Boxcisity
Boxcisity
Boxcisity

Andrea Marie Ayers          151087          Research Thesis - Fall 2000

# Boxcisity

Research thesis - Fall 2000
Carleton University

Andrea Marie Ayers
151087

Tutors:
Nicholas Boyarsky
Greg Andonian

Boxcisity

# Table of Thrills

Boxcisity

Please note: All information note sourced is the personal opinion of the author.

Facing Page:
Real Estate Ad, Space magazine, UK. 2000

*"And so the protean element we called electromagnetism had stolen indoors, subtly and deeply into the living room and basement, the den and kitchen and bedroom, impressing our senses and sensitivities, affecting what was forming in the slippery center of our private selves."*

*Rob Kovitz, Room Behaviour*

Abstract

Technology at the cusp of the twenty-first century is about to render obsolete all of our preconceived and expected ideas of our future. Although there is substantial technological advancement, domestic architecture is still too concerned with modernization of historical perspectives rather than defining for itself a new archetype that reflects this progression of technology. Housing has always played an integral role in our reasoning for developing technology, just as the home has played an important part in why some technology was developed. For example, the development of the wood stove, rather than a fire pit or fireplace, brought about a different notion of kitchen, which progressed as the electric and gas stove was invented.

Throughout history, the development of residential technology is what has helped propelled domestic architecture forward, allowing it to evolve and adapt. From the hearth to the stove, from the radio and telephone onto television, and all manner of appliances, technology worked at "making our lives easier". A common link between all these technological marvels was their need for, and their ability to create and define a space. Much of the technology found in the home, be it appliances, televisions or even computers, are defined by a locus that can be gathered around or worked upon. In contrast, the technologies currently upon us are no longer an object we simply use, but instead are becoming an integral part of the very house itself, working to adjust the heat, monitor our security and brew our coffee. As these new devices become part of our space, so too will they become part of us, changing the way we live.

In the 1990's the current crop of 20 to 30 somethings were coined 'Generation X' in a book of the same name, by Douglas Coupland. (Coupland) Referring to the group of society that was born between 1961 and 1981, (Howe, 317) this generation has grown up with television, mass communication and the personal computer, and thus has needed to learn and embrace technology in order to survive. Indeed, the current boom in personal technology such as cell phones and palm top computers have been tailored and ideally suited to the needs of this group. At the same time however, since its first use the term has also come to describe a generation of individuals who are, "aimless, unfocused, disorganized, unmotivated; in general a random, uncontrolled, unpredictable variable." It is becoming apparent as time progresses that it is not that Generation X is unfocused or aimless; rather, they are defined as such by their predecessors due to their reduced emphasis traditional measurements of status, class and money. Instead they can be defined more as a group of individualistic people who approach their world wanting their homes, jobs and all that which makes up their lives to be true reflections of self rather then reflections of society. (Willard)

'Generation X' is a section of society that is willing to try anything. Being technically savvy with a drive for individualism makes them open to new possibilities. It is generations who have reduced the barriers of distance, culture and country, who are communicating, working and loving with a globally diverse group of people. How might this upcoming group's perception of their surroundings, and of their future affect domestic architecture as well as the technology embedded within? Put simply, it has the potential to take away barriers. More and more people, especially of this 'I' generation have begun to work at home. With many young professionals adapting themselves and their jobs to suit their needs and desires, home has become a place more synonymous as a base for several activities rather then just a respite from work as it was even a decade ago. Whether it is due to family, convenience or the nature of the job, the possibilities for home and work to coexist are becoming easier and for many more desirable .

*"Rooms are unspecific spaces, empty stages for human action, where we perform the rituals and improvisations of living.*
*They provide generalized opportunities for things to happen, and they allow us to do and be what we will."*
*(Moore, 82)*

Furthermore, this current generation are outgrowing the physical confines of their homes and reaching out for a space that will expand and enlighten their private realities.  Communication technologies, especially the Internet, have provided the opportunity to reach out and form friendships with people across the world.        There is an increased desire for elaborate forms of entertaining in large complexes that offer everything from a bookshop to a skateboarding park.  Outside of the buzz of the city people are escaping to do more extreme style sports like cycling, hiking, skydiving.  Besides the need to 'do' people are looking for more culture in magazines dealing with art, architecture and science as well as more interaction and intellectual conversation in forms such as the coffee house. Versatility and an ability to multi-task in the real world in order to incorporate home, work, and entertainment have become important to them.  Having the choice as to how they live and work is fundamental to portraying who and what they are to the world and they no longer allow the old ideas of society to dictate to them how they should live or behave.  Generation X is shrugging off the preconceived notions and traditions of the past and defining themselves in the difference that they have been labelled as.

It is the intent of this thesis to pursue how technology, in conjunction with a 'plugged-in' generation will generate a domestic architecture of the 21st century.    With global wireless telecommunications, what role does a home play for future generations no longer needing landlines to communicate?  As 'traditional' household technology such as televisions and kitchen appliances begin to become integrated into the building fabric of homes, what role will the various rooms and spaces take on in a house?   What implications will the ability of working at home, could this have on communities and cities where cars are no longer needed for large commutes and how will the implications of a new building environment affect the sense of family and home in the coming years?

Through looking at varying media, my intent is to visually and verbally discuss how contemporary instrumental reasoning is impacting on domestic architecture. By researching traditional and web media and studies, coupled with analytical canvassing with those both in and out of Generation X, a complete picture of current residential discourse and desires will be sought after and documented, from which suggestions of future directions and designs can be postulated. Using the information gathered as a departure point, projections on future directions in concept of the domestic dwelling will be made: the advances, the possibilities, the revitalization, the dangers, and the excitement of a new way of living. From these investigations will arise 'a living unit of people and their daily lives', a fictional group who will be used in the second thrust of this thesis to occur next term, where the possibilities explored are given form in a residential design to house the group.

The expected outcome of this exploration is intended to be a body of work in the form of a book with accompanying visuals, references and text. In conjunction with the book, it is intended that a web site be setup for the purposes of forum and to connect a global and pertinent discussion with the people and technology it is concerning.

I believe it to be important to put forward how this perception and reality of "Generation X" will relate to the context of the house, and in turn how this house of a current generation can be put into context within the city. Because of the ability for this group of society to learn and adapt to technology quickly, it has some of the fundamental tools already in place for grasping a new domestic architecture at the cusp of the 21st century.

How is contemporary instrumental reasoning impacting on domestic
architecture?

Thesis

Boxcisity

Welcome to the box.  We live in the box, our houses are made from small boxes, we use and work with boxes.  Our minds and our personalities, although fighting the sensation are also taking on the role of the box.  Society expects itself to behave appropriately depending on situation, circumstance and culture.  Generation X is fighting that box, while using it for its own gain.  The house in the twenty-first century no longer fits the mould of the past few hundred years.  Families no longer consist of parents and children, the privacy of the home has changed and its importance belongs more with the individual than with the family.  The purpose of physical community is changing with the influence of global communications and the Internet, neighbourhood more important then ever is no longer the immediate surroundings of your house but it also spans the world.  More and more of the individuals time is being spent within the home, whether it be for leisure, work or play.  Everyday, more of the services and information we need can be found from the comfort of home, and with worldwide communications being readily used for work and for leisure, the concept of home and its purpose is also changing.

# Welcome to the Box

In the last century primarily after World War Two, and due to the sudden return of so many people from the war, mass housing was started all over North America.  Developers would come up with a prototype and some variations and put up thousands of homes, all of like ilk for thousands of families and young couples.  At the time when the world was trying to get back on their feet, the traditional values and notions of home that their parents had was almost forced into their lives as a means of forgetting the war and getting on with happy lives and loving families.  This was the age of the nuclear family, and it has stayed with us until now.
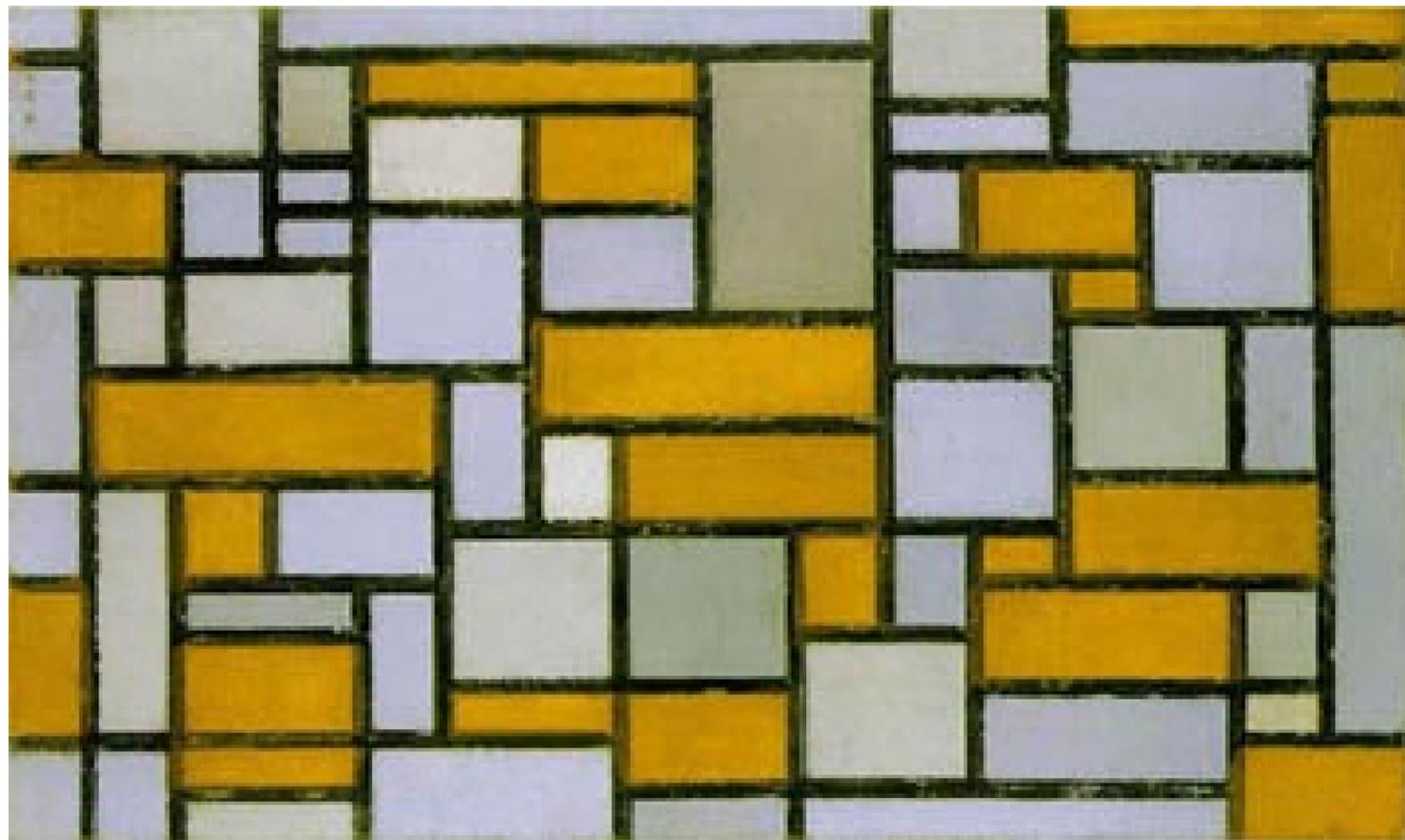
The twentieth century has ended, and the twenty-first has begun. It was not whiz-bang, we have not promoted ourselves to the level of the Jetson's, and Big Brother has not completely over taken us, yet. The technology revolution has come, a new generation unlike the previous ones is of age and our housing has not changed in over 50 years. As society settles themselves into the daily living of the twenty-first century, it is becoming more and more apparent that yet again, like was made apparent with the modern movement in the 1920's, that we are no longer living in a manner which matches or technological or societal advancements.

Designing in the twenty first century should allow us the freedom and potential to do almost anything we desire. Not only that but it should give us a chance to redefine how we see architecture and the purposes we place behind it. The iconic architecture of government and business is quickly falling by the wayside as box stores and standard models of buildings create a copy and paste effect throughout North America. Housing has always been considered an important building block in the development of architecture. In my opinion, this is because housing is a built form that the individual can relate to. It is human scale, built by hand and is used in an intimate way by society.

The aim of this paper is to put forward a new architecture. Not one based on the preconceived notions of the past, and not to follow the form and function mentality of Le Corbusier and the International style, but to propose an architecture which is inherent in our being, a reflection of emotion and influence. A new age is upon us; a new generation of young people have manifested themselves, having different backgrounds and influences than previous generations. They are involved and attached to Technology and the global village. They are ruled by the right side of the brain. This new generation can relate to both the practical and the emotional. They are moody, they are not their parents and they want to be able to define their place in the world, not through money or class but through identity. They do not want their lives dictated to them. Now is the time, now is the place. Domestic, personal architecture is ripe for change. As professionals, we have been handed the potential, let's discuss and move on to housing a new body, a new emotion, a new architecture.

