

Source: Frank and Ahrentzen (1989), courtesy of Kathryn McCamant



(a)



(b)

Adapted from McCamant and Durett (1995); courtesy of Kathryn McCamant

**Figure 7.24** Trudeslund, near Copenhagen. (a) The site plan and (b) a cross-sectional view of the street.

meal-preparation and dining takes place there. One of the responsibilities of residents is to cook communal meals on a rotational basis. Some members eat together frequently in the common dining room, others less so. The common house also has facilities for housing visitors, for children and teenagers, and a library, photographic dark-room, workshops, laundry and a store. It really is the heart of the community.

Cohousing projects such as Trudeslund illustrate the diversity of total urban designs. Many total urban designs have resulted from highly autocratic decision processes but Trudeslund is an example of a highly participatory programming and design activity. There were many hands making the broth but, communal effort though it was, it was one project carried to conclusion by one architectural firm under one auspice. Its goal was to provide a rich social life for its members, children and adults alike. Much of life is shared. There are other types of cohousing developments (e.g. for the

elderly) but the philosophy and development process behind them all is similar.

A clearly articulated behavioural brief based on a set of mutually agreed on expectations dictates much about the design. This observation holds particularly strongly for the semi-public spaces (the 'street') and the semi-private, or private to the group, spaces (the internal communal rooms). In much urban design the behavioural assumptions underpinning the design of the public realm are, at the best, based on observations. They are thus more speculative than in this case. There is, nevertheless, often a slip between what people say about how they will behave and what they do.

### Major references

- Franck, Karen (1989). Overview of collective and shared housing. In Karen Franck and Sherry Ahrentzen, eds., *New Households, New Housing*. New York: Van Nostrand Reinhold, 3–19.
- McCamant, Kathryn and Charles Durett (1988). *Cohousing: A Contemporary Approach to Housing Ourselves*. Berkeley, CA: Habitat Press/Ten Speed Press.