



Party Wall Common

Collective Forms of Living

Peter Kempf

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- **Party Wall Common** confronts the concept of ownership, as well as the challenges pertaining to our disconnection from one another and our environment, by exploring the legal and spatial conversion of party walls typical of row house typology into a common ground
- Positioned at the intersection of architecture, law, and cultural studies, this publication provides a groundbreaking resource for architects, legal scholars, and design professionals seeking to explore the hidden potential of shared space.

Party Wall Common confronts the concept of ownership, as well as the challenges pertaining to our disconnection from one another and our environment, by exploring the legal and spatial conversion of party walls typical of row house typology into a common ground. In such a common ground, neither the public nor the private “governs”; rather, a multitude of interactions generated by a collective body embracing a field of changing configurations, by which the duality of “I” versus “THEY” is permeated by a third entity: the “WE”.

The notion of “we” is understood here as the legal and spatial materialisation of a common ground unfolding via a party wall, in which a collective embraces a generative form of ownership that embraces social equity and care for one another, while sharing both material and immaterial resources by means of inhabiting Party Wall Common.

Petra Kempf is an educator teaching architecture and urban design at Washington University in St. Louis. She has worked at institutions within the public and private sector and her work has been exhibited in in the United States and Europe and has been featured in multiple publications. All Credited Contributors: Neeraj Bhatia and Daniel Spiegel, Lawrence Blough, Catherine Ingraham, Rafi Segal.