



The Evolution of Housing Culture: Socio Spatial Changes, Revolutions and Crises

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ABSTRACT

This study examines the evolution of housing culture through the lens of significant historical turning points and crises, including the Agricultural, Industrial, and Information Revolutions, as well as epidemics and world wars. Furthermore, the study examines the ways in which these events have influenced not only the physical aspects of housing but also the social, cultural, and psychological dimensions. The analysis of housing is conducted from three perspectives: as a cultural object, a domestic space, and an element of urban planning. The interplay between lifestyle, technological advancements, and environmental factors is highlighted. The study employs a process-based approach to examine the evolution of housing in the context of revolutionary developments and crises, thereby providing a critical analysis of periods of changing modes of production and mass crises. It aims to assess whether this evolution has resulted in continuous improvements. Furthermore, the study examines the interaction between space and social relations, investigating how housing affects social relations and its spatial characteristics. This analysis aims to elucidate the manner in which housing structures serve not only to satisfy individual needs, but also to influence social hierarchies and social relations. The study highlights that not all changes are inherently positive; conversely, certain historical moments have had a deleterious impact on housing. The findings indicate that housing development is a reflection of broader societal changes, with transformations in daily routines, social structures, and technological innovations being central to the evolution of living spaces.

Keywords: Evolution of Dwelling, Revolutions, Crises, Living Practices, Socio Spatial Changes.

1 INTRODUCTION

The concept of dwelling is associated with a set of distinctive and fundamental psychological symptoms. Nevertheless, a comprehensive examination of the term reveals a more expansive range of meanings. A review of the literature reveals that the term 'dwelling' is defined in various ways. For example, the Merriam-Webster Dictionary (2023) defines it as 'a place offering protection from danger or adverse weather conditions', while the Macmillan Dictionary (2023) defines it as 'a dwelling place essential for human survival'. In academic literature, dwelling is defined as a physical structure that guarantees the safety and well-being of individuals by safeguarding against climatic circumstances, insects, rodents, predators, and environmental threats that may be detrimental to health and unwanted intrusions (Lawrence, 2012). Each modality of togetherness and of dwelling is characterised according to the human practices comprising it, and how these generate particular cultural and normative orientations in/of the world (Vandeventer, Lloveras, & Warnaby, 2023).

Maslow's (1943) hierarchy of needs provides the clearest and most identifiable response to the concept of "basic human needs" mentioned in the aforementioned definitions.

Dwelling, located in the "physiological needs" section at the base of the pyramid, is a crucial element for meeting other necessities in this segment. Furthermore, the opportunities available to individuals to satisfy their needs at the higher levels of the pyramid can influence their living conditions. For example, "self-realisation" aesthetic experiences at the pyramid's pinnacle contribute to the tangible characteristics of living spaces.

Before addressing the differences in this fundamental requirement, it is essential to consider the commonalities across periods.

- I. It has a certain degree of protective function from external factors, while at the same time creating a varying amount of private space (the change observed periodically is the degree of protection and the formation of private space),
- II. built by human beings (this item remains unchanged to the present day; it differs only in the context of the owner's labour and the hiring of professional services),
- III. Have a certain continuity,
- IV. Providing stability in its relations with the community; in other words, creating an address,
- V. Attribution of meaning by the inhabitants and others living in the community (Tekeli, 1996).

The variable factors of the concept are categorised into three main headings: physical characteristics, determinations relating to households, and approaches to settlement patterns. Physical factors include both a volumetric and typological view of the space, and "quality" standards in terms of materials and construction techniques (considering climate and topography). Households describe a functional perspective centred on the activities carried out within the space. The settlement patterns refer to the organic structure formed by the relationship of the living spaces with their surroundings and similar ones. In addition to all these factors, other functions (such as production) added to living spaces lead to changes in many parameters, as seen in the "revolutionary" classification made in the study. This additional function also shapes the daily life practices of the individuals in the household and determines the household size. In order to comprehend these sizes, it is necessary to consider the concepts of privacy and publicity, which are another determining factor in housing.

This study is fundamentally situated within the field of housing literature. This field of study encompasses a range of debates, even within its nomenclature. A comprehensive definition of housing can be posited as a commodity that is both produced and consumed, perceived and experienced, bought and sold. Another salient term is "dwelling," which functions as both a verb and a noun, thus exhibiting two semantic qualities. The term "housing" refers both to people's presence and actions in their homes and to the homes themselves (Ruonavaara, 2017). Furthermore, housing studies constitutes a multidisciplinary research domain encompassing disciplines such as sociology, psychology, economics, anthropology, history, planning, architecture, philosophy, and other academic and professional fields. Consequently, as articulated by King (2009), the endeavor to formulate a comprehensive theory of housing is neither feasible nor desirable. Instead, it is imperative to utilize the theoretical resources cultivated in predominant academic disciplines and interdisciplinary research domains when conceptualizing housing-related issues. In this context, the study examines the issue from the perspective of "dwelling sociology." The study defines housing culture as a everyday practice in which housing is the intersection of individual identity, social relations and collective meanings (Short, 1999).

