



# HISTORIC PRECEDENTS

Courtyard housing is one of the most ancient of urban housing forms, dating back thousands of years to the time of the formation of early urban settlements in Mesopotamia.

Portland, while still a young city, also has a heritage of courtyard housing. Through the first half of the Twentieth Century, courtyard apartment buildings were a frequently-built infill housing type in Portland's streetcar-served neighborhoods.

Portland's courtyard housing typically features landscaped courtyards that continue the green character of their surrounding neighborhoods, where detached houses typically predominate. The courtyards divide the buildings into two wings, whose massing often reflect street frontage patterns established by detached houses.

More recently, high-density housing with central courtyards have been built in downtown neighborhoods, such as the Pearl District. However, few medium-density courtyard housing projects have been built recently in other neighborhoods, where rowhouses and narrow-lot detached houses have become predominant infill housing types.



**NE Multnomah & 22nd (1927)**



**Plan for a courtyard apartment house (1907)**



**A concentration of Street-car-Era courtyard apartment buildings in Southeast Portland**



**Salerno Court – NE Flanders & 24th (1928)**



**Avon Manor – NE Brazee & 9th (1928)**



**Patricia Court – NW Hoyt & 22nd (1930)**



**SE Ash & 20th (1949)**



**Vista Avenue Apartments - SW Vista (1941).  
Designed by renowned Portland architect, Pietro Belluschi**



**Peninsula Park Commons – N. Albina & Holman  
(1938). Converted into a co-housing community with  
shared garden**

Creating spaces for families, community  
and sustainability in the city