Facing Page:
Mondrian's Composition with grey and light brown

Le Corbusier, Wright and the International Style, catching up to tomorrow

Domestic Architecture took on a new role in the twentieth century. Previously, domestic architecture had been a status symbol of the rich and powerful, a means to authenticate themselves. As mechanization improved and enhanced the work places, it allowed for architecture to start making inroads into the lives of the lower classes. One of the principle rationale behind modernism is the belief in a fair and just society. This view is why concepts for utopian living and mass housing became so prevalent during this era of architecture. It was a new expression, not only of the individual, but also of society. The dwellings role as a passive and immobile state changed in the early part of the century, primarily with the modern movement, to become an object that interacted with and was expressive of the people inhabiting it. The new movements, which took place at this time, were of a calibre that had not been seen previously and had been fostered by two gentlemen who had an acute way of dealing with the societal woes of the time, through architecture. Although often too idealistic, the views of Le Corbusier and Frank Lloyd Wright stand out as solutions which not only wrangled with a new form, but also an emerging new society. At the time when modernism was being debated and discussed, Le Corbusier felt that domestic life and the means in which they were living it, was not keeping up with the accoutrements of technology and work, which were being instilled as part of the modern state of mind. (Le Corbusier, 271)

Villa Savoye;
Top: View Towards Entrance
Left: Ground Floor Plan
Facing page: Longitudinal Section
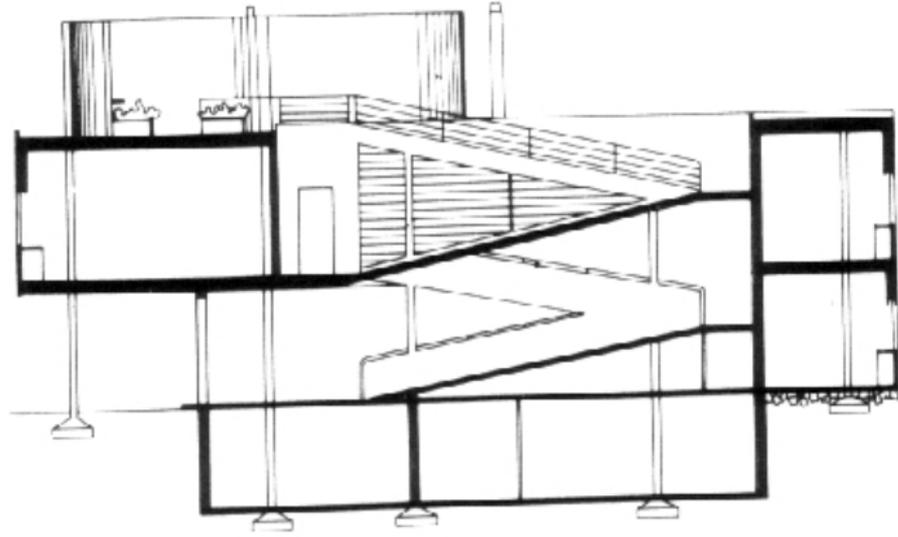
The development of Le Corbusier's ideas for a new architecture were fostered by technological advancements in the steel and concrete industries. With building methods and materials changing and advancing, the potential for an architectural revolution was at hand. Le Corbusier felt it was time to rid society of the past styles, which were mere add ones to the true realities and forms of architecture, and forge a new form based on the purity of architectural form and the technology involved in building them. His ideas behind this new technology were that of a machine for living, the house in essences becoming human. (Le Corbusier, 279)

Le Corbusier, also developed a method for developing the ideal form  His five points for a new architecture included:

1. That a house stands on pilotis.
2. The roof should be reached by a staircase.
3. Open plan living is achieved by the mixture of free standing and fixed walls.
4. The windows are oriented horizontally
5. The south window creates an open façade. (Adam, 193).

By establishing a set of protocols towards the end product, the new form can have a consistency over the course of building types and not be confined to a particular type of building.
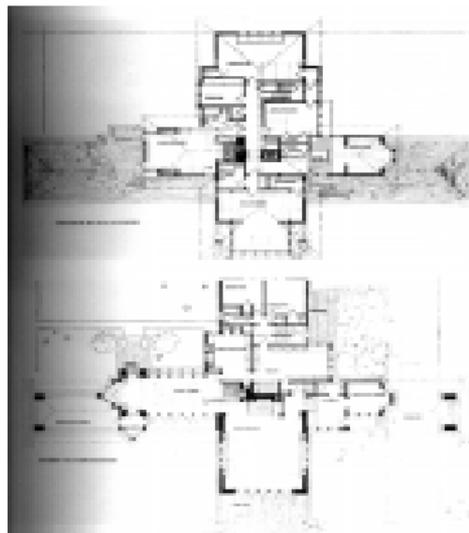
Willit House;
Top: Front Elevation
Left: Ground and First Floor Plans
Facing page: Falling Water

Wright's methods contrasted from Le Corbusier, but still had defining elements that could easily correspond to the modern movement, even though they did not have the same purpose or intent behind them. Wright on the other hand used guidelines for the Prairie School Style, which had its roots in the theory that the beginnings of architecture were in nature. Wright's points included;

1.   To reduce the amount of necessary parts.
2.   To associate the building with the ground planes through parallel planes.
3.   Eliminate the box through a series of screens as well as make the proportions more human.
4.   To bring the basement up out of the ground, including it as part of the primary living space.
5.   To harmonize all necessary openings to outside or inside and in relation to human proportions.
6.   To harmonize all the building materials.
7.   To incorporate all mechanical systems as constituent parts of the house, making them architectural.
8.   To incorporate and create furnishings and fixtures which were fluid with the design and style of the house.
9.   Eliminate the decorator. (Curtis, 80)

Wright designed his system such that he could use it as a base to experiment and investigate his principles against that which he was designing. Unlike Le Corbusier, whose work had a stronger basis in form and function, Wright's had a spiritual and sacred feel to it, whether this was due to it's simple, logical placement in the landscape, or the use of natural materials.

mod·ern·ism
 Pronunciation: 'mä-d&r-"ni-z&m
 Function: noun
 Date: 1737
    : modern artistic or literary philosophy and practice; especially a self-conscious
     break with the past and a search for new forms of expression


International Style
 Function: noun
 Date: 1932
   : a style in architecture developed in the 1920s that use modern materials (as steel, glass, and reinforced concrete),
    expresses structure directly, and eliminates nonstructural ornament

The ideas of the modern movement, and particularly of these two individuals was praised and criticized around the world. As a new form, which explored the current world they lived in, rather then relying on the prototypes of the past, they were successful. Technology and mechanization had exploded into their everyday world, and rather then confine it to that of the factory, it was analysed and broken apart to relate that which was becoming the face of the world to the people through domestic means. The utopian ideals of the movement although never fully realized were explored at a smaller scale for individual clients. But through these experiments and their ideas, the house did take on a new attitude towards, family, community and society. Since this new form involved new building methods and new materials which had cut down the time and cost of putting up buildings, both Le Corbusier and Wright had developed idealized cities and communities with mass housing. Unfortunately, many of these ideal living environments and proposals never saw the light of day, the depression with lack of funds to build and the war, which nations were too preoccupied with fighting. Although much of the movements ideals would never come to fruition, the concept of mass housing schemes and plans were not lost on governments or developers, who after the war, when housing was short, needed to quickly develop and build thousands of homes of men and women returning from war.

uto·pi·an
  Pronunciation: -pE-&n
  Function: adjective
  Usage: often capitalized
  Date: 1551
     : proposing or advocating impractically ideal social and political schemes <utopian idealists>
     : impossibly ideal : VISIONARY <recognised the utopian nature of his hopes -- C. S. Kilby>

sub·ur·bia
  Pronunciation: s&-'b&r-bE-&
  Function: noun
  Etymology: New Latin, from English suburb
  Date: 1895
     : the suburbs of a city
     : people who live in the suburbs
     : suburban life

Before the Second World War, when the modern movement was beginning to be looked at more closely, the war itself had an effect on society's state of mind, which after the war saw many of the ideals on modernism set forth prior to the war slip away (Curtis, 258). The ravages of war upon the people of the world made them crave a simpler and traditional way of life, almost taking them back before the wars, to traditions and values which were not associated with war, and as such try to skip over the years between and which contained them.

The modern movement, also referred to as the International Style, was seen as taking away that which was associated with home and replacing it with a cold and stark reality. After the war, technology and reality wanted to be avoided, as it was a memory of a war that had devastated the world. The development of mass housing, which many in the modern movement saw as the future and as a new utopia, felt this would benefit the masses. What happened was not quite the utopian dream they had envisioned, it was suburbia, the land as ruled by the car. An idealized society wanted to own their land, they wanted it to be affordable, and they wanted the instilled tradition of comfort and safety. The war had left such a scar on the masses that a community, which was focused and based on society and order and tradition became the focus of society.

nuclear family
  Function: noun
  Date: 1947
    : a family group that consists only of father, mother, and children

pro·to·type
  Pronunciation: 'prO-t&-"tIp
  Function: noun
  Etymology: French, from Greek prOtotypon, from neuter of prOtotypos archetypal, from prOt- + typos type
  Date: 1552
    : a standard or typical example
    : a first full-scale and usually functional form of a new type of design of a construction (as an airplane)

In the last century primarily after World War Two, and due to the sudden return of so many people from the war, mass housing was began all over North America. Developers would come up with a prototype and some variations and put up thousands of homes, all of like ilk for thousands of families and young couples. At the time when the world was trying to get back on their feet, the traditional values and notions of home that their parents had was almost forced into their lives as a means of forgetting the war and getting on with happy lives and loving families. This was the age of the nuclear family, and it has stayed with us until now.

Now is a time to bring forward another modern movement for the new millennium, to jump start society out of this passive historical narrative into a way of thinking, and a way of living, which is contemporary to the accoutrements that are assisting us to lead our daily lives.

J. L. Baird's 'Televisor', 1926.

*"And so the protean element we called electromagnetism had stolen indoors, subtly and deeply into the living room and basement, the den and kitchen and bedroom, impressing our senses and sensitivities, affecting what was forming in the slippery centre of our private selves."*

*(Rob Kovitz, Room Behavior)*

A hundred years ago, the stove was an integral part of the home. It was used for heating and cooking and the focus for family, as the hearth had been prior to it. The fire brought the family together, not only because of the light it offered for evening tasks, but also as the primary source heat for most homes. It was cooked upon, washed by, as well as provided heat for the home. Due to the warmth and light provided through the hearth, stove and candle in the kitchen of the home, this space became the centre for family life. (Ward, 47) Electric lighting as well as the stove has played an important role in the development of not only the domestic environment but also with the issues of public and private. From the candle and oil lamp, to kerosene and finally electricity and gas, the development of how we have lit our homes has changed the way in which we use them. Originally, due to the immense expense of candles and oil lamps, only the main areas of the house would be lit, and so the family was forced to gather around it and eachother in order to achieve tasks which needed to be done by light. This helped to establish communication between family members and created much of the traditional atmosphere that society still currently tries to capture in the form of family rooms and Sunday dinners. Prior to television and just after the telephone in the development of global, but also domestic technologies, came the radio. This medium was viewed as the first real public technology. It came into the home, invaded the living rooms of society, sharing the news and sounds of the world, without having to leave the comfort of home. (Silverstone, 53) It was these devices which made the house dependant on the network of technology.

tele·vi·sion

Pronunciation: 'te-l&-"vi-zh&n esp British "te-l&-'

Function: noun

Usage: often attributive

Etymology: French télévision, from télé- tele- + vision vision

Date: 1907

: an electronic system of transmitting transient images of fixed or moving objects together with sound over a wire or through space by apparatus that converts light and sound into electrical waves and reconverts them into visible light rays and audible sound.

"Television is a domestic medium."(Silverstone, 24)

In the 1950's the television took more prevalence over the stove as families around the world sat down to instant meals in front of the television.  With this substantial development being brought into our homes, and along with the added leisure time which had been provided with the reduced work day, more of society's time was consumed with staring at the glow of 'the box'.  The television became the focal point of the living room, banishing the fireplace through the arrangement of furniture which now encircled the television rather than the hearth.  Television is still playing an essential role in the domestic situation.  It is the means in which society decides and rejects that which they buy and bring into the home.   Television has become the scheduler of domestic activity which determines when and where we do things as well as it has connected us to the larger community which is outside our physical vision.  There is an obsession and connection to the box as entertainment which has led to where between the personal computer, and the television, our time has been taken up with receiving and transmitting information.

Again, if we look to history as an example, many technological advancements of the past that were for the home had rooms designed around them, such as stoves, fridges and even the television.  As the television became more and more popular "family" rooms were created in which to house the television so that the formality of the living room could be preserved.  As for the modern kitchen, it has come about through the presence of appliances.  Many kitchens previously kept outdoor or separate buildings to the house in order to accommodate cooking in fear that the home could possibly be burned down if the fire got out of control.   With the affordability of wood stoves at the turn of the twentieth century, where the middle classes could now afford such an appliance, and home construction had advanced further to support such appliances in the home, the cooking moved into the common everyday dwelling.   Not only did it allow for food to be cooked but also provided the added luxury of hot water.  The development of residential technology is what has helped propel domestic architecture forward, allowing it to evolve and adapt.  From the hearth to the stove, from the radio and telephone onto television, and all manner of appliances, technology worked at

tele·com·mu·ni·ca·tion

   Pronunciation: "te-li-k&-"myü-n&-'kA-sh&n

   Function: noun

   Etymology: International Scientific Vocabulary

   Date: 1932

     : communication at a distance (as by telephone)

"making our lives easier". A common element between all these technological marvels was their need for, and their ability to create and define a space. What domestic technologies provided society with is a means to create a space. The introduction of electric lighting into the home changed the whole definition of private and public within the home. No longer was the family required to be in the same room as one another in order to accomplish things. With every room having a light, or multiple lights, the ability to create one's own space and do the activities they wished were possible as the individual was no longer under the scrutiny of the family. Activities and chores, such as homework, could now be taken into different rooms of the house. Network, or global technologies, even in their most basic forms in years past, such as the telephone, radio and television, have also impacted how the world lives and uses space. Telephones have provided a quick and easy means of finding out information, whether it was if a friend was going to be home when one stops by, or whether a store has an item in stock. The radio and television have given us the ability to view and study objects and products passively rather then having to go out and look, test, and find.