2. RESEARCH DESIGN AND METHODOLOGY

The research questions of the study developed in parallel with the texts analysing the evolution of dwelling:

- I. What evolutionary patterns emerge when housing culture analyses from different historical periods in the literature are analysed together?
- II. Have these patterns consistently exhibited a linear nature, or has it demonstrated variability in its course over time?



III. In what ways do the assessments of different time periods in the literature converge in a holistic view?

In the light of these questions, many disciplines have analysed the subject from different perspectives. Shoenauer (1981) analysed the change in design criteria by examining formal features and mass arrangements. Oliver (1990) focused on the physical qualities of living spaces with an anthropological approach. Rapoport (2001) analysed the relationship between culture and dwelling in the context of environmental attitude. Ronald (2011) made an ethnographic evaluation of social relations within dwelling.

This study aims to analyse the evolution of dwelling culture through the lens of major historical events, including the Agricultural Revolution, Industrial Revolution, Information Revolution, Epidemic Diseases and World Wars. It seeks to answer two key questions: firstly, whether there is a correlation between significant historical turning points and changes in dwelling practices; and secondly, whether this evolution has consistently been positive. In other words, it provides a comprehensive evaluation of the evolution of dwelling. The article presents a process analysis, which involves an in-depth examination of specific historical periods. The interaction between space and social relations was examined by investigating the impact of dwelling on social relations and its spatial characteristics. This analysis seeks to elucidate the manner in which dwelling structures serve not only to satisfy individual needs, but also to influence social hierarchies and social relations. The process of selecting a few cases allows for the drawing of causal inferences (Mahoney, 2004). For this reason, the most significant events that humanity has experienced throughout its historical progression and that have exerted a profound influence on the general populace have been identified. The criterion for selecting pivotal moments is the occurrence of events that precipitate a transformation in the prevailing modes of production. The selection of crises is based on their extensive global ramifications. In order to gain insight into the collective impact of critical events on humanity, the research focused on pivotal moments in history that have shaped the evolution of dwelling culture. To achieve a multidimensional and holistic understanding of this evolution, the approach of "various selections of different disciplines," as proposed by Tekeli (1996), was adopted. The analysis of dwelling culture was conducted as follows:

1. A cultural object with its physical characteristics
2. The household as a whole
3. An element that reveals the settlement texture.

A variety of studies exist in the literature that focus singularly on the moments of rupture identified in this research. However, these analyses, which are limited in scope, do not demonstrate the trajectory of housing culture within the historical context. Consequently, this study aims to trace the evolution of housing culture by examining moments of rupture across a broad historical span. This comprehensive approach reveals that daily life is not a continuous progression but rather characterized by fluctuations in actions and dwellings. The geographical focus of the study is centred on the west, as this region offers a comprehensive historical timeline and uninterrupted observation of moments of rupture.

3. THE EVOLUTION OF DWELLING CULTURE

To talk about the domesticity of the act of dwelling, it will be necessary to wait until the "recent" period of the adventure of Homo Sapiens. It should be emphasised that until the moment of "construction by humans", which is the point where the need for shelter is standard regardless of the period, this action was tried to be provided to the extent of the opportunities provided by nature (caves, hollows, pits, etc.) (Davis, 2004) (Figure 1). Anthropologically, these opportunities provided by nature should be evaluated as shelters that people use as they are, make use of without making any effort to change them and do not add anything of their own. In this context, "windbreaks" are the oldest

archaeologically identified structural element, a cultural product produced by humans and constitute the first simple example of “shelter” (Arsebük, 1996).



Figure 1: Cave inhabitants (World Heritage Convention, 1999)

In the “domesticated” world, the home serves not only as a shelter or a spatial organisation of actions, but also as a central means through which people form and express their thoughts. This is because the home is analogically the first universe that humans encounter (Bachelard, 1994). Therefore, contrary to understanding home as something given, in reality it is continuously (re)constituted by everyday socio-material practices (Bosmans, Li, & Pang, 2022). Every space that includes the function of shelter represents its user’s mental and physical “universe” (Wilson, 1988). This analogical conceptualisation and representation reveal the necessity of evaluating the shelter holistically with its immediate surroundings without limiting it to a structural structure. This includes the fields, crops, shelters, animals, parasites, and bacterial clusters that have settled as sharecroppers. Scott (2017) describes the first observable examples of shelters as follows:

“An unprecedented and extraordinary concentration of ploughed fields, seed and grain stores, humans and domestic animals, constantly evolving with unpredictable consequences.”

