

Living Independently Together

Project

Copper Lane

Designer

Henley Halebrown

Location

London, U.K.

A former kindergarten block has been radically transformed into the city's first cohousing project: Copper Lane provides an affordable model for communal living, while supporting an intentional community of families. The six groups, who previously did not all know each other, pooled money together to buy the land and build six individual houses with communal spaces to share. The cluster of homes is arranged around a central courtyard positioned on the aboveground floor, with a continuous perimeter of communal gardens that wraps around the property. This gives each home the opportunity to have balconies and windows that face into the courtyard, while other areas face toward the gardens, allowing privacy. Compared to typical London terraced houses where the public eye cannot see beyond the front door, the boundaries between public and private at Copper Lane go further than the norm, while still providing balance and seclusion. "It shows how architecture can respond to a new social need that has arisen through changes in both lifestyles and economics," the firm explains.

