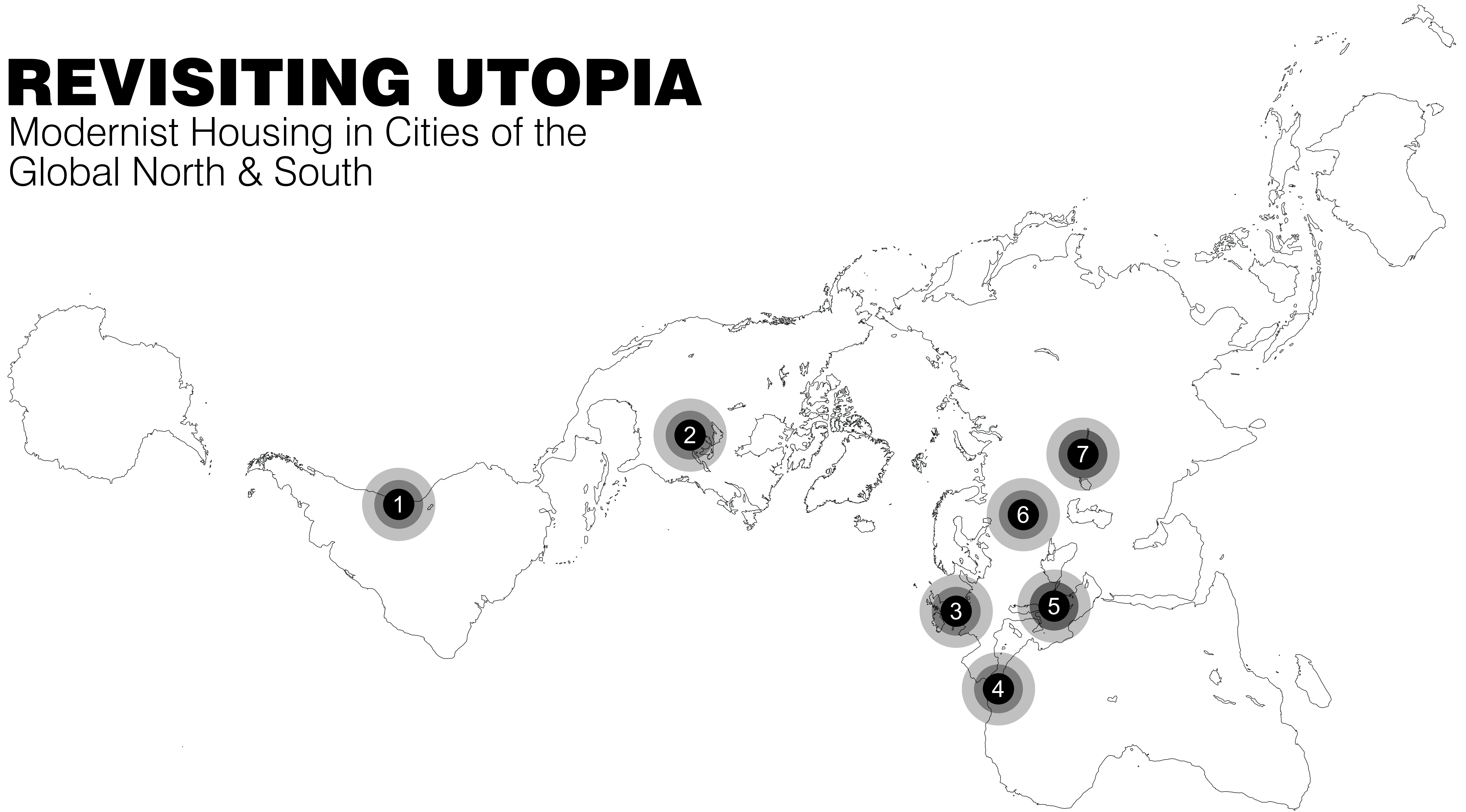


REVISITING UTOPIA

Modernist Housing in Cities of the
Global North & South



1 Iquique, CL
Quinta Monroy
2000 -
Elemental (CL)

2 Chicago, USA
Cabrini-Green
1942 - 2011
various

3 Manchester, UK
Hulme Crescents
1972 - 1994
Wilson & Wormersley (UK)

4 Casablanca, MR
Carrières Centrales
1951-
Gamma (Int'l)

5 Belgrade, SRB
Novi Beograd
1948-
various

6 Moscow, RU
Khrushchevski
1950s-
various

7 Tashkent, UZ
Carrières Centrales
1956-
various



The transformation aimed to build new housing units for the area's **existing residents.**



These **residents opposed relocation** to modernist mass housing blocks, as they were aware of issues associated with **standardized architecture and peripheral siting.**



1

A **flexible housing model** was proposed due to lack of funds, by which minimal housing facilities were provided alongside **space for self-constructed additions** by the residents.



With Cabrini Green, it can be observed that **modernist design principles** were implemented as a supposedly definitive solution for **addressing social needs.**



The design was promoted as a **socially responsible** approach, suggesting that **'better' architecture** would engender a **'better' world.**



These **unrealistic ambitions** were ignorant of the **political, economic, and social preconditions**, leading to the ultimate failure of the project and its eventual demolition.



The Hulme housing complex underwent a **rapid dilapidation** after opening. By 1984 the Manchester Municipality had **effectively abandoned** the project.



Due to **inapt design elements** for children, the 'crescents' were converted to '**adults-only**' residency in 1974.



The crescents did provide breeding grounds for a **unique musical expression** that was to become the pride of Manchester – a legacy that would long precede the **dystopian** housing project.



The modernist housing blocks of Carrières Centrales were built during the French **colonial regime** in Morocco.



As a consequence of **industrialization**, rapid **urbanization**, and the rural exodus, a **concentration of poor** people came to live in bidonvilles.



The built plan consisted of **standardized housing units** based on a study of **vernacular** Moroccan living conditions.



In Morocco, **modernism** was aligned with **colonialism**.



5

After the devastation of World War II and fascism, the **modernist-socialist utopia** of Novi Beograd redefined in a **spatial and societal sense** and a historically contentious geographic location.



A housing crisis, economic turmoil, the Cold War and a transition back to a free market outlook have contributed to the **decline and fragmentation** of Yugoslavia's **most ambitious urban project.**



5

Modernism and Socialism within Yugoslavia embodied the **empowerment of institution and community**, rather than the individual. This partnership provided a **societal and physical change** in the Balkan landscape.



The construction of Khrushchevki, named for Soviet leader Nikita Khrushchev, was important in tackling the **housing crisis** in the **post-Stalin** Soviet Union.



In 2017, the Moscow unveiled **plans to demolish** 5.000 Khrushchevki, mostly located within the city's inner ring, and **relocate residents** to newer housing.



The planned **urban renewal** raises questions about whether modernism can function under a **neoliberal regime** without a (socialist) welfare state.



6

The project also demonstrates continued community **displacement** practices in the provision of social housing.



Since the beginning of **Russian colonization** in the 19th century, Tashkent has been developed as a **dual-city** that juxtaposes Russian architecture and the **vernacular typologies** of the native community.



Modernist social housing was brought to Tashkent by its **Soviet colonizers**, especially after the 1966 earthquake destroyed much of the city's housing stock.



Soviet architects attempted to **embed local symbols** in their designs as a means of creating a national Uzbek style, amounting to a **constructed national identity** imparted by a colonial power.