Located just on the outskirts of downtown Silverton Oregon, Portland State University students in collaboration with Habitat for Humanity explore the “Missing Middle” typology within housing through the design and use of Cottage Clusters. This small community-oriented housing type utilizes smaller square-footages and smaller overall footprints to fit a higher number of units onto lots typically designed for townhomes or large multi-family housing.

This design heavily follows through with the communal aspect of the Cottage Cluster in an effort to express the idea both inside and out. Units are arranged around central plazas and have large windows in the higher traffic areas of the home to better connect the individual units to the rest of the surrounding community. This open plan one-bedroom design with additional loft space is well suited for varying demographics, from a single individual, to small families, to elderly couples.
Bioretention ponds use plants and soil composition to help treat stormwater runoff and can dramatically reduce pollutants and contaminants before it reaches main water supplies.

For Stria, the bioretention ponds that are part of the landscaping not only help with stormwater, but they also help provide a buffer between the cottages and the street. Rainwater travels down through each cottage’s gutter system and into a creekbed system which drains into the retention area. All plants used are capable of withstanding standing water conditions as well as drier summer conditions when there is less rain.