ETHICAL HOUSING
LOW-INCOME DWELLINGS FOR AT-RISK SINGLE MOTHERS

In 2017, the US Census Bureau reported 3,380,932 families headed by a single mother and considered poor. This means that affordable housing is limited to unsafe areas with lower rent that are not ideal for raising children. This project, based 35 miles outside of Chicago, Illinois, seeks to change the way we see low-income housing. It will provide a safe space for single mothers to raise their children while helping to build lasting friendships between neighborhoods through the theories developed by architect Ross Chapin in his study of pocket neighborhoods.

1. The Clubhouse
This building houses offices for case workers and the property manager as well as tenant amenities such as a gym, mail room, library, computer center and small meeting rooms.

2. The Cottages
Featuring two separate floor plans designed by renowned architect Ross Chapin (one-two bedroom and one-three bedroom), these homes are ideal spaces for encouraging the community ideals that pocket neighborhoods strive for.

3. The Courtyard
The courtyard is designed with the overall safety and well-being of the community in mind. Serving as the focal point of the neighborhood, the great lawn and flower gardens provide a safe space for adults to socialize and children to play. With all homes facing this central point, residents can take an active role in keeping the community safe.

4. The Commons
This small building features a kitchen and plenty of room for tables to allow residents to host gatherings that exceed the available space of their cottages. Its full glass back wall offers views of Lake Michigan's beautiful sunsets.

5. The Community Garden
These small patches of earth serve as community vegetable gardens for the residents to use. Each home will be given a designated plot to cultivate if they wish and gardening classes will be offered to teach residents new skills.

6. The Parking
Because the goal of pocket neighborhoods is to create opportunities for socialization, the parking lot is located at the entrance to the community and makes it necessary for residents to walk through the entire neighborhood to reach their cottage. This increases the chance that neighbors will pass each other and start a conversation.