Technology such as computers, home entertainment systems and home control systems (such as computer controlled climate, lights and security) have evolved a lot more quickly than our homes have. Whether this is due to the fact that previous generations have had similar dreams of detached homes with double car garages and large lawns, or the developers convincing us that is what we want, the current state of the domestic dwelling is that of a series of spaces which no longer adapt to the changing needs of society and of technology. Currently computer and telecommunication technologies are being stuck into the nooks and crannies of our homes. Spare bedrooms become computer rooms and home offices, the buzz and light of computers light children's faces as they sleep and kitchens have beeps and clicks on top of timers and microwave blips. The constant sound of computer fans, keyboards

com·put·er
  Pronunciation: k&m-'pyü-t&r
  Function: noun
  Usage: often attributive
  Date: 1646
    : one that computes; specifically : a programmable electronic device that can store, retrieve,
      and process data

and beeping messages have invaded the traditional home life and been shoved into corners not designed for or equipped properly for computer technologies. The home appliances of today no longer include only the televisions, stove, fridge, dishwashers, and microwaves. To this we can add VCR's, play stations, cell phones, and comprehensive computer systems, which can involve live webcast, video and sound conferencing from the home. Today's standard housing type does not provide the space or atmosphere, which would promote a healthier way of interacting with this technology or for its connection to the community at large. Currently computers are stuck in corners that are usually nondescript and involve a series of cables and a tangle of extension cords to become connected. The potential to create an area within the living unit to provide for electrical necessities and future possibilities such as sensory suits and computer equipment that could involve physical and mental stimulation goes beyond what is currently available within the existing housing stock. Much of the technology currently found in the home, be it appliances, televisions or even computers, are defined by a locus that can be gathered around or worked upon. For example, people will gather around a television, or work upon a stove, or a computer.

Boxcisity

*Just as the modern movement was geared towards the modern and forward thinkers of the time, so the potential for a new building type now should be. We are again at a position in society where a new domestic form can be developed, which reflects not only a new set of needs but also something that reflects the individuality of the occupants. It should be focused on that of Generation X. Generation X refers to the group of society that was born between 1965 and 1980. The generation was coined after a book of the same name written by Douglas Coupland. Why generation X should be targeted? Besides being the most targeted group by the marketing industry currently, they are the next set of home buyers on the market, and have a new set of domestic requirements then the generations before them. Not only does this generation have to adapt their lifestyles to changing technologies but also to a new developing set of work environments, a shift in the orientation of family and a lifestyle, which is no longer hinged on the traditional concept of home. The house should be as much about viewing the world, as it is an expression of self.*

The Unknown

*Today's twenty-something's, commonly referred to as Generation X are facing different challenges, technology and culture than the generations before. They are facing a future which will see a lifestyle that will not be as financially secure as their parents or the baby boomers but that will require a level of professional and material quality that will surpass previous generations tenfold. Education standards for professionals and non professionals have increased, taking more of our money and our parents money and sinking it into an education which will not get us as far in our chosen careers as it did our parents. Technology, in regards to the way we live our lives, do business and entertain our selves, is increasing more rapidly and consuming more money and time then the televisions which occupied our parents.*

gen·er·a·tion

  Pronunciation: "je-n&-'rA-sh&n

  Function: noun

  Date: 14th century

  a : a body of living beings constituting a single step in the line of descent from an ancestor

  b : a group of individuals born and living contemporaneously

  c : a group of individuals having contemporaneously a status (as that of students in a school) which each one holds only for a
      limited period

  d : a type or class of objects usually developed from an earlier type <first of the ... new generation of powerful supersonic
      fighters -- Kenneth Koyen>

1x

  Pronunciation: 'eks

  Function: noun

  Inflected Form(s): plural x's or xs /'ek-s&z/

  Usage: often capitalized, often attributive

  Date: before 12th century

      : an unknown quantity

*In their lifetime, this generation will have changed jobs several times and will have had to go through a continuous process of updating and upgrading their education and job skills. More of them will work and live at home, and socialize on the Internet. They will be more critical of the media and of trends and will prefer to purchase based on taste. Quality is more important than quantity. They consider themselves eclectic (HR Live, Complete document). Their label as Generation X is suiting as more than just a marketing gimmick. X also represents the unknown. In the world of change and uncertainty, the unknown may just be the best at dealing with that unknown.*

*Gen X-ers are highly skilled individuals who more often than not will be over-qualified for everything but will have little job experience. This generation has as a profile, a university degree, possibly some college courses as well as other miscellaneous training based on interest or perceived need for the skill. Many people from this group have also gone further and pursued graduate work either for personal enlightenment, uncertainty about their future or help attain a better career. Their homes should be places of sanctuary and respite, but also of work and play. The nature of working from home should appeal to them because the stress of the commute is taken away, it can more easily be a showcase for their individuality and, as well, because occupations and wages may come from various sources and change frequently, a home-based work environment allows for adaptability.*

*Generation X grew up on television and personal computers. As they pick up these new technologies more readily they will take it and use it and abuse it to its limits. Due to Generation X's diminished expectations, having grown up affected and influenced by the world through television, a lack of innocence and security was instilled. Their parents on the other hand felt much more secure and tended to grow up much more sheltered from the world until much older. As such, members of Generation X feel much more strongly that the home needs to have a haven within the living unit that can separate them from the very influences that took away the innocence such as television, media, and disillusioned parents.*

*The importance placed on the relationships that this generation includes in their lives could play an important role in the division of public and private as well as the importance of certain spaces with in the house. Personal and professional relationships, and how those relationships are played*

1me·di·um

Pronunciation: 'mE-dE-&m

Function: noun

Inflected Form(s): plural mediums or me·dia /-dE-&/

Etymology: Latin, from neuter of medius middle -- more at MID

Date: 1593

: a channel or system of communication, information, or entertainment -- compare MASS MEDIUM

: a publication or broadcast that carries advertising (3) : a mode of artistic expression or communication

: something (as a magnetic disk) on which information may be stored

*out not only in physicality but also virtually, will help to establish limits and boundaries within the new home. For example is it as important to have a formal living room in a home if one's primary entertaining outside of work consists of a close group of friends over for dinner or to watch some movies. Besides those relationships which are brought into the home via work or play, the relationship and behavior of the occupants within the home and their interaction could set forth a set of guidelines by which to construct the private grouping of spaces within the dwelling. From intimate partners, to family and friends, to business associates, how a house is arranged could determine the kind of relationships that the house fosters.*

*Between technology and work, the Generation X'er needs a stimulating environment, not only to promote the creative and motivated side of the individual, but also to keep him interested. An atmosphere must be created which can be inspiring through simplicity and function, rather than distracting through a multitude of objects or the complexity of a room's design. As well, in "off" time there must be the ability to move between the serenity and peacefulness of a soothing atmosphere to one which can take them a million miles away. An example, would this would be on-line worlds where one can completely immerse them selves out of the real world.*

*Generation X has its eye on the world and carries it in the palm of its hand. It simultaneously wants to absorb the world's knowledge but also wants to control the continuous feed of information. The dwelling of this particular group should be viewed as a global base for the individual, a jump off point to give the individual or group a sense of grounding and stability in an otherwise instable and constantly shifting mental and physical world. 'X' is constantly in flux, changing jobs, travelling, and in general not standing still for very long. Because of the constant change and due to the mind and body constantly having to adapt to these changes, it is the dwelling that must remain the constant. Although it must be adaptable to ever changing situations, it is its grounding and places of repose which will continue its viability and necessity into the future. As 'X' carries the world in his hand, so the house carries him and the world the house.*

# Boxed Houses, Boxed Minds

A Sense of home, however you define it, is as important to self-identity as the
persistence of personal memory.
(Hill,218)
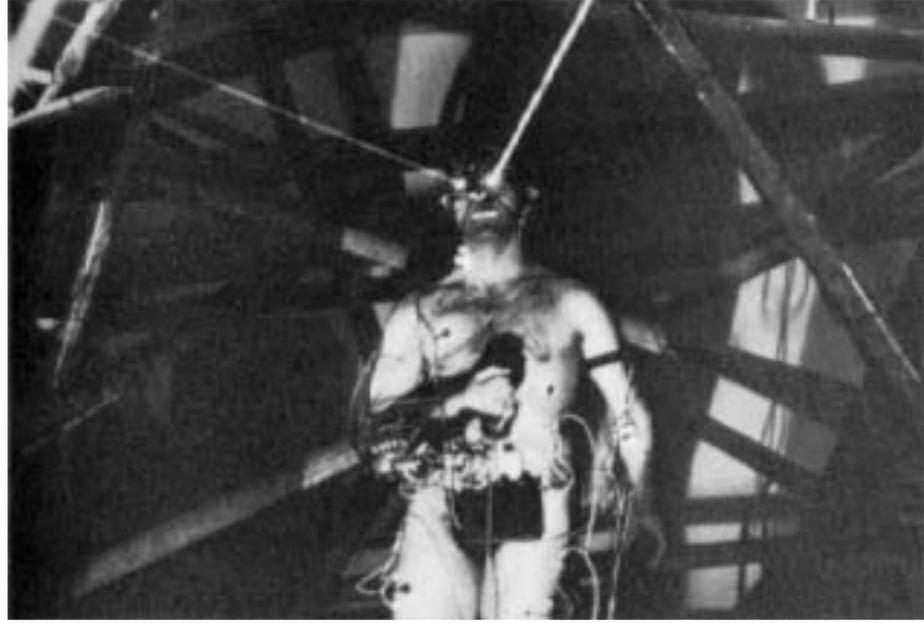
The door used to act as a barrier between private and public life.  The individual or family could invite in or seclude themselves from the public.   But with the development of the radio, and subsequently television, the public sphere was brought even further into our homes. Since their inception, these mediums have continued to bring more of the world to our feet, and more often than not, whether we wanted it to or not. From radio, to television, to the personal computer and cell phones, society is progressively installing the world into their lives.  Into every room, and as part of every function, of every day, from how they get up to how they put themselves to sleep the global community is knocking at the door and bombarding our home with information. Escape from the onslaught of information used to involve the flick of a switch, or leaving the house for a walk in the park but now we carry it with us through hand held computers and cell phones, we are never more then a flip or a click away from being connected and knowing what is occurring in our world.

It is important to allow for a transparency of the public areas of the home with the surrounding physical community and neighbour-hood.  It is a figurative way of portraying your global identity and relates literally as something that can be viewed and interacted with.  In the professional sense this translates as an ability to open up your profession and work to the community visually, helping to bond

Home is Where I am Plugged in to

the community by knowing thy neighbour, as well as a means of self-promotion.  For the personal-public position in the house, primarily that of the Internet, their should be a direct correlation between the physical and the virtual communities, neighbourhoods,

The development of global technologies such as the personal computer has changed the way we arrange our household lives. Technology at the cusp of the twenty-first century is about to render all of our preconceived and expected ideas of our future obsolete. Although substantial technological advancement has been made in domestic architecture, it is still too concerned with the modernization of historical perspectives than defining for itself a new archetype that reflects the progression of technology and of society. The domestic dwelling, or house is quickly becoming more than just a reflection of our private lives as we begin to live, play and work within the confines of it. There is a fine line between public and private, communal and individual within our homes. Various influences related to the television, media and the increase of home-based work have deteriorated the separations of public/private, communal/individual that once were prevalent within the typical urban home. Part of the privacy we are losing in the home is related to the above factors. Working from home is creating a professional atmosphere, usually within the home, and within the more private confines of the dwelling, in bedrooms or basements, by placing this particular function deep in the heart of the home, it infringes upon the traditional segregated space of privacy. The television used to be confined to one room of the house, and was more strictly a receiver of information, bringing the world into our homes but keeping us at a distance. Through new initiatives, involving interactive televisions, the world which was once a one way street coming into our homes is now being fed back to networks and others around the world, therefore, although not entirely physical, breaking down that separation between the outside world and the privacy of one's home. The last major aspect deteriorating the personal area of the house is that of the Internet. Although not everyone yet has Internet access it is beginning to affect almost everyone, taking away some of our most private selves. With web cams and new virtual communities, which not only bring the world to us but also take us to the world, the mental invasion of our selves, whether willingly or not is absorbing itself into our homes. Many of the Generation X society have the technology and are using it. Their homes have at least one computer for every person and more then one television and phone. The bombardment of global information and intrusion envelope's the house from the most private to the most public areas of the living unit. Because of the continuous loss of privacy in our homes due to technology, it is important to create boundaries within the confined walls of our homes to allow for the negotiation of the above requirements.

dig·i·tal
  Pronunciation: 'di-j&-t&l
  Function: adjective
  Etymology: Latin digitalis
  Date: circa 1656
      : of, relating to, or using calculation by numerical methods or by discrete units
      : of or relating to data in the form of numerical digits
      : providing a readout in numerical digits <a digital voltmeter>

nervous system
  Function: noun
  Date: 1740
      : the bodily system that in vertebrates is made up of the brain and spinal cord, nerves, ganglia, and parts of the receptor organs
        and that receives and interprets stimuli and transmits impulses to the effector organs

Although the total negation of technology into the private sphere of the house will be impossible, due to future domestic technologies that will help the house itself function, the ability to section off the intruding world from our private spaces, the ability to control when and how we wish to invite the world in or keep it out should be at our discretion, be it through rooms which are devoid of global telecommunications, or through a series of barriers and architectural intentions which would allow the user the ability to adapt their situation based on the need.

