an elevated first courtyard extending between adjacent arms; wherein

the first courtyard is two or more storeys high;

the two or more apartments are accessible from the first courtyard; and

one side of the first courtyard is open to the atmosphere.

Preferably, a second courtyard is located above or adjacent the first courtyard and the second courtyard is linked to the first courtyard.

Preferably, the second courtyard is linked to the first courtyard by a corridor.

Preferably, the second courtyard is linked to the first courtyard by a lobby.

Optionally, the second courtyard is linked to the first courtyard by a lift.

Preferably, one or more of the two or more separate apartments is arranged over two or more storeys.

Optionally, the first courtyard and/or the second courtyard is/are two or more storeys high.

Preferably, the second courtyard is located above, and covers at least in part, the ~~second~~ first courtyard.

In one embodiment, a first courtyard is located on a same storey as a second courtyard. The first courtyard may be located on a different side of the multi storey building to the second courtyard. The second courtyard may be a plurality of storeys higher than the first courtyard.

Suitably, a third courtyard is located a plurality of storeys above the second courtyard, and the third courtyard is located directly above the first courtyard.

Preferably, the first and second courtyards are located side by side between a pair of adjacent arms wherein the second courtyard is on a higher storey than the first courtyard.

to the fifth and sixth apartments 25, 26 is via courtyard 30A' on the seventh storey 10G. Courtyards 30A and 30A' are on a same side 90A of the multi storey building 90, and courtyard 30D is on an opposite side 90B of the multi storey building 90 to courtyards 30A, 30A'.

As outlined above, by alternating the courtyards 30A, 30D, 30A' between opposite sides 90A, 90B of the multi storey building 90, courtyards of twice the height between the first and second courtyards 30A, 30B and ~~second~~ third and ~~third~~ fourth courtyards 30C, 30D can be achieved. In FIG. 6, three stories separate courtyard 30A from courtyard 30D. Similarly three stories separates courtyard 30C from courtyard 30A'. Thus the number of stories separating courtyard 30A and 30A' is six storeys.

It should be appreciated that the height of each courtyard 30A, 30D, 30A' may also be varied by varying a number of storeys of an apartment 20. In addition it should be appreciated that the number of storeys occupied by an apartment may be different, or the same in order to achieve a desired height of the courtyard 30A, 30D, 30A'. Furthermore, it should be appreciated that the multi storey buildings of FIGS 4, 5 and 6 (and FIGS 7-17) may include private courtyards, and/or communal courtyards.

Although a cross shaped multi storey building 80 is shown in FIGS. 4 and 5, it should be appreciated that the multi storey building may be any suitable shape. FIGS. 7-16 show other shapes of multi storey building according to further embodiments of the present invention.

FIG. 7 illustrates a cut away plan view of a multi storey building 100 according to an embodiment of the present invention. Arms 102 extend away from a centre 101 of the multi storey building 100. Arms 102 can be in the shape of a zigzag, or W shape, as shown in FIG 7. Each arm 102 is formed from or comprises a plurality of apartments 20, and may include stairs 40 at an end of each arm 102. Similar to previous embodiments, a lift lobby 60 is formed at the centre 101 which also includes stairs 40, and a lift 62.

In this embodiment, a third courtyard 30C and a fourth courtyard 30D are located side by side between a pair of adjacent arms 142. The third courtyard 30C is on a same storey as courtyards 30A, and the fourth courtyard 30D is on a same storey as courtyards 30B and a number of storeys higher than courtyards 30A and 30C.

FIG. 16 illustrates a side perspective view of the multi storey building 140 of FIG. 15. As shown in FIG. 16 the courtyards 30A, 30C, 30D are repeated on upper storeys. However it should be appreciated that the same applies to courtyards 30B. In one embodiment, courtyard 30A' is five stories directly above courtyard 30A. Courtyard 30C' is formed five storeys directly above courtyard 30C. Courtyard 30D' is formed five storeys directly above courtyard 30D. Courtyard 30A'' is formed five stories directly above courtyard 30A'. Courtyard 30C'' is formed five storeys directly above courtyard 30C', and courtyard 30 D'' is formed five storeys directly above courtyard 30D'.

Although FIGS 12 to 16 show that courtyards have been split between a single pair of adjacent arms, it should be appreciated that the courtyards may be split between any number of adjacent pairs of arms.

FIG. 17 illustrates a cut away plan view of a multi storey building 150 in an 'L' or a 'C' shape according to an embodiment of the present invention. As shown in FIG. 17, arms 152 of the multi storey building 150 include apartments 20, and each arm 152 extends away from a centre 131. In one embodiment, the centre 131 includes a lift lobby 60, which includes stairs 40 and a lift 62. Stairs 40 are also formed in each arm 152.

