dancing in the **dustland**

NVA-19742
part 01 :: about the dance

To live in the mojave desert is to be engaged in a perpetual dance, with every movement a choreographed response to the harsh conditions that prevail. In this waltz, the desert always leads.

The current state of housing in Southern Nevada opts for expediency and short term affordability over resilenancy. The Henderson Townsite was an early product of this mindset. The homes were established to provide temporary wartime housing for magnesium miners and intended to be demolished during peacetime. Seventy years later, time and the desert have taken its toll, leaving much of the remaining homes dilapidated beyond repair. As downtown Henderson is poised for a renaissance, developers and prospective homeowners will look to this once prominent neighborhood for housing options.

Dancing in the Dustland intends to redirect the course of urban sprawl through impactful urban intervention. By creating a replicable model for sustainable living that respects its place within a greater context, the building can serve as a catalyst for future redevelopment. Housing 6 units and one community room on a quarter acre site, the project brings a level of density to an area of the Las Vegas Valley that has been characterized by single family development.

Project Information
Lot size: 0.2 acres
Units:
1 bedroom (x 4): 1000 SF
2 bedroom (x 1): 1300 SF
2 bedroom w/2 levels (x1): SF 1,200
Density: 40 occ./acre
part 02 :: sustainability

The arid nature of the Mojave Desert dictates to its inhabitants how they should live. *Dancing in the Dustland* utilizes **passive design strategies** to deal with the intense heat, allowing its occupants to live comfortably and responsibly within the harsh environment. Using native foliage that requires little water, the courtyard acts as a **desert oasis** that offers residents the opportunity to retreat from both the heat and chaos of life in Southern Nevada. The site design calls for minimal use of concrete and asphalt, opting for decomposed granite.
part 03 :: materials

The material choice references the Red Rock Mountains and the wood cabins that typified early settlements in the valley. The wood is treated to withstand the desert environment.
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view from alley
plan: one bedroom unit

plan: two bedroom unit
dancing in the dustland

plan: community room

plan: two story unit
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view of courtyard
view from balcony