> "Rooms are unspecific spaces, empty stages for human action, where we perform the rituals and improvisations of living. They provide generalized opportunities for things to happen, and they allow us to do and be what we will."(Moore, 82)

Today's house is a lot like a sponge, it absorbs information and subsequently squeezes other information back out. The house is no longer an entity unto itself, a retreat from the world. It has become more like one computer in a network of millions, both digitally and physically. The problem with the housing is similar to that of a modem and an older computer. It is not up to speed with the technology supporting it and the purposes and functions have surpassed what the house can provide. Using the current and new technology to full advantage, the way in which our homes are built and refurbished will need to change. The house as a body will need to start living as one. A central nervous system will be needed to house all the electronics needed in order for society to interact with their homes. The vertical and horizontal planes of the house will accommodate the wiring, sensors and devices needed to make dwellings digital, connecting the physicalness of the house, to the world. (Mitchell, 59)

The future of the built form will change rapidly as computers begin to take on larger roles in housing and working with us. Not only will steel and concrete be used to build but silicon and software will begin to make up the key components of building systems as

1body
   Pronunciation: 'bä-dE
   Function: noun
   Inflected Form(s): plural bod·ies
   Etymology: Middle English, from Old English bodig; akin to Old High German boteh corpse
   Date: before 12th century
      : the main part of a plant or animal body especially as distinguished from limbs and head : TRUNK
      : the main, central, or principal part

mod·u·lar
   Pronunciation: 'mä-j&-l&r
   Function: adjective
   Date: 1798
      : of, relating to, or based on a module or a modulus
      : constructed with standardized units or dimensions for flexibility and variety in use

well. Replacing dry wall and wood frame contraction will be modular units that will snap together into place, easily removed, fixed or adjusted as occupant's need or desire. The modules will be able to hold all necessary wiring and software to not only take care of the house, but to help run the business, to educate the household as well as entertain. All of this technology is setting up a series of hierarchies, from the brain, and body net, to a succession of electronic shells, the room, the house, the community, both social and physical, the city, the country and finally the shell of electronic communications satellites surrounding the Earth. (Mitchell, 65-67)

Unlike past generations, today's current crop of twenty/thirty-somethings are intrinsically linked to technology. Although many are cynical and wary of technology and media, they have understood the need to know and develop it, thus hopefully creating it as it fits their life. They embrace technology and media on the basis that it will be their job to reform it to fit their needs and values in the coming years, and are preparing themselves for it. Having grown up on television and personal computers, the glow of the box, it is like they have an electronic implant secured within this group, which physically attaches the young to the technology. Generation X is infinitely aware of their position in the world and the difference between reality and the virtual, as well as the possibilities and limitations of each. Being involved so intensely with technology, is taxing to the body and the mind. As such, even though an off time is required in these people's day, based on the concept of a need to rejuvenate, the purpose and function of technology, and it's ramifications on this generation have been understood. Now to accommodate that relationship between the user and the object.

With all this technology imposing itself onto us, how will it affect the state of dwelling, and home? The privacy issues that once were the driving forces behind the increase and popularity of the single families home have begun to change. We take for granted the wave of technology which baths our homes, and have almost given up the concept of privacy. If the house no longer is there as this

soft·ware

    Pronunciation: 'soft-"war, -"wer
    Function: noun
    Date: 1960
        : something used or associated with and usually contrasted with hardware
        : the entire set of programs, procedures, and related documentation associated with a system and especially a
        computer system; specifically : computer programs
        : materials for use with audiovisual equipment

1mind

    Pronunciation: 'mInd
    Function: noun
    Etymology: Middle English, from Old English gemynd; akin to Old High German gimunt memory, Latin ment-, mens mind,
                monEre to remind, warn, Greek menos spirit, mnasthai, mimnEskesthai to remember
    Date: before 12th century
        : the element or complex of elements in an individual that feels, perceives, thinks, wills, and especially reasons
        : the conscious mental events and capabilities in an organism
        : the organized conscious and unconscious adaptive mental activity of an organism

private dwelling as it once was, and if our lives are increasing shifting us through the world and through our professions, what purpose does it have for us anymore? The digital revolution is once again, after centuries; bring the workplace and living space back into the same unit. (Mitchell, 72) The house is becoming a node, a small segment of a larger whole which makes up house, neighbourhood, city, country and world. Each node is a representation of those who reside there, their electronic fingerprint proclaiming them to the world. Because the house still plays an important role in identity it will always serve a purpose in the lives of people, but rather then just being a reflection of physical means, it will become like a virtual business card, helping the residents to integrate into the global community.

node

    Pronunciation: 'nOd

    Function: noun

    Etymology: Middle English, from Latin nodus knot, node; akin to

    Middle Irish naidm bond

    Date: 15th century

      : a point at which subsidiary parts originate or center

"A sense of home, however you define it, is as important to self-identity as the persistence of personal memory."
(T abor, 218)

1home

Pronunciation: 'hOm

Function: noun

Etymology: Middle English hom, from Old English hAm village, home; akin to Old High German heim home

Date: before 12th century

: one's place of residence : DOMICILE b : HOUSE

: the social unit formed by a family living together

: a familiar or usual setting : congenial environment; also

: the focus of one's domestic attention <home is where the heart

: HABITAT

: a place of origin <salmon returning to their home to spawn>;

: one's own country <having troubles at home and abroad>

In the past, the house, and the house as it currently stands, were built around a series of hierarchies based on having a dominant head of the house. These hierarchies were based upon the traditional nuclear family, where the parents set forth the pattern of use and of importance within the house and the children fitted themselves in where appropriate. The house was designed as a show of wealth, power and status within the community rather then as a reflection of the residents within. The notion of housing this family is still embedded in society's communal mind today, fight it as they might. In houses designed for a mother who stays home, children and a breadwinner who wants to come home and compare his life with his neighbours, the younger generations looking for a physical position in the world are suffering. Housing has not changed or adapted to fit the changing technological and emotional needs of its inhabitants, it has done its best to stay firmly gripped within the mould.

The current housing and the people who are building it are trying to force us into conformity through forcing us into tract housing whose plan and purpose have been regenerated over and over for decades. Charles Moore in The Place of Houses spoke of rooms as being unspecific spaces that allowed for improvisations of living, allowing for the opportunity of things to happen. (Moore, 82) This comment is what we wish and want to be true, and ideally it should apply. But when we look at our housing stock today, based on these ideals and traditions from decades ago, it is obvious that the rooms in these homes are no longer unspecific. Developers and town planners have preconceived notions of how we use the space, primarily that of a traditional nuclear family. Because of this now generic space, which speaks of something entirely different than what we want, we have lost our sense of place within the community and within society.

Families are not as nuclear as they used to be and their composition varies house to house. Families can consist of children with one parent, two parents, same sex parents, and interracial, inter-religious parents. Some families do not even consist of the

standard parents and children format, instead consisting of couples, groups of friends and extended family. Because our traditional notion of family has become irrelevant in regards to how we set up house, the functions and activities, as well as personal relationships will take more precedence over the design and set up of the dwelling rather than a standard unit which does not provide the physical or emotional needs of the residents. Generation X, the new up and coming generation, the one which will be moving into focus is apart of this new society which relates home to much different values than that of previous generations. They recognize the change in technology; the change in family and that how they are living is not a reflection of who they are but who their parents were. As such, the housing stock that is occupied today, no longer relates to the values or associations that Generation X has.

We must shrug off our preconceived notions the house in order to now revisit the notion of dwelling, its relation to the neighbourhood, the city and the world. The typical developers home of now is made up of a series of rooms of which most hold no particular function but which do promote several ideals of the purpose and meaning of the house. People are looking for their homes to accommodate a much more diverse range of needs from working at home, to computer/data rooms as well as the ability to accommodate families which do not fit the tradition of the past. Due to increased travel and lifestyles that mesh work and home/leisure more closely, the home has become a base of activity that reaches into every aspect of our lives. It is also a place we look to when we need rest and an escape from the global village we are constantly in touch with, whether physically or mentally.

To Generation X a sense of home and stability is very important. There must be an ease to living that an individual can get nowhere else. There needs to be a firm line between inner and outer that allows a person a sense of security and safety when in their realm. Within the home a fluidity of movement between spaces is important, that all the space occupied feels as though it is connected and

<sub>1</sub>fam·i·ly
Pronunciation: 'fam-lE, 'fa-m&-
Function: noun
Inflected Form(s): plural -lies
Etymology: Middle English familie, from Latin familia household (including servants as well as kin of the householder),
            from famulus servant
Date: 15th century
    : a group of individuals living under one roof and usually under  one head : HOUSEHOLD
    : a group of persons of common ancestry : CLAN
    : a people or group of peoples regarded as deriving from a common stock : RACE
    : a group of people united by certain convictions or a common affiliation : FELLOWSHIP
    : the staff of a high official (as the President)
    : a group of things related by common characteristics

not separated by the invisible barriers of public and private, communal and individual. These invisible barriers should merge with each other in a similar fashion to that of traditional families where the privacy and seclusion is observed but still connected.

The reason for focusing on Generation X as a study for dwelling architecture is because they are a section of society whom architecture is becoming more important. They are also the first group that will become relatively dependant on information and cyber technology in order to accomplish parts of their day, whether it be work, education, or play.  As such, a built form that can accommodate the changing shift of technology along with the changing lifestyle will be embraced. Due to their skeptical nature they have an ability to dissect and criticize the failures and achievements of past housing design.  They are critical of the worlds and homes they have lived in and are looking to re-establish their notions of family, home and work in a new setting that will be unlike their past.  As such, they are open to the possibilities of new technologies being integrated into the home and of looking for new ways of perceiving dwelling in a time, which will see the house encompassing more then a bed, clothes and food.

The living unit, house, is a fantastic mediator between the individual, or 'family' unit and the world.  It is an intimate portrayal of self, an extension of the physical body, both mentally and physically.  It is also that which can relate the city, and the world back to us. The roles of public and private here take on a more substantial role.  Housing has always concerned itself with the transition of and barriers between the public and the private.  It has always been obvious that outside our homes we are apart of a greater whole and as such must portray ourselves in a specific manner to make a specific point, whether it is to indicate our status, our occupation or our mood.  The potential is here to use the design and creative talents of the young to create a dwelling which although may reflect upon the past, is not dictated by it and will create a new dichotomy for domestic architecture.

"Everybody needs to keep an eye, a window, on the world to reassure the self
that it differs from the world and thus to reinforce the self's identity."
(Tabor, 227)

1pub·lic

Pronunciation: 'p&-blik

Function: adjective

Etymology: Middle English publique, from Middle French, from Latin publicus; akin to Latin populus the people

Date: 14th century

: exposed to general view

: of, relating to, or affecting all the people or the whole area of a nation or state <public law>

: of or relating to a government

: of, relating to, or being in the service of the community or nation

: of or relating to people in general

: of or relating to business or community interests as opposed to private affairs

1pri·vate

Pronunciation: 'prI-v&t

Function: adjective

Etymology: Middle English privat, from Latin privatus, from past participle of privare to deprive, release, from privus private, individual; probably akin to Latin pro for, in front of -- more at

Date: 14th century

: intended for or restricted to the use of a particular person, group, or class <a private park>

: belonging to or concerning an individual person, company, or interest <a private house>

: restricted to the individual or arising independently of others <private opinion>

The present housing stock, and that going back several decades, has always had a distinct line between public and private. Since the 17th century, housing in western culture has been based upon the privacy issues of the upper classes. It was the aristocracy of the time that began the separation of public and private spaces. Slowly it evolved that private spaces such as bedrooms and bathrooms would be placed upstairs. By elevating the private spaces off the ground plane, it placed a physical barrier between the external public realm as well as a separation from the internal domestic public spaces. By accommodating the private chambers further away from the public areas of the house, it not only provided a separation of public duty from private pleasure, but also added an element of safety. Public rooms such as the kitchen, parlour, music and ballrooms would be located on the main level, allowing for easier transition between external and internal public places.

As time progressed so did the separation between public and private. The middle class, and then more recently, the lower class began adopting the same method for separating public and private. In cases of apartments and single floor homes such as bungalows, it was apparent that the need for a distinct separation between public and private was necessary. In these single floor models, public and private space tends to be split up either front to back or side to side. Usually the entry hall and main bathroom become the dividers and transition spaces between the two.

It was this separation, which provoked the biggest changes and ideals on the private house. Because of the essential separation that occurred hundreds of years ago, we have seen the private house become that, which sets the boundaries between public, and self/family inherently put into perspective our ideals of the domestic. It is a shame that due to the associations of the private home being linked with the bourgeoisie and the middle classes; the individual dwelling has been wrought with controversy over its purpose and intention. It is important at this time in society's development and within the twenty first century that we begin to look beyond such

In·ter·net
 Pronunciation: 'in-t&r-"net
 Function: noun
 Date: 1986
     : an electronic communications network that connects computer networks and organizational computer
       facilities a round the world

notions that an individual dwelling must consist primarily of a single family detached home with sharp distinctions between public and private. The sharp contrasts which were once obvious and intended within the dwelling are no longer often observed or adhered to, nor can they with the public aspect of our lives encompassing so much more than the television, and what is beyond our front door

The relationship within the house of public and private is significant and the past relevance is still key to transforming the current dwelling type. But two things have been introduced into this realm of public, which could not have been accounted for in the past. One is that we are reintroducing work into the home after centuries of having had it removed. The work is different and primarily not labour intensive. Secondly, with the advancement and influence of telecommunications and the Internet, the individual no longer has to go out into the world to make themselves noticed, the individual can bring the world into his home. This creates an interesting perplexity in regards to the notion of public and private, professional and personal.

> "The primary function of the human environment is to strengthen tangible, direct contact with the world, not to weaken it."(Benzel, 289)

Due to the permeability of the dwelling, the consistent transmitting of information between the home and the world, what was once considered a very personal space is becoming smaller and smaller as it becomes almost obsolete, stuck into the nooks and crannies of the house. No longer is the domestic dwelling a place for the private self. As the dwelling is still supposed to be an intimate reflection of the individual / community living within, it must maintain the privacy and intimacy of a private dwelling. With limited spaces, and as in existing buildings, an already predisposed program between public and private, allowances must be made for slight shifts and modifications in order to achieve the function of private and public without having to rebuild the entire home.