The embodiments shown in FIGS 4, 5, and 7-16 allow courtyards to be five storeys high by alternating the courtyards between different storeys and different sides of the multi storey building. Although embodiments have been described that allow courtyards to be five storeys high, it should be appreciated that the multi storey building may be designed to have courtyards of any suitable height. This may be achieved by varying the number of storeys over which each apartment is built.

CLAIMS

1. A multi-storey building including:

~~a centre comprising a lobby including a lift and/or stairs;~~

two or more arms extending away from ~~the~~ a centre;

two or more apartments located at least in part on a first storey of each arm; ~~and~~

an elevated first courtyard extending between lateral sides of adjacent arms; and

a lobby including a lift and/or stairs to the first courtyard; wherein

the first courtyard is two or more storeys high and is accessible from the lobby ~~the centre~~ via the lift and/or stairs;

at least one of the two or more apartments of each of the adjacent arms is accessible from the first courtyard;

a first apartment of the two or more apartments is accessed from the first courtyard on the first storey and includes at least part of a second storey immediately above the first storey;

a second apartment of the two or more apartments is also accessed from the first courtyard on the first storey and includes at least part of a lower storey immediately below the first storey; and

one side of the first courtyard is open to the atmosphere.

2. The multi storey building of claim 1 wherein the two or more arms are connected together.

3. The multi storey building of claim 1 wherein the centre comprises the lobby.

4. The multi storey building of claim 1 wherein an arm of the two or more arms includes ~~a~~ the lobby.

5. The multi storey building of any preceding claim wherein the first courtyard includes a communal courtyard.

6. The multi storey building of any one of claims 1-5 wherein the first courtyard includes one or more private courtyards associated with a respective apartment of the two or more apartments.

7. The multi storey building of any preceding claim wherein each of the two or more apartments ~~are~~ is arranged over two or more storeys.

8. The multi storey building of any preceding claim wherein the two or more apartments are arranged in pairs.

~~9. The multi storey building of claim 8 wherein~~

~~a first apartment is accessed from a first courtyard on a first storey and includes at least part of a second storey immediately above the first storey; and~~

~~wherein a second apartment is also accessed from the first courtyard on the first storey and includes at least part of a lower storey immediately below the first storey.~~

~~10. The multi storey building of any preceding claim wherein the first courtyard is accessible from a lobby.~~

~~11~~9. The multi storey building of any preceding claim wherein a second courtyard is located above the first courtyard.

~~12~~10. The multi storey building of claim ~~11~~ 9 wherein the first and second courtyards are connected by at least one lift.

~~13~~11. The multi storey building of claim ~~11~~ 9 wherein the first and second courtyards are connected by stairs.

~~14~~12. The multi storey building of claim 1 wherein the first courtyard is located on a same storey as a second courtyard.

~~15~~13. The multi storey building of claim 1 wherein the first courtyard is on a different side of the multi storey building to a second courtyard.

~~16~~14. The multi storey building of claim ~~15~~ 13 wherein the second courtyard is a plurality of storeys higher than the first courtyard.

~~17~~15. The multi storey building of claim ~~16~~ 13 wherein a third courtyard is a plurality of storeys above the second courtyard, and the third courtyard is directly above the first courtyard.

~~18~~16. The multi storey building of claim 1 wherein the first courtyard and a second courtyard are located side by side between a pair of adjacent arms wherein the second courtyard is on a higher storey than the first courtyard.

~~19~~17. The multi storey building of claim 1 wherein a second courtyard on a same storey as the first courtyard is accessible from the first courtyard.

~~20~~18. A method of division of a multi-storey building, the method including:

forming a layout comprising two or more arms extending away from a centre of the multi storey building;

~~forming a lobby including a lift and/or stairs at the centre of the multi story building;~~

forming two or more apartments in each arm, the two or more apartments located at least in part on a first storey of the arm; ~~and~~

forming an elevated first courtyard extending between lateral sides of adjacent arms; and

forming a lobby including a lift and/or stairs to the first courtyard;

wherein

the first courtyard is two or more storeys high and is accessible from ~~the centre~~ the lobby via the lift and/or stairs;

at least one of the two or more apartments of each of the adjacent arms is accessible from the first courtyard;

a first apartment of the two or more apartments is accessed from the first courtyard on the first storey and includes at least part of a second storey immediately above the first storey;

a second apartment of the two or more apartments is also accessed from the first courtyard on the first storey and includes at least part of a lower storey immediately below the first storey; and

one side of the first courtyard is open to the atmosphere.

~~21~~19. The method of claim ~~20~~18, wherein the method is performed by a processor coupled to a memory comprising computer implemented program code components which are selectively executed by the processor to perform the steps of the method.