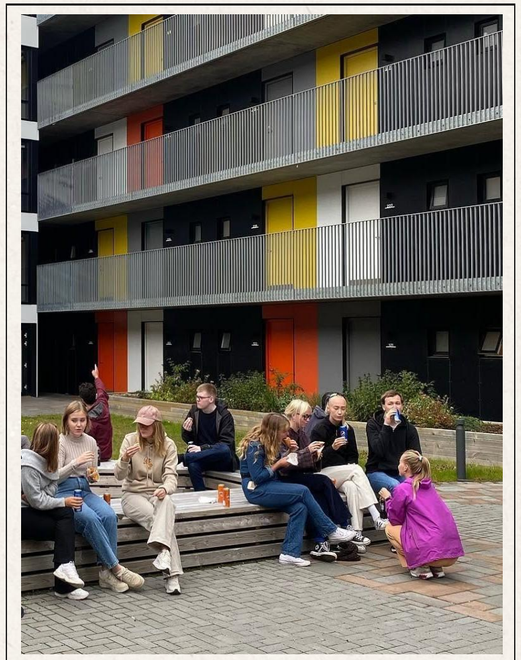
What we've always measured

- Occupancy
- Affordability
- Waiting lists

What we're also measuring

- Belonging
- Safety
- Wellbeing
- Feeling cared for

What we‘ve learned



Design for connection



Give residents ownership



Listen, measure and adapt

Thank you!