Precedents for a new form

# Expanding our Realities

All Architecture is colored by the problem of the house
(Helion, 268)

Boxcisity

Many precedents have been developed which encompass many of the ideas set forth in this paper. Precedents are an excellent way to compare the aims, purposes and techniques of modern thought. Many of the examples chosen for this particular set of relations, have some aspect which has been picked out as a key element. Although many issues, from technology, digital and otherwise, to bringing the workplace home, as well as the problem of public versus private, and the changing family dynamic have been brought into play, as far as this paper is concerned, the human dynamic of Generation X has been overlooked. Many of these precedents have been designed for individual clients, being the base of most domestic architectural practice. Generation X, being that it encompasses a large group of people, primarily young professionals who are willing to spend money on good quality objects, and who are of a mind which is more inclined to the creative, are the ideal clients for this new kind of architecture. Many of these houses have integrated spaces and technologies which will be important to this segment of the population, somehow a set of protocols should be able to be designed that are basic and simple enough in their purpose to allow the resident or user to plug into an existing home or to create a new home with.

It is important to take note of how previous theoreticians such as those involved in the modern movement discussed and developed their ideas on housing. The problems they had been facing at the time were very similar to what we are facing now. A bombardment of new technologies, along with a way of living and thinking that was changing based on the technological advances of society, and many of the social changes as well, is reflected inherently in these ideals. The professionals involved in developing the modern movement were concerned about societies future, and that we would only drive ourselves in circles if our domestic lives did not keep up with and intricate with that of the changes which were occurring in society, such as a shorter work day, and the motor car.

Eileen Gray: Drawings for E. 1027

Eileen Gray, an architect and designer who did most of her work just prior to World War Two, although relatively unknown most of her life by the profession, had proposed and built several houses based on a few simple principles which can be related to and incorporated with this new dwelling form we are trying to discover.

"The future projects light, the past only shadows."(Adam, 178)

This statement says a lot about current architectural trends and how we need to advance ourselves further. We need to shrug off the past, which is so easy to fall back on and forge a new definition of what creates a dwelling place. It is easy to get caught up in the thinking that what makes a house is that which fills it, people and things, but a home should also be defined by its function and its ability to create the atmosphere that is desired, rather then assuming a pattern of living will just happen. That is what our current housing stock has done. It has provided a box and expected us to fill it, but because of the nature of having hundreds of like boxes with perhaps some very like people, rather then defining ourselves through the house, which is or should be an extension of self, it is moulding us into the people that surround us. Rather then being a community of individuals who form a community based on the different needs we can offer, many of today's communities have become a cloning system of people are very much like everyone else. As we try to renegotiate the traditional placement of rooms and their uses, we are being forced into living in the traditions and rituals we have outgrown or changed. We are constantly trying to readjust our homes to fit our changing patterns of family and movement but often find ourselves reverting back to the spatial traditions of our parents and grandparents. This quote applies to architecture and our domestic situation in the same way it applies to the human patterns of abuse and neglect on the web site. Every person is different and yet we are ending up in similar generic housing. Our domestic surroundings are not only beginning to 'look' like our neighbours, but like our parents and grandparents as well.

> "Eileen regarded the 'dwelling as a living organism' in which 'each of the inhabitants could, if need be, find
> total independence and an atmosphere of solitude and concentration'."
> (Adam, 98)

The ability to manipulate one's environment depending on mood and need has a great significance in how space is used and appreciated given a specific task or function. A dwelling also extends beyond the built confines of the dwelling to include yards, gardens and walks. Entrances, especially in our case the public entrances need to be distinguished from private. How can we take existing domestic space and bring out its maximum potential for inhabitants it was not designed for?

Current housing stock, which could be termed under the phrase, the suburban home, or traditional house, is abundant within the landscape, and continues being erected daily. Gabled roofs and double car garages fill our site. Societies association with the traditional house form, and the morals and values that go with it are currently up for scrutiny. As Generation X questions the state of the family, the purpose of home, and the influence of technology, it is appropriate to put forward options that might suite current and future needs. Some design initiatives that are currently in circulation, or have been built include:

All of the following examples here taken from Terence Riley's Book, *The Un-Private House.*
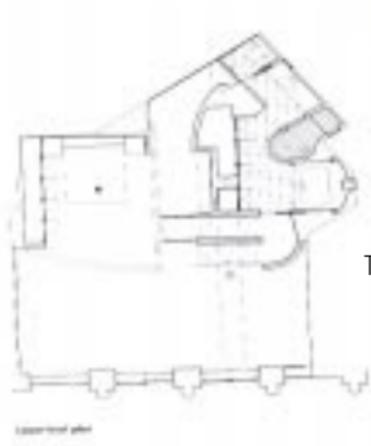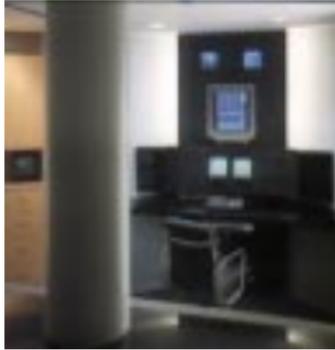
The Lipschutz / Jones Apartment, New York
Frank Lupo/Daniel Rowan Architects
Top left: Digital Trading Room
Top Right: Living/Dining area
Bottom: Upper and lower floor plans

The Lipschutz / Jones Apartment in New York which not only has accommodated the residents personal space, but supplied up to the minute connections to the currency markets, the occupation of both residents, in case they are working late, or a sudden change occurs, it can be dealt with from within the home. A connection of the city to the dwelling and vice versa has been accomplished through a series of compressed spaces which create a varied façade onto the living room which is the transcendence between the compressed sculptural nature of the interior façade with that of the façade of the city beyond the windows. (Riley, 44)

The Digital House
Hariri and Hariri
Top: Rear Facade
Bottom: Kitchen

The Digital House by Hariri and Hariri, has designed to show the possible impact of new electronic technologies on the domestic environment. It is suggested that glass panels made up of liquid crystal displays could be used not only as a wall structure but also as communication media, educational tool and entertainment. It was suggested that a virtual chef could give cooking instructions while food was being prepared, and parties could be held without actually having to have guests over. By creating an interactive environment, but also allowing for transient spaces to be 'disconnected' from the system, the resident can mediate between himself and his location depending on mood and purpose. The digital house is the closest in purpose to that of the ideas that wish to be explored here. An environment which is not only an extension of the body through the mediation of on and off spaces, but also an embodiment of the mind, where at once you can be connected to the world. (Riley, 56)
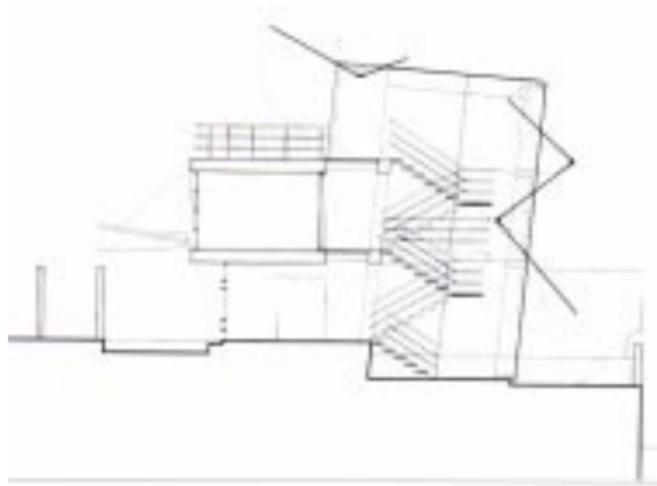
| The Hague Villa



The Hague Villa:
Bernard Tschumi
Top Left: Transverse Section
Top Right: Perspective from East

The Hague Villa by Bernard Tschumi, is a great example of the connection between public and private, profession and domestic. Unlike the Digital house which did not appear to have that integral connection with the real world or incorporate the domestic with the professional, it is what is accomplished within the boundaries of the Hague Villa that look at the transitions between and purposes of public and private. The transition between public and private has been observed through material composition, using more solid and impermeable concrete for the intimate spaces of bedroom and bath. Public living rooms, as well as the professional work space on the other hand is surrounded by glass, advertising the occupants to the world, but also bringing the world into the occupants through the surrounding buildings and street. The potential here would be to incorporate the liquid crystal displays of the digital house into the glass facades of the Hague Villa, allowing for global communications to be transmitted directly onto the glass, doing away with computer screens. As well, with a three story height glass wall the potential to "take your work with you" as you moved between floors could consist of a remote control which would just move the work up and down the glass panels as needed. (Riley, 68)
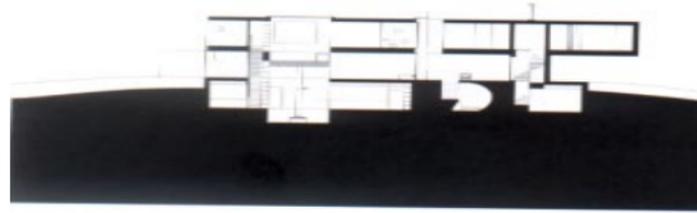
*Longitudinal section*

Maison a Bordeaux:
Rem Koolhaas
Top Right: Lomgitudinal Section
Top and Bottom left: Views of the Elevator Room

Maison a Bordeaux by REM Koolhaas was designed for a man who was confined to a wheel chair, and his family. Due to the circumstance of the wheel chair, the resident points out that he wished a complex house on the basis that it was his house, which would define his world. As such, at its heart is a large lift that moves between levels and is open on all sides. In regards to how this related to the investigation in these pages, is the statement of the resident who, due to circumstance must make his house his world. It is important to note that the target group being looked at as potential client is much more emotionally attached to personal belongings and items which have a significance to their past or to their present. A house, being a rather personal choice and revealing such a personal part of oneself, should in the least portray that self as an extension to the body, mind or soul of the occupant. The choice between body, mind and soul is important because of the nature in which they communicate themselves. Some place themselves in a dark box, rarely coming out, and their world is that of telecommunications. For them it would be their mind, possibly their soul which would be important in portraying as their public selves, even though in reality they perhaps hide themselves away. (Riley, 92)

Ground level plan

Middle level plan

Upper level plan
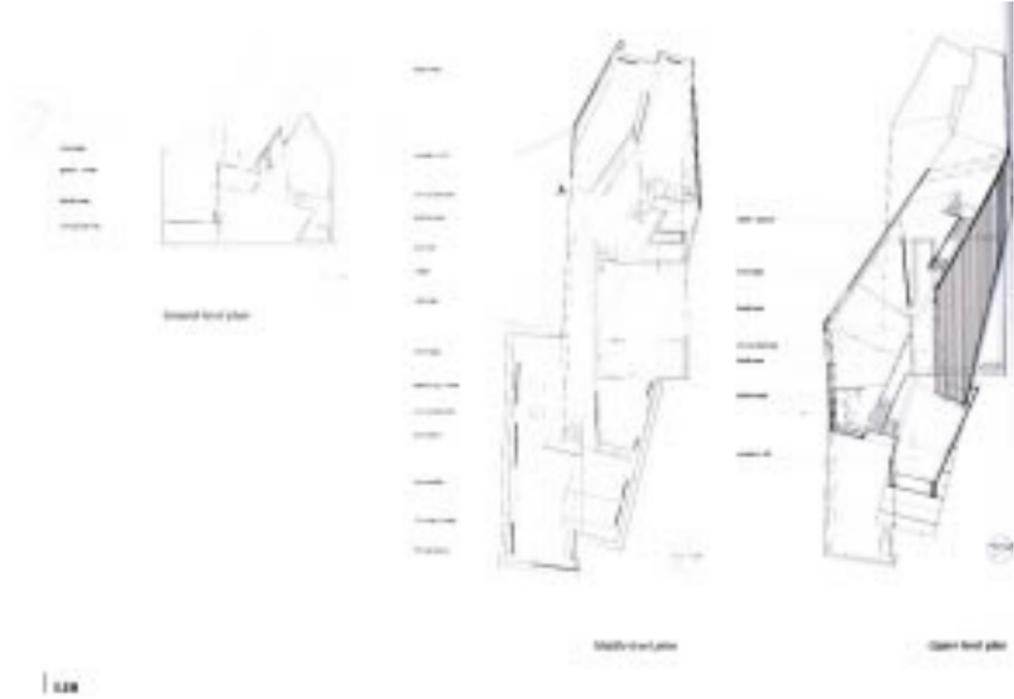
Mobius House:
UN Studio/Berkel & Bos.
This Page: Plans
Facing Page, Top: Unfolded Sections Diagramming Spatial Flow
Bottom:View from the North

Mobius House by UN Studio / Van Berkel & Bos is an interwoven love affair between work, play and domesticity. The interwoven design is intended to integrate program, circulation and structure into one fluid movement. The continual movement of the circulation path is a reflection of the perpetual flow between work and home. This is a good example of a design which has moved away from the preconceived notions of home and of a patterned way of living to create a new movement which corresponds to the residents manipulation of home and work in the same environment. (Riley, 128)
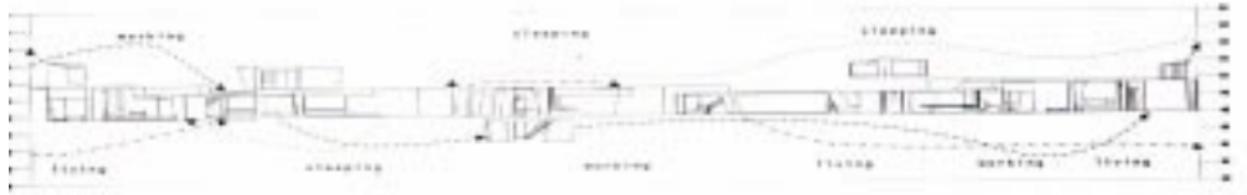
Boxcisity

With all this information, where does that leave the state of the domestic dwelling? Well, the initiatives spoken of above are very concise and particular paths designed for a very particular set of clients. The attempt here is going to be to set forth a more general group of people to design for. If we take the example of the townhouse looked at earlier when dissecting the traditional functions placed within the home, rather then developing a site from scratch, it will help in defining a series of interjections which could be made into existing environments. These interjections would consist of elements that may manifest themselves differently in each dwelling, but which would have a purpose behind them.
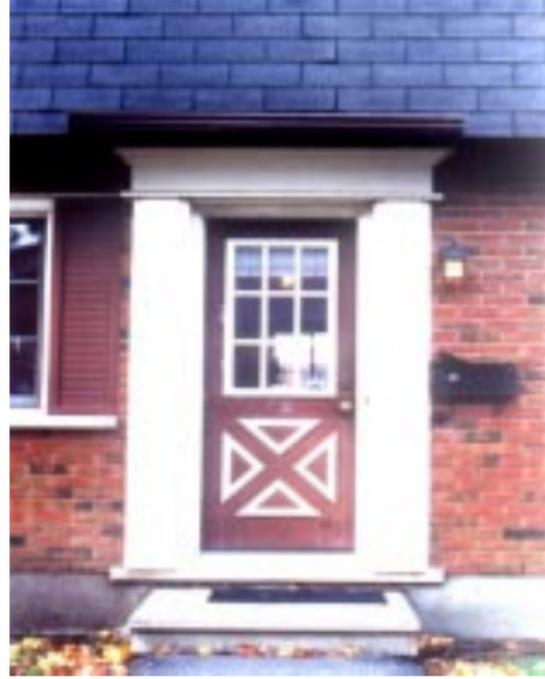
Analysis Through Experien()e

A Case Study of Unit 20
Mainpulation of an Exsisting Building

The following is an exploration of a standard and current townhouse in Ottawa, Ontario. Through looking at current conditions and taking the current young residents as a profile group, how can this house adapt to reflect more upon their lifestyle, and needs rather than that of their parents, whom the house would have been originally built for? Through a series of sketches and colour blocks, a pattern of use will develop and subsequently adapt to reflect their needs in the near future along with the technological advancements they will be prone to becoming a part of.

