

Whole: The Village

As the units are placed and the streets are formed a whole presence is granted to the existing surface structures of the site, generating public towers and plazas.

For example:

An old pump house whose roof has long since disappeared becomes a clock tower.

The mine's original ventilator structure forms a subterranean tower of stairs, and an elevator may access possible underground parking or historical spelunking tours.

Small, seemingly haphazardly located concrete telegraph supports generate an angle tower of stairs flanking the main plaza.

Decaying concrete foundations become an initiator for an observation tower and signifier of the town's main plaza.

All of these, combined with the units and streets, culminate in a village just as the units themselves formed into a cohesive whole.

Le Corbusier gives a paradigmatic example in the House of the Tragic Poet in Pompeii. He says of the plan:

"Everything is on axis but you cannot pass in a straight line. The axis is in the intentions, and the dignity given by the axis extends to humble things which the axis accommodates itself to. You get the impression that everything is ordered, but the sensation is rich. You notice then the comfortable breaking of the axis, which gives intensity to the volumes."

Alan Colquhoun

