

COOP  
DESIGN  
RESEARCH

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M.Sc.  
PROGRAM

# HOME-MODIFICATION

REFLECTIONS ON THE DWELLING PRACTICE

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## ABSTRACT

This thesis opens up to discussions around the empirical gap between the dwelling as a designed entity (house) and as a living environment (home). While both ontologically are the same, home and house refer to two forms of dwelling, where in the former the experiential relations between the inhabitant and habitat are the driving force, while in the latter architecture concedes as discourse. The influx of social science studies on architecture – mainly paced up from 1950s – reveals the significance of the dweller's perception of the living environment in the home-making process. Even though this is not a matter of design pedagogy, knowing that how dwellers take step towards turning their house into home would help the designers bring more relevancy to the design of the dwelling environment.

The current dissertation consists of 4 chapters. In the first one, which serves as an introduction, after describing the historical background to the topic, the dichotomy of dwelling and building is theorised, as well as opening up to the scrutiny of the dweller's perception of the dwelling environment as key device to decipher the home/house dialectic. The next two chapters encompass the main body of arguments to articulate the dwelling practice. The arguments develop concomitantly with a number of examples (mainly instances of estate housing projects). Chapter 2 thus revolves around the peripheral elements of the dwelling, its frame and threshold. This chapter investigates how the frames emanate to our attention, and what we infer from the home-ness of the dwelling via different activities we do at home dealing with its thresholds. Chapter 3 on the other hand, focuses on the relations of ourselves with the objects and things contained in the dwelling. Starting from the murky dialogue of old-vs. - new and the thingness of things in domestic objects, this chapter dives deep into the content of dwelling, discussing about the blockage in appropriating the interior, as well as the conditions pertaining the surplus of objects at home. Chapter 4 recapitulates the discussions hitherto with first resurfacing three motifs involved in the home/house dialectic, which have been implied occasionally in previous chapters but not discussed discreetly; comfort, media, and technology. By discussing the role of technical objects in our perception of the dwelling, this chapter and thus thesis concludes with emphasizing the role of perception as an authentic standpoint between the analytical understanding and the imaginative motifs of deciphering the dwelling.