

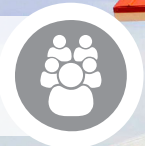
How does culture and heritage impact the way we build housing?



Heritage



Gathering



Off-Grid



Traditional Lifeways



CULTURE

These featured projects demonstrate that affordable, cost-effective, and healthy housing can be specific to each culture, place, and climate. Most of the projects that incorporated culturally based design strategies did so through a strong community-engagement process, meeting with various user groups, including potential residents, community members, elders, youth, and cultural leaders. In the Penobscot Nation, such meetings helped define not just the tribe's housing needs but also its health and wellness needs, together with a stronger connection to cultural heritage. The Penobscot decided to incorporate a trails network and cultural elements as part of the site planning for their homes, to honor their river and community connections to it and to provide health benefits by encouraging walking. The Puyallup Tribe returned to its cultural housing form, the longhouse, which was reinterpreted in a contemporary context and is helping rebuild a sense of community. A primary goal of the Teekalet Village Housing project was to protect the salmon hatchery near the project, which was accomplished by specifically designing watershed protection systems from the housing site downstream. Because the project team for Owe'neh Bupingeh worked closely with many different project stakeholders, more than half the homes in the sacred and cultural core of Ohkay Owingeh have been rehabilitated by tribal members using indigenous methods and materials. The project team for Devine Legacy, which is oriented toward urban Indians in Phoenix, needed a universal approach to incorporating cultural elements, because families of many traditions would live there. To meet these challenges, the project team based its design on the ancient Hohokam culture, one of the first settled people in this area. Many project teams, such as the Dine' who worked with Indigenous Community Enterprises (ICE) to develop Elder Hoogan Homes, worked directly with the homeowners to ensure the project met their needs and incorporated traditional elements, such as east-facing entries.