

Arch 6**

Fall 2010

Instructor: Robert Jan van Pelt

Course Title: The Minimum Dwelling

In 1932 the Czech avant-garde architect Karel Teige published his seminal *The Minimum Dwelling*. In this work he critically reviewed the architectural discourse on small dwellings for the subsistence minimum as it had developed during the 1920s and he provided a thorough analysis of the major issues involved. In this seminar course, we will provide an in-depth study of Teige's book and the discourse on the minimum dwelling in the 1920s, and 1930s to end with a review of the transformation of the debate under the influence of the destruction brought by the Second World War.

The purpose of the course is to bring all participants up to speed on the historical and theoretical issues that defined the issue of *Existenzminimum* during its heroic era. This knowledge will be of great use for those who will register into the M.Arch program in the Fall of 2010 with the aim to participate in the M1 studio to be conducted by professors McKay and van Pelt during Winter 2011.

Each student will be required to write a thorough critical review of Teige's book, and he and she will undertake through drawing a detailed case study of one project.

Students will be required to buy Karel Teige, *The Minimum Dwelling*, Eric Dluhosch trans. MIT Press 2002, ISBN 0-262-20136-4. It is an expensive book (Amazon.ca charges \$ 52.76; Indigo 65.50—but both Amazon and Indigo list many 2nd-hand and remaindered copies for much lower prices), but even a full-price copy is worth every dollar paid for it.