In an investigation of current housing stock the following separations were observed, according to the private and public space, as per physical relations, as well as a portrayal of the sense of community and individuality within the house and where the relevant technological outlets were located.

Laundry

Spare Room

Bath

Living

Kitchen

Dining

Bath

Bedroom

Bedroom

Bedroom

Boxcisity
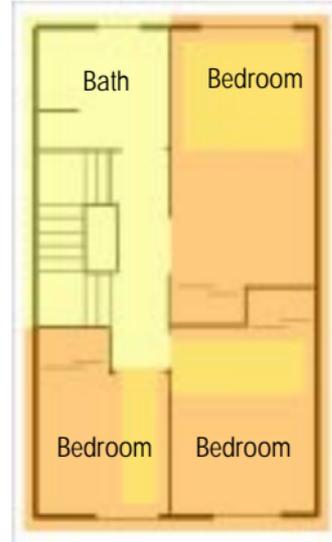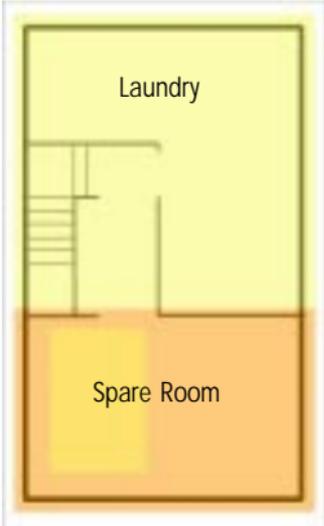
The above is a colour analysis of the townhouse according to communal and individual living. The light yellow represents communal areas while orange is individual. Where colours overlap it is an indication of areas where the individual aspect of the space coincides with the communal, such as in the bathroom, and where the yellow overlaps in the case of the bedrooms, it is a indication of the spaces within the room that other members of the household can participate in with the occupier of that particular room.

Currently particular functions of rooms are being over exploited while other rooms are being under used. For example, each individual's bedroom acts bedroom, sitting, dining, and workroom. Most of what encompasses individual's life is within their room. Communal space tends to be used for particular non-communicating functions such as the living room being used almost exclusively for watching television, the dining room functions more as a storage space then as a dining room and the basement is laundry. The kitchen tends to be the area for communal dining, cooking as well as talking and spending time together.

Laundry

Spare Room

Bath

Living

Kitchen

Dining

Bath

Bedroom

Bedroom

Bedroom

Boxcisity
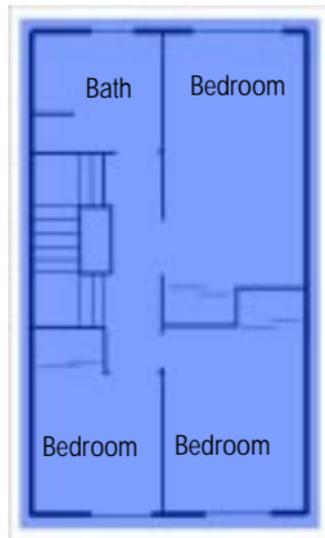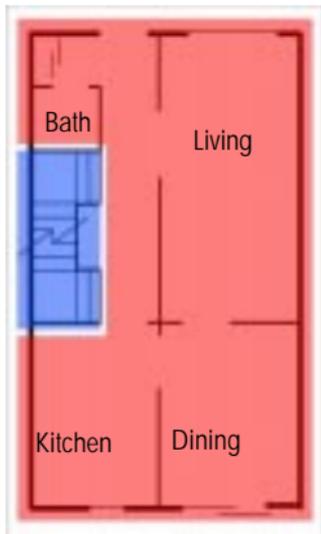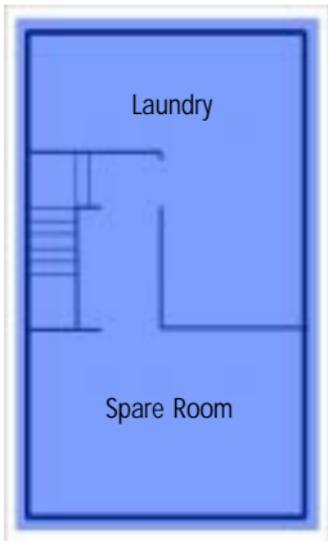
The purpose of this analysis as stated above is to show the defining lines between the private and public sectors currently within the townhouse. Based on tradition and also on the attitudes of the current occupants, the main floor of the house is the only real public space. Parties, entertaining and visitors are not only greeted on the main floor but tend to remain there. The bedrooms and basement both remain private for the exclusive use of the residents.

As the main floor is at street level and currently does include the kitchen, dining and living rooms it is the house's direct link with the street. Because the space on this floor is under utilized, it has the potential to become a much more functional space for the future of the occupants as their jobs move into the home.

Boxcisity

Laundry

Spare Room

Bath

Living

Kitchen

Dining

Bath

Bedroom

Bedroom

Bedroom
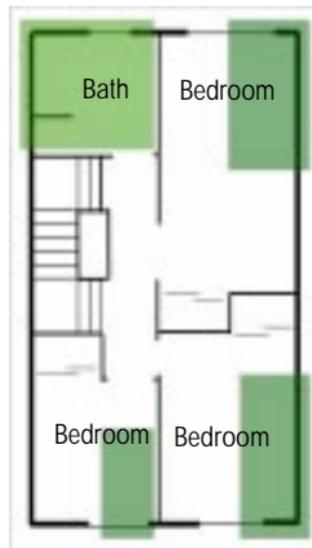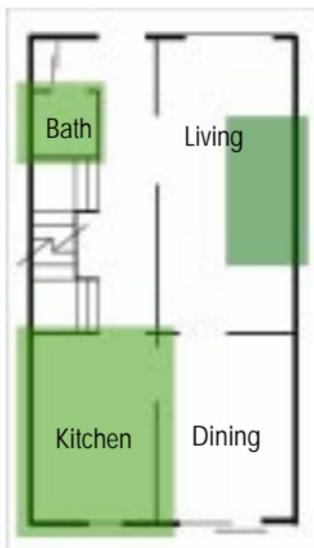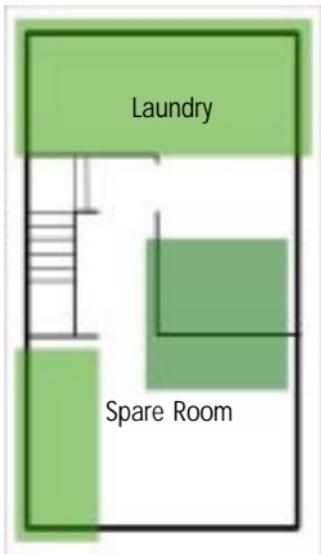
The two shades of green in these three plans indicate domestic and global technologies. For the purpose of this paper, television, home entertainment, computer and phone lines have been combined to make up global technology and for domestic technology it has limited it to kitchen hardware, laundry and boiler room as well as the bathrooms.

As can be seen, the plans have been broken up according to not only function but by common and personal spaces, rooms such as the living room, kitchen, and dining room being on the main floor, which is the level of the house which leads out directly onto the street and can be seen directly into from the street. In the upstairs, a typical arrangement of bedrooms and a full bath. The basement is an area for mechanical and storage.

²individual

Function: noun

Date: 1605

    : a particular being or thing as distinguished from a class, species, or collection: as

    : a single human being as contrasted with a social group or institution <a teacher who works with individuals>

    : a single organism as distinguished from a group b

    : a particular person <are you the individual I spoke with on the telephone?>

     : an indivisible entity

iden·ti·ty

Pronunciation: I-'den-t&-tE, &-, -'de-n&-

Function: noun

Inflected Form(s): plural -ties

Etymology: Middle French identité, from Late Latin identitat-, identitas, probably from Latin identidem repeatedly,
       contraction of idem et idem, literally, same and same

Date: 1570

    : sameness of essential or generic character in different instances

    : sameness in all that constitutes the objective reality of a thing : ONENESS

    : the distinguishing character or personality of an individual

Although the house is derived from the basic need for shelter, what it provides is much more then a place to keep dry. The house could be viewed, simultaneously as a microcosm of the city and a macrocosm of the self. As a microcosm of the city, it embodies a sense of community, governing and order. As part of this new order of domestic architecture it goes even further the home beginning to encompass, the domestic, the professional, the global, and the community. The home will contain the world, as the world will contain the home.

As a macrocosm of the individual, the dwelling is a further skin outside that of the body, creating another layer of identity and character which is what will be termed as and referred to as home by the individual whose skin it is surrounding. It should portray its residents, their moods, occupations and style as the fabric of the individual does. The dwellings combined intellect will be globally recognized, such as a business card or website. The house as a living unit will be the embodiment of its residents, changing and adapting as their needs and wants change. It will have a public face and an inner soul, which is a sanctum, infinitely public but with a private heart.

Let us define the spaces which are of importance in this dwelling and their function and/or purpose to the resident. Public spaces, which currently include the living and dining rooms, the kitchen, front hall and half bath. The living and dining rooms although on a public level still hold a function of being a place to entertain, in this day and age, and among this particular group is used primarily as a television room. Its prime function is a place to watch the large screen television. When talking or togetherness occurs, more often then not it is happening in the kitchen.

com·mu·ni·ty

Pronunciation: k&-'myü-n&-tE

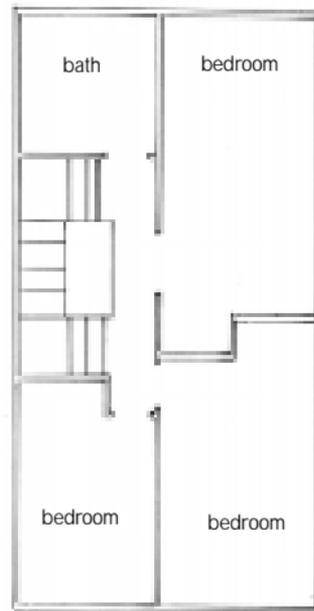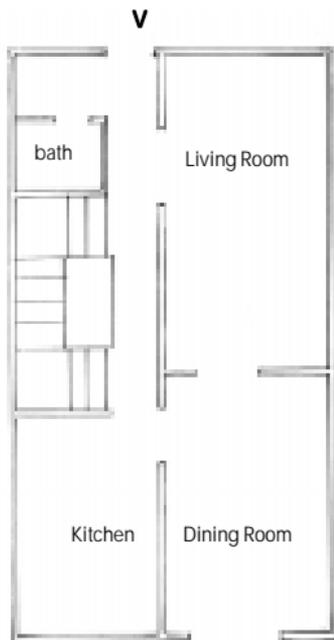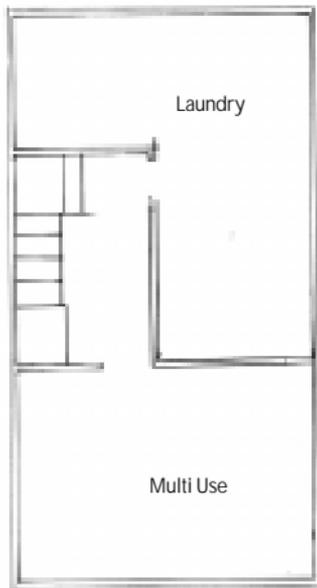Function: noun

Inflected Form(s): plural -ties

Usage: often attributive

Etymology: Middle English comunete, from Middle French comuneté, from Latin communitat-, communitas, from communis

Date: 14th century

: a unified body of individuals: as a : STATE, COMMONWEALTH

: the people with common interests living in a particular area; broadly

: the area itself <the problems of a large community>

: an interacting population of various kinds of individuals (as species) in a common location

: a group of people with a common characteristic or interest living together within a larger society <a community of retired persons>

: a group linked by a common policy

: a body of persons or nations having a common history or common social, economic, and political interests <the international community>

: a body of persons of common and especially professional interests scattered through a larger society

The Front door. This is the public's entrance into your physical world and is often an expression of the kind of inhabitant that you are. Due to its relationship between you and the world. As such it does not have a relationship just with you but also the neighbourhood and community, belonging not just to you but also to the community. (Busch, 37) The role of the front door is instrumental to the layout and the progression of a house. Through the front door public and private spaces are organized according to the doors placement. How does this reflect on our new public face though, where the concept of the public within the home encompasses digital media as well as physical intrusion? The front door still has an active role as a mediator between public and private, especially if looked at as the entrance not only to the home but also to the office. But the physical front door is no longer the only entrance for the public and should be noted. The connection to the world moves beyond the strict parameters of the personal computer, as the house itself becomes connected to the global net, another front door, that of the virtual welcome mat will be an important entrance to society's houses and their knowledge. The significance of the online door is important as whether for work or play, it is often the first meeting ground upon which you may meet potential clients, customers, bosses and friends.

