This thesis deals with residential housing in Beijing where the characteristic traditional residential house, courtyard-house had been the main dwelling form for seven hundred and thirty years since the Yuan Dynasty. Courtyard-house was well planned, closely linked with urban fabric, and was famous for different variations for different conditions. The design intention of the thesis is to generalize a new residential model from courtyard-house in response to issues of city development such as city character and respect of historical context. The new residential model would strengthen architectural characteristic of residential housing in Beijing rather than only function and efficiency which are stressed in international styles' slab and point blocks.

A historical concerned typical residential model will be developed in conjunction with modern residential requirement. It focus on neighbourhood and community environments which are two of the characters of courtyard-house in past fifty years and appreciate by people there. Then it will be applied and examined in the selected redevelopment site Drum & Bell District.

Other issues of residential housing such as Plot Ratio, Privacy, Circulation Area will be discussed but the main focus will be aimed at lighting and sun-shinning ratio which are the most critical issues of yard houses.