• Long after the elevations were planned many people associated them to Tetris game. And so the building got its name. The façade was developed simply – just tracing the floor plan organization.

• The given urban plot of the building was 4 floors high, 58 meters long and 15 in width. Since the orientation of the building is towards the busy highway the apartment opening together with balconies are shifted as 30 degrees window-wings towards the quieter and south orientated side. In the future also 2 more blocks are planned on both longitudinal sides; therefore there are no direct windows towards east and west. Each apartment has view towards its own balcony, sometimes there is also a glazed loggia. On this way intimacy is created and there will be no direct views from ones apartment directly to the others in the opposite block.

• Bigger apartments are developed on the front facades and have nicer views and corner orientation. They are made of economic but quality materials such as wooden oak floors, granite tiled bathrooms and have large windows with external metal blinds. The concept of structure is made in a way, that floor plans are flexible, since only structural walls are those, that separate apartment shell from the rest of the building. All other inner walls are non-structural.
Affordable housing in China is inspired by the traditional Tulou.

Consists of an outer circular block with a rectangular box within that is connected to the outer ring by bridges and a courtyard. Both the circular and rectangular blocks contain small apartment units; the spaces in between are for circulation and community use.

The lower floors contain shops and other community facilities. Rents are low and apartments are not available to car owners, adding to the homogeneity of the community, many of whom are migrant workers.

The entire structure is wrapped in a perforated concrete shell punctuated by wooden lattices that shade the balconies, giving each unit a secondary living space. The design translates the visual monotony inherent to an "e-shaped loop" with richly textured inner and outer facade.

Integrating the living culture of traditional Tulou buildings with low-income housing is not only an academic issue, there is an important social issue too. The living condition of the poor is now gaining more public attention.
• These prefabricated townhouses are part of the Nehemiah program to build the largest affordable housing development for first-time homebuyers in New York City. More than 800 homes are planned around a vibrant community-oriented streetscape and neighborhood.

• To create visual interest and distinct identities, multiple facade types were designed, each of which can be clad in one of a dozen different colors of siding. A modern interpretation of traditional Brooklyn townhouses, stoops line the street leading to a raised front door. Parking is along rear alleys in the interior of each block, allowing the homes to open directly onto the sidewalk.

Nehemiah Spring Creek Affordable Housing Development, East New York, Brooklyn, Alexander Gorlin Architects (2009)

The modular homes are built in the Brooklyn Navy Yard and trucked to the site, then assembled like Lego blocks with twelve different facades and ten colors to create identity and texture for the new neighborhood. The facades are clad in a cementitious board that is with color that is baked on in the factory. Parking is in rear yard alleys that have become a center of neighborhood play and community use. The houses are modern interpretations of traditional brownstones, with urban street walls and front stoops on the street for public interaction to further the development of community. Bay windows project onto the street to further emphasize variety and a human scale along the street facades. Parking is in rear yard alleys.