Laundry

Multi Use

v

bath

Living Room

Kitchen

Dining Room

bath

bedroom

bedroom

bedroom

Case Studey,
Unit 20 Heron Road

The purpose of and reality of the living room has by nature a more adaptable floor plan. Housing the accoutrements of entertaining and entertainment, as well as the furniture, throughout the history of these spaces has been inconsequential next to the room's purpose of providing an atmosphere for talking. The furnishings of these rooms are provided more through language than by objects. (Busche, 155) The living room, although not providing us with a space which is as relevant as they once here, still can serve us several purposes. As a primary room for entertaining and discourse, the furniture defining the boundaries as well as being a further reflection of the occupants. The future of the living room as being exclusively for television and entertaining will be changing. With the prominent position of the living room within the home, and usually within an area of the home which is associated with the public sphere and has a public front to it, its adaptation into a working environment during the day will be important. If we maintain that the main level of the house is the most accessible and prominent to the street, than it lends itself to the purposes of a work environment. The dining room, although still of use during social events, is used far less than it has been in the past. The ritual of dining has been moved into the kitchen with other associations with cooking and gathering. Through merging the living and dining spaces it allows for a broader space to be used for office and work environments as well as for entertaining. The potential of these rooms to create an environment which can constantly be changed and manipulated depending on mood and function, will take away much of the precedence that has been put on these two rooms.

"For it is through conversation and human exchange that the known boundaries can be transcended, and in ordinary talk that the unlikely so often transpires."
(Busch, 159)

The kitchen has always been a place of gathering. Due to the centrality of the space, as well as the centre for domestic activity, it tends to bring people to it. As residents also cook and eat around the same time but not always together, the gathering occurs while waiting for a space to prepare food, or as a means of conversing while eating. The significance of the dining room has been left by the wayside in favour of the kitchen, which is warmer, and often more convenient. The dining room tends to be reserved for large groups of people and general entertaining. With the kitchen as this gathering point, as a place where the residents feel comfortable in their relationship with each other, it is important to foster that relationship, as it is what will help bind and keep strong the union of the residents. The kitchen as the core element of the house has been central to our sense of home for generations, and it is one aspect of the house, which although its use has changed from that of culinary to gathering, its purpose in the home remains that of the heart.

The bedroom has become larger and used for more then the act of sleeping for decades now. It has become a hub of activity which includes, personal gym, home office, entertainment centre and apparently, sleeping. Of course, as more objects, and tasks are added to the bedroom, the less rest we actually achieve in there. Rather then treating the bedroom as a multi purpose room, it should be a sanctuary which is primarily concerned with the act of sleeping and making love. (Busch, 118) All of this creates an atmosphere for the formation of experience. The bedroom promotes the extremities of human experience. The bedroom should be a room devoted to the self and the body. Sleep is one of the greatest escapes for Generation X'er's and it can be viewed as a great purifier, not only of the mind and soul, but as a tension release of the physical self as well. The complete separation of the bedroom from the rest of the house would be a significant way of achieving this end.

"...these are the experiences that the bedroom accommodates with the most grace, the walls that form both a narrow cloister for the soul and a gateway to a wider sphere of human exchange."
(Busche, 120)

Boxcisity

The bathroom as a place to wash, is a means of cleansing the body of work, and play. The bath is also a place where serious contemplation occurs, about work, the future, or intellectual ideals. The bathroom is one room within the home that most of society still considers the ultimate in privacy. Ironically for centuries of Western civilization, the ritual of bathing was considered a public and communal affair, but with the development of the private home, and the sudden awareness of body odour and caring for the body, the bathroom and the act of bathing began to pull itself inward and become a most private place. Often one of the only rooms in the house with a lock and of the nature that the bath is associated with relaxation and warmth, the idea that someone can lock themselves away and forget about the world for awhile has promoted the space which encompasses the rituals of bathing. The bathroom is one space in which we will indulge our need and desire for privacy, going as far as to keep out telecommunications equipment such as phones and computers, although televisions can still be found more readily.

> "You're alone, naked, with the map of the world. If the bathroom is the room in the house where people think, this combination could put you in the realm of revelation."
>
> (Busche, 142)

Profiles of X
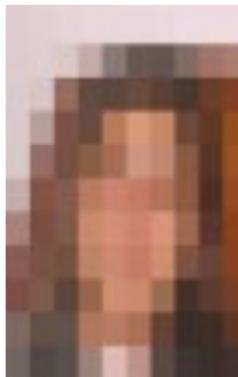
Unlike the modern movement where the importance was specifically on function and form, the driving force behind this new architectural concept is that of 'mood space'. Generation X is ruled by their hearts and minds, and therefore by moods. First, lets set up a profile of a group of residents, which would live in this house, and some of their personal traits and attitudes. For the purpose of this study, four people were chosen. Of this group there were two males and two females. There was one couple, and two friends. All are professionals, two involved in the computer industry, one in law and another in the creative arts. The lawyer works away from the home, but entertains clients and co-workers. The other three work entirely from home, although the resident whose occupation is the creative arts, does leave the home for meetings and other work related issues. The two computer specialists, one a software guru and the other a system administrator, work flexible hours depending on problems and inspiration. The creative arts professional, as well as the lawyer both lead their work lives during the daytime hours. Although all take advantage of electronic technologies, the lawyer primarily uses it for entertainment purposes at the moment. A close-knit group, they tend to dine together several times a week, and tend to entertain primarily for business purposes rather then social. Socially they go out or visit with friends online. In their off times, they prefer each others company, the peace and quiet of their home, and they watch television. Because they do not fight very often, it lends itself to being moody and emotional at erratic times. A place to chill and cool off, would benefit the group, as a place to talk or to relax individually. The nature to have mood swings, along with the desire to often escape the minor and major stresses of the day, often leads them to sleep. Because of the constant flow of media, and their minds being 'turned-on', sleep can be hard to come by, so that providing that serene sanctuary where they can literally and metaphorically pull away the day and shrug of the mental strain is important. A distinct separation between bedroom and house is important as a means of a journey to that place of rest as well as acting as a barrier between that inner sanctum and the rest of the world. The residents cherish their private space but also contribute wholly as part of the community within the house, working together within work and domestic ritual.
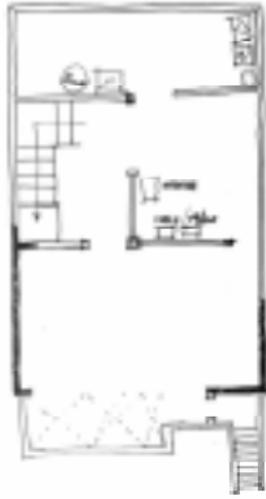
Explorations 1.



Explorations 2.

Second, let's define the spaces which are needed for the specific tasks which will be of importance to this group. The dwelling we are looking at is a townhouse, and is currently as residential unit. As such, it would be appropriate to consider modifications, which would make the ability to work at home, but maintain a separate domestic space is important. So first of all, let's say there needs to be an environment which although it may be apart of the house, may be changed or adapted to be used primarily as office, work space, in essence the public realm of the house, public referring to that area of the house where the physical and perhaps the virtual world can be brought into the home. As the use of the traditional rooms, such as dining and living are not necessarily utilized as originally intended, perhaps a combination of the work and domestic public spaces can be joined. As well, a large consideration is an area of the home that can be set-aside for the pursuit of electronic communications, such as the Internet and personal computer. As a separate and perhaps as a space which is added on to the building could be designed such not only so that it will take care of all current technological needs, but also set up to be upgraded if needed. Although basements are often seen as useless spaces which serve no function other than mechanical, electrical and storage. Perhaps through more modification though, it will be able to accommodate such areas as a computer room or even a chill room. Although separate bathrooms for each set of occupants (remember there is a couple) would probably be the most appropriate, due to site and building constraints, the current one and a half baths will remain. A distinct separation between bedroom and house is important as a means of a journey to that place of rest as well as acting as a barrier between that inner sanctum and the rest of the world.

As a testing ground, the townhouse, which has been shown and discussed throughout this paper was dissected and manipulated, putting forth some of the ideas talked of above. Although no concise conclusion was reached, through the series of explorations things were discovered about the placement of rooms, the significance of height and width as well as the portrayal of public and private. Three important interventions, which were felt to be appropriate and

Boxcisity

Exploration 3.

relatively necessary to the adaptation of the unit, were a front façade in order to better facilitate and discourse between the community and the occupations within the home that would involve them. As well, some measure to introduce light into the basement, in most cases this was explored through the use of a glass roof, which covered a sunken room. The back yard, which was under utilized, could be used for this purpose. That winters are cold behind the house, and in the summer, rather too hot, by creating a temperature controlled space, which allows privacy but also comfort from the elements would allow for the enjoyment of the outside without the harsh conditions. The third key physical addition to the house is an upper floor, creating four floors within the house. As the house was not designed for or able to accommodate much of the current computer systems and equipment, by creating a space that, would be designed specifically for the use of the computer and of global communications made sense. In regards to this, the space can be viewed as a means for connecting the virtual to the physical for the residents of the home. Through the explorations it was decided that the importance of using glass as a medium for not only the digital interface, but also as a means a seeing and being seen was important. When an individual manipulates themselves in cyberspace, they are exposed to the world, sharing their data with that world as much as they are gathering data of their own. It was intended that by making the 'computer' room glass, and as such making it visible to the physical community and making the physical community visible to the virtual one, it would create that transition that would be needed for the residents as they logged off, or disconnected from their virtual worlds. The paradox of looking through the same glass to see your neighbour, or to see someone around the world is an interesting play on the globalization of our world, which has basically enveloped us. This space which extends itself to the sky could have a direct link with the main floor work area which would provide quick and easy movement between the computer nodes of each resident and more formal and more traditional type of office space on the main level.

Boxcisity
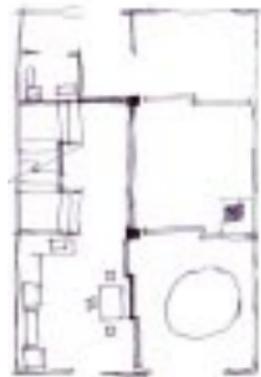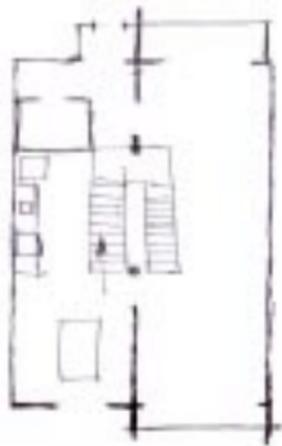
3 Separate looks at the main floor of the town house.

The domestic environment still is accessed through the main floor, and also through the same door as that of the workspace, in this way being able to visually associate the residents with the façade as well as convenience. On the main level is the kitchen. I view the original spaces of the dining room and kitchen as a form of transition between domestic and professional. With a series of sliding panels, the residents would be able to increase or decrease the size of their kitchen, for informal dining and gathering. For more formal or business related affairs, the dining area and kitchen could be sectioned off to provide for a dining / meeting space which could accommodate the guests as well as a caterer if one was needing to be brought in. The idea of sliding panels to shift between use, function and personality acts as a constantly shifting method of transferring the balance of public and private as needed. Another set of shifting walls between the front addition and the original hallway can change the entrance hall from an entrance into the professional area of the house into an intimate entrance to the private home. As well, the shifting wall allows for the use of the professional space as private living room should the need arise for any of these uses. In the basement, a chill out space, separated from the mechanical and electrical room, and accessed through the addition at the back of the house. There are many possibilities for this kind of space depending on the residents involved. In the case of these particular residents, the outside light shining in through the roof of the addition would provide a soft glow. Comfortable furniture and the removal of phones, televisions and computers would help in facilitating the peace of the area. Other ideas for the space would include walls, floor and even ceiling made out of perhaps plexiglass, which are frosted. Series of lights could be placed behind the layer of plexi and could have different gels involved in order to change the colour and the mood of the room depending on who is using it and for what emotional ailment. This space should be seen as an escape, but one, which could be shared and used with the other residents.

Moving to the second floor of the house, three bedrooms need to be accommodated for. Most of their lives these residents have lived out of their rooms. Everything needed to survive as a student, except perhaps their own fridge

Boxcisity
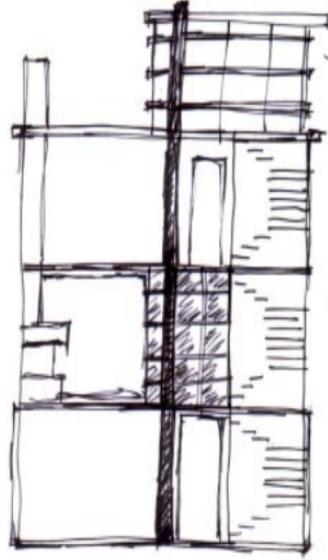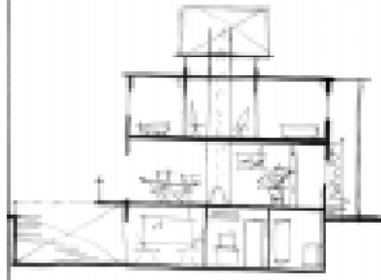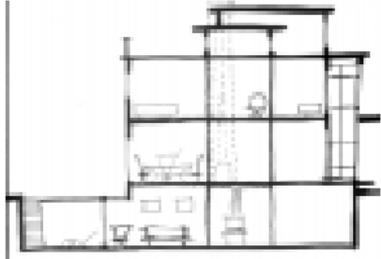
and microwave was usually accommodated for within their private world. As such, many are trying to shrug off their past living environments, urging themselves to move towards a more simple lifestyle, reducing the amount of objects they own and ridding themselves of clutter. It is important, because of this, that the bedroom be reduced to the function of sleep and physical rejuvenation. By reducing the space to that which only accommodates sleeping, the rooms can be made smaller, thus allowing for the left over space to be used as a means of developing the circulation throughout the house or in providing moments of transition through blank spaces in which anything could happen, or is possible.

