

## What people are saying about cohousing ...

"Safety is in knowing your neighbours, not in walls and barriers."  
-Corporal Dan Kelly RCMP

"This is the solution to many of the concerns I have about raising children in the city. They have lots of places to play and there's always an adult close by."

"There's always someone around to share the sunset with."

## What do you want in a community?

The Canadian Cohousing Network (CCN) is a non-profit society promoting the creation of cohousing communities by raising public awareness about cohousing and by bringing people together to form communities.

CCN can help you connect with the people and the resources that can bring your dreams to life. Each cohousing community is a manifestation of the dreams and accomplishments of the people who live there.

## I'm interested. What's my next step?

Learn about cohousing.  
Visit an existing community.

Create a cohousing community.

Become a CCN member.

Visit the CCN website to connect with cohousing communities and to find out more about how to start your own community.

[www.cohousing.ca](http://www.cohousing.ca)

## books about cohousing:

Cohousing: A Contemporary Approach to Housing Ourselves  
by McCamant & Durrett

The Cohousing Handbook: Building a Place for Community  
by Chris and Kelly Scott-Hansen

Finding Community: How to Join an Ecovillage or Intentional Community  
by Diana Leafe Christian

Creating a Life Together: Practical Tools to Grow Ecovillages and Intentional Communities  
by Diana Leafe Christian

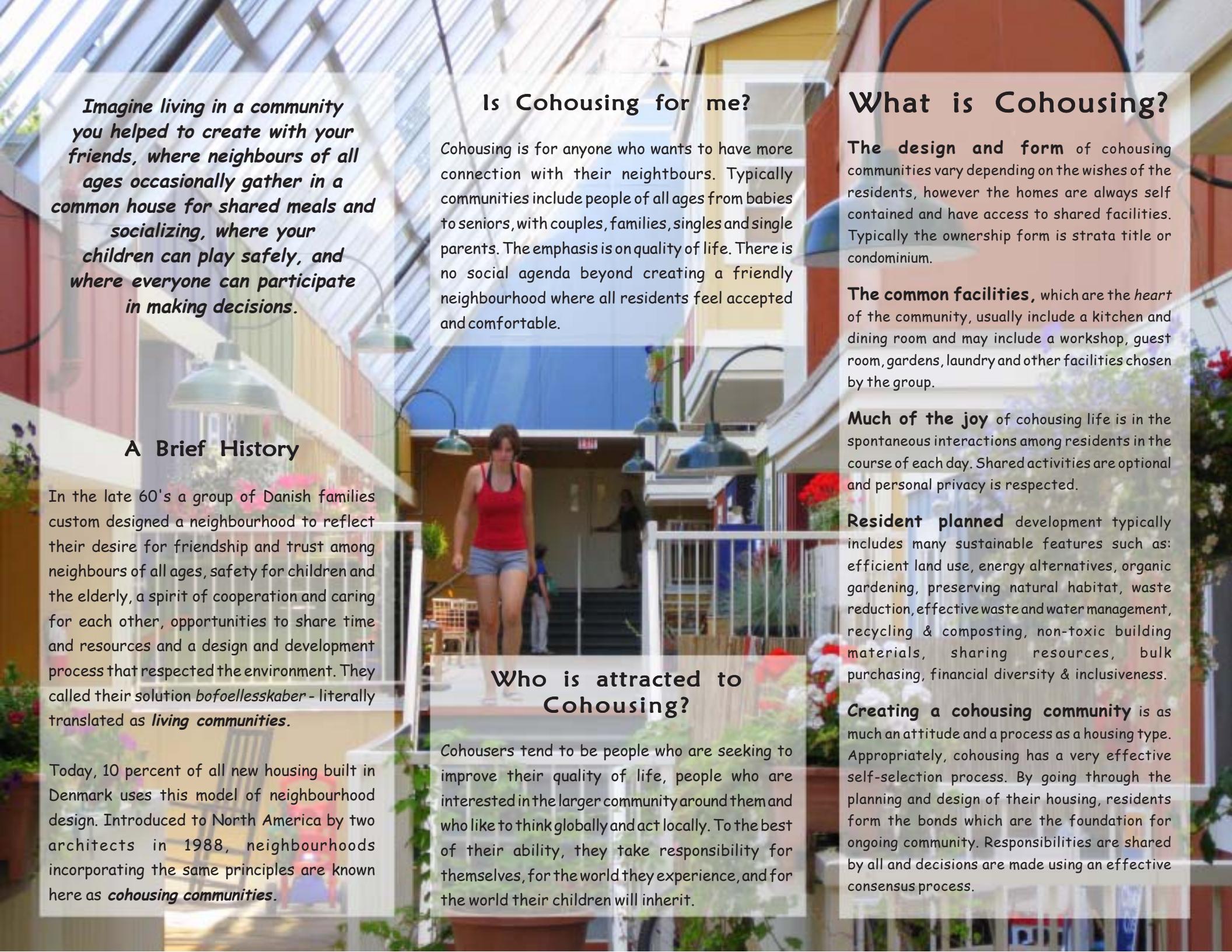
Senior Cohousing: A Community Approach to Independent Living  
by Charles Durrett

# Recreating the Village ... a new approach

Canadian  
Cohousing Network  
(CCN)

[www.cohousing.ca](http://www.cohousing.ca)





*Imagine living in a community you helped to create with your friends, where neighbours of all ages occasionally gather in a common house for shared meals and socializing, where your children can play safely, and where everyone can participate in making decisions.*

## A Brief History

In the late 60's a group of Danish families custom designed a neighbourhood to reflect their desire for friendship and trust among neighbours of all ages, safety for children and the elderly, a spirit of cooperation and caring for each other, opportunities to share time and resources and a design and development process that respected the environment. They called their solution *bofoellesskaber* - literally translated as *living communities*.

Today, 10 percent of all new housing built in Denmark uses this model of neighbourhood design. Introduced to North America by two architects in 1988, neighbourhoods incorporating the same principles are known here as *cohousing communities*.

## Is Cohousing for me?

Cohousing is for anyone who wants to have more connection with their neighbours. Typically communities include people of all ages from babies to seniors, with couples, families, singles and single parents. The emphasis is on quality of life. There is no social agenda beyond creating a friendly neighbourhood where all residents feel accepted and comfortable.



## Who is attracted to Cohousing?

Cohousers tend to be people who are seeking to improve their quality of life, people who are interested in the larger community around them and who like to think globally and act locally. To the best of their ability, they take responsibility for themselves, for the world they experience, and for the world their children will inherit.

## What is Cohousing?

The design and form of cohousing communities vary depending on the wishes of the residents, however the homes are always self contained and have access to shared facilities. Typically the ownership form is strata title or condominium.

The common facilities, which are the heart of the community, usually include a kitchen and dining room and may include a workshop, guest room, gardens, laundry and other facilities chosen by the group.

Much of the joy of cohousing life is in the spontaneous interactions among residents in the course of each day. Shared activities are optional and personal privacy is respected.

Resident planned development typically includes many sustainable features such as: efficient land use, energy alternatives, organic gardening, preserving natural habitat, waste reduction, effective waste and water management, recycling & composting, non-toxic building materials, sharing resources, bulk purchasing, financial diversity & inclusiveness.

Creating a cohousing community is as much an attitude and a process as a housing type. Appropriately, cohousing has a very effective self-selection process. By going through the planning and design of their housing, residents form the bonds which are the foundation for ongoing community. Responsibilities are shared by all and decisions are made using an effective consensus process.