Time to Make Room

In the Bay Area, a third of all households are single people living alone; in San Francisco, it’s 40 percent. Why aren’t we designing housing for that?

By Marika McAdam

The locks and drapes and 9:10 a.m. coffee mugs can sometimes transcend the norm—especially when culture, community, and commerce are blended as they are in the Bay Area. ‘Single people’ really aren’t single after all. Over 40 percent of the adults in the U.S. live alone, making single people a significant part of the population. While this statistic has been common among women for some time now, single men are also far more common than single women.

One reason is that people have moved, and the market is shaping these emerging singles into a unique demographic. A combination of a high cost of living, affordable housing, and the flexibility that comes with living alone makes the Bay Area a unique place for singles. This trend has brought with it a new demand for housing that caters to singles and their unique needs.

In San Francisco, it's a well-known fact that the city is home to a large number of single people. Many of the city's residents are homeless or in temporary housing arrangements, and the city's high cost of living makes it difficult for many residents to find affordable housing. To address these challenges, the city has taken steps to increase the availability of affordable housing, including the creation of new affordable housing projects and the expansion of existing programs.

As a city that is home to a large number of single people, it should be important to the city's residents and policymakers to design housing that meets their needs. This is especially true in the context of the city's high cost of living, which can make it difficult for many people to find affordable housing. To address these challenges, the city has taken steps to increase the availability of affordable housing, including the creation of new affordable housing projects and the expansion of existing programs.

To make room for singles in the city, the city is home to a variety of housing options, including

1. Single-family homes: These are existing homes that have been converted into units for singles. They can be a great option for those who want to live in a space that is their own, without the need to share with others.
2. Apartment buildings: These are apartment buildings that have been modified to accommodate singles. They can be an affordable option for those who want to live in a shared space, but also have their own private living space.
3. Condominiums: These are condominiums that have been modified to accommodate singles. They can be a good option for those who want to live in a private space, but also have access to amenities like a gym or pool.
4. Mobile homes: These are mobile homes that have been converted into units for singles. They can be an affordable option for those who want to live in a space that is their own, without the need to share with others.
5. Housing cooperatives: These are housing cooperatives that have been modified to accommodate singles. They can be a good option for those who want to live in a shared space, but also have their own private living space.

In conclusion, it is clear that the Bay Area is a unique place for singles. By designing housing that meets their needs, the city can help to ensure that singles can find affordable housing in a city that is home to a large number of single people.