It has been suggested that perhaps the entrance to the bedrooms be separate from the main circulation space, perhaps entering the room from the closet or private corridor would allow for a transition between the community and the individual. The bedroom can be viewed as an altar to the body, a space intended for personal pleasure and the mental escape from the world through transition between the community and the individual. The bedroom can be viewed as an altar to the body, a space intended for personal pleasure and the mental escape from the world through sleep.

Other propositions, which were looked at was the moving of the central stairwell to wrap around the house, an elevator to accommodate the movement between the computer room and the office on the main floor. The stairs, although unresolved, are an important link within the home, especially throughout the domestic interior. Although the stair, or elevator, which would connect the top floor to the main floor, is separate, it is possible that through it's placement, it could represent the combining of both worlds. The options are endless in this myriad of moods and personalities and so what needs to be established are moves which will reflect the lifestyle, which could manifest themselves through the architectural intervention.
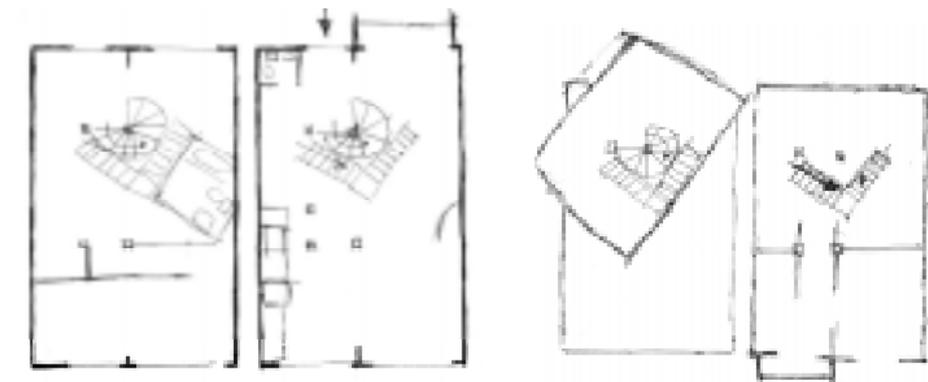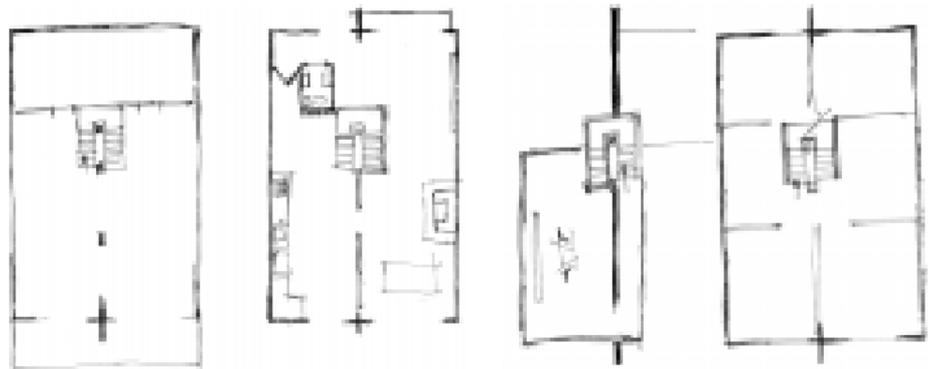
Exploration 4.

Exploration 5.

As an overview, the elements that are most significant in incorporating into a flexible domestic and professional environment, which also takes into account the current and future uses and needs of technology, are made up of the following:

1. Sliding and movable partitions to create larger or smaller spaces depending on mood and function. For example, if all the residents are working at home at the same time, or a larger space is needed for models or projects of the creative artist, the whole main floor could be opened up to be used. On the other hand if the residents wanted the closer confines of a living room to watch television they could close it off.

2. Façade, which not only can relate to the street, but could be used as a means of advertising of the professions and as an introduction to the people who are within the house.

3. Global Communications Node, which is set aside for and designed to be used specifically for elec tronic and global technologies which involve the internet, virtual working and entertainment. The link between reality and virtual is important and again, a form of transparency, a glass box would be a possible solution to this.

4. Circulation through and around the house is important as a means of transgressing through the emo tions, feelings and functions of each day. For this purpose, two means of getting to the top floor are important, one that allows the entrance as a social occasion, entertainment, leisure, and the other that is accessible strictly through the working environment.

5. Chill space, an area where the residents can disconnect and recharge themselves after spending much of their day receiving and transmitting information both physically and virtually.

Out of the Box

Boxcisity

The twenty-first century is upon us, technology is developing faster everyday and society is changing more rapidly too. As we are propelled forward, it has occurred to me that we no longer creating domestic architecture based on the needs of this ever changing society and accompanying technology. Rather we are languishing in the historical perspectives of home. The Private home has only been a closed off and secular building form for the last couple of hundred years, fine-tuning and secluding itself more recently. With the changing technology and the mass of telecommunications and electronic media streaming into our homes every second, the notion of a private house, as was established decades ago, no longer has a purpose in our future, except that of a collective memory. Although many notions of the past such as the privacy of the bath or bedroom and the purpose of the kitchen is not likely to radically change in the near future, the purposes for them, the space they consume, and what they contain for us will be what becomes important.

Generation X is a segment of society which is intrigued with and participates in both the physical and virtual environment simultaneously and interchangeably. Due to their creative nature they have a heightened awareness of their surroundings. Their perceptions of home have changed due to a rapidly changing family structure, which started in their lifetime through the high divorce rate. Domestic architecture should no longer be about preconceived notions of the past, nor should it be a pure reflection of our technological advancements. We are designing for a group of people who associate their tactile environment with how they feel and the function it is intended to have. The function being dictated partially on what is needed to live; bathroom, kitchen, work, as well as what is needed emotionally and creatively.

Boxcisity

This paper has discussed several themes, all of which have an impact or influence on the creation and sustainability of a new form at this time and in our near future.   The influence of the Modern movement as a means of creating a methodology which can then be applied, as well as some of the theories behind the ideas they followed can still be applied today.  It is again time to re-evaluate contemporary thought, especially that of domestic architecture.  Shifting family dynamics, the advancements of technology and a segment of the population which is now coming to the forefront of society are positioning us to reconsider the purposes of the house and the way in which it should accommodate society.

The neighbourhood, the city is no longer the centre of our world, with family and friends in a constant state of flux, travelling, working and playing, the advantages of global communication systems have made the world much smaller and provided us with what our towns and communities have.   The physicalness of place will soon take on a different purpose.  Online communities have developed due to like interests and compatible personalities. These online communities are replacing the ones in our immediate physical vicinity, removing previous barriers of wealth, social standing, race, sex and many others. The role the home played in interfacing with the community has evolved and mutated.

> "Architecture is no longer simply the play of masses in light.  It now embraces the play of digital information in space."
>
> (Mitchell, 41)

Through a series of tests in order to explore how technology, emotion and function can work together, several points and interventions were proposed. Although not infinitely tested, the beginning of a change towards a new form is beginning. A new form not so much based on what is necessary or on a particular layout, but on the potential for space to become what is desired through a given moment or feeling and purpose. This current digital revolution is going to completely change how and what we build. The potential for complete sensory environments and of integrating our virtual homes and lives directly into the skin of our homes is feasible and possible, even if we are waiting ten to twenty years for it. Many of the points made in this paper are feasible now, such that the houses are built to accommodate today's needs with the potential to plug in tomorrow's changes. The essence of adaptability and flux will be pervasive in our future homes as jobs; family dynamics and technology continue to change. Although we do not expect out housing stock to last 200 years, if we can design it with the potential that it might, would it not give us an infinite testing ground for new technologies and ideals on domestic architecture for years to come? I think and believe so. As the modern movement of yesterday still affects our thoughts on design and function today, so should this new potential in domestic architecture do the same to my great grandchildren.

The house is an intimate portrayal of self. It is an object in our lives that we can associate with ourselves, and as long as it remains grounded, our hectic and busy lives will always take us back there. It is a base of operations for our personal and public lives and is a node on an infinite network of worldwide information. Our senses of home will more then likely remain constant, based on tradition and on our childhoods, but the definition of home does not necessarily need to be associated with form, it can be associated with the relationships which occur there.

"There will still be some place we call "home." And when we are far from it, we will continue to call home."
(Mitchell, 73)

X Comes H0me

Boxcisity

Contemporary society is considered unknown. Part of this is due to the small gap they possess between very distinct generations. Also known as Generation X, contemporary society has grown up surrounded by the media, integrated with technology, but also sees the necessity of separation in their lives between technology and public persona and the private intimate world of home. What contemporary society recognizes is that their current state of living, the technology, the impact of immediate information has deteriorated the way in which they wish to live. It has not been integrated such as to allow for both public and private to coexist and overlap, but only when and where it is applicable to the individual. Although it is becoming harder and harder to control the information which is constantly invading our homes, through built separations and control of the equipment and built form we can provide potential separation when it is needed or desired. Generation X places a value on home and of the family encased within. Although that family, more often then not does not have to involve parents and children. The instability in careers and the constant manipulation of talent will see many more of this group setting up a work base at home, whether or not they have a separate office to go to primarily because of the uncertainty of their future. Also because outside of office time, it is highly likely that the individual will be pursuing interests which will further or change his occupation as required. Every space within the home is going to become an intimate extension of the individual, being the one soul place on earth which is theirs and that through travel, and the global village, they can call their own.

The affect this is going to have on the built environment, specifically on the state of the domestic dwelling has the potential to be limitless. In this paper are just some of the changes which could occur. Aside from the technical nature and computerized future we can see for the home, the way in which we develop spaces in the home, use them and transform them, will play a key role as the methodology behind the medieval great hall gets revisited. The house will have to be adaptable, will have to almost be elastic in its ability to be manipulated. The house for contemporary society will have to communicate at an intimate level with the individual's moods, emotions and needs. Unlike the chaotic and unordered lives of Contemporary society, the place that houses them will have to cradle them gently, being ordered with quick and easy transitions, taking away the complexities elsewhere in their lives and replacing them with a built harmony of space and form.

Contemporary reasoning is forcing the house to live up to it's potential and to provide a comfort zone which allows for a synthesis between work, home and play, public and private, as well as integrating local and global technologies.

Revolution, Abstract Cover:
Space magazine, Issue: September 21, 2000

Mondrian's Composition with grey and light brown
http://frederic.fillieux.free.fr/frameset/mondrian_frameset.html

Le Corbusier, Villa Savoye
Modern Architecture since 1900, pg. 188-189

Frank Lloyd Wright: Willit House
Modern Architecture since 1900, pg. 80-81

Falling Water:
http://ralfshome.virtualave.net/

1926 Television Image:
http://www.cinemedia.com.au/SFCV-RMIT-Annex/rnaughton/BAIRD_HILLS.html

Generation X:
http://www.coupland.com/index_ok.html

Family:
http://www.ralphbaer.com/biography.htm

Jack in the Box / Close the Box
http://www.ipfw.indiana.edu/cm1/jehle/web/cervante/doreeng1.htm

Berke, Deborah, Steven Harris. Architecture of the Everyday. Princeton Architectural Press: New York, 1997.

Betsky, Aaron. Queer Space. WIliam Morrow and Company, Inc.: New York, 1997.

Busch, Akiko. Geography of Home: writings on where we live. Princeton Architectural Press: New York, 1999.

Coupland, Douglas. "Generation X". St. Martin's Press: New York, 1991.

Curtis, William J. R. Modern Architecture since 1900. Phaidon Press Ltd.: London, 1982

Howe, Neil and Strauss, "Generations, The History of America's Future, 1584 to 2069", Quill an imprint of William Morrow and Company, Inc., USA, 1991.

HR Live. "X…..The Next Generation.," Updated 1998, http://www.hrlive.com/reports/genx.html (cited November 16, 2000)

Kovitz, Rob. Room Behaviour. Insomniac Press: Toronto, 1997.

Le Corbusier, Towards a New Architecture. Dover Publications, Inc.: New York, 1986.

Merriam - Webster, "Collegiate Dictionary," Copyright 2000, http://www.m-w.com/cgi-bin/dictionary (cited December 3, 2000)

Mitchell, William J. e-topia, "Urban life, Jim - but not as we know it". The MIT Press: Cambridge, MA, 1999.

Moore, Charles W., Gerald Allen, and Donlyn Lyndon. The Place of Houses. Holt Reinhart & Winston: New York, 1974.

Riley, Terence.  The Un-Private House.  Museum of Modern Art: New York, 1999.

Silverstone, Roger.  Television and Everyday Life.  Routledge: London, 1994.

Tabor, Philip.  Striking Home: the Telematic Assault on Identity.  Jonathon Hill (ed.).  Occupying architecture: Between the Architect and the User.  Routledge: London, 1998

Willard, John D.  "What Does It Mean to Be an X'er?,"  Updated October 6, 1997, http://members.aol.com/genxcoal/x-quest.htm (cited December 3, 2000).

Ward, Peter.  A History of Domestic Space: Privacy and the Canadian Home.  UBC Press: Vancouver, 1999.