The concentration of food abundance, security, and collective mobility (inter-human and human-animal-plant relations) prevented the use of time entirely to avoid life threats. This factor that enabled development created new sociological contexts and spatially transformed living spaces.

The concepts of segregation and inequality, which emerged due to new forms of production, consumption, and social relations, brought privileges. From this point on, as in many other issues, the evolution of living spaces has yet to progress pretty. With the emergence of the phenomena of ruling and rulers, these inequalities have been experienced in many cases, such as material quality in a shelter made of reeds, ornamentation and size in tent clusters, road paving to prevent mud in castle settlements, or the comforts reserved for the aristocracy reaching the people hundreds of years later. In Mumford’s (1961) conceptualisation, this observation is called the “law of cultural leakage”: “Innovations made by a privileged few and their diffusion over centuries to the lower economic classes”.

3.1 Historical Turning Points

A turning point presents a challenge. If old coping strategies are insufficient to overcome the challenge, then there is a need to devise new methods. In cases where this pressure can be managed, “revolutions” occur, while crises arise when the pressure cannot be

alleviated. At the end of periods when cultural elements transform rather than evolve, and individuals focus on innovation and innovative solutions, society is restructured, resulting in a complete overhaul of cultural aspects from social interactions to the economy, space, and technology, ultimately creating a new order. These periods of transformation are termed “revolutions” owing to their short duration (Özdoğan, 1996).

The first known breaking moment in human history is the thinking and communication skills humans acquired due to a series of genetic mutations (Harari, 2015). Harari calls this the “Cognitive Revolution”. The beginning of agricultural activities can be presented as a turning point with spatial consequences.

Agricultural Revolution

Unlike popular belief, a revolution should not be viewed as a miraculous event in time. A coexistence of hunter-gatherer and sedentary systems existed for an extended period. As stated by Childe (2003), homo sapiens adopted a settled life long before agricultural activities. The revolutionary aspect is the shift to a “food production economy.” One of the crucial components of this change was the management of water resources and creating diverse irrigation systems based on the region (Bronowski, 1973). The process impacted both hunter-gatherer communities and the settlers’ way of life. Given the limited resources of collecting food communities, the gathering and hunting skills they honed to survive led to a complete depletion of resources in the subsequent period (Childe, 2003). On the other hand, sedentary groups that adopted the production economy allowed their population to increase by cultivating more land and thus had many more individuals to cultivate (Figure 2).

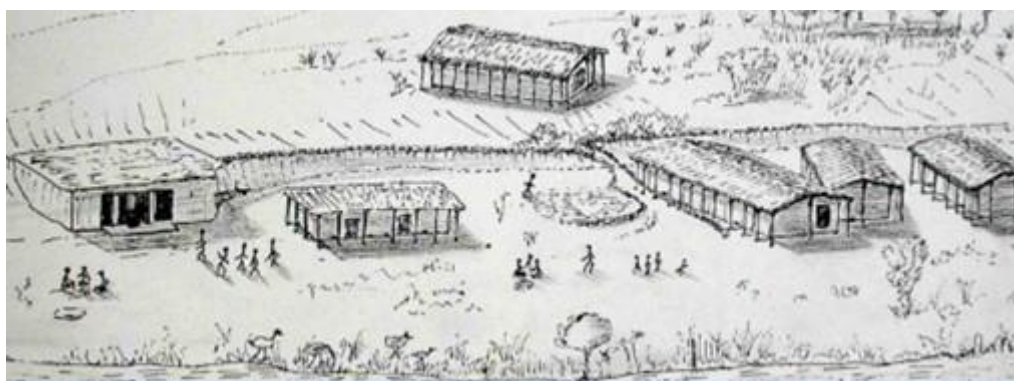


Figure 2: Nevali Cori, 8000 BC (Hauptmann, 1999)

Although food production has contributed to the growth of households, it has had enduring effects on human physical characteristics. The body has become weakened and less resistant to disease due to immobility, which has compounded with increasing population and resulted in early signs of frequent infections and malnutrition.

The agricultural revolution’s most significant transformation spatial quality and functionality was instigating storage activities. The function of storage arose as a distinct structure in neighbouring living spaces and has become a value humanity embraces. During this era, space as a dimensional concept incorporates the purpose of storing resources and sustenance whilst maintaining the privacy of a family or tribe within its enclosed vicinity (Kuban, 1996). At this stage, the purpose of storage is to preserve food for consumption and exchange; rather than accumulating wealth. In this case, a mechanism for managing acquired resources has been established, although not yet systematised. On the other hand, granaries located side by side with shelters support the idea that the control over grain storage was organised on a family scale, not a community scale (Di Nocera, 2018).

Another fundamental spatial aspect evident from this period via archaeological investigations is burying the deceased within their abodes (on average 50cm below ground

level). This reflects reverence towards the forefathers; however, this tradition also grants the living rightful ownership of the land. As Reader (2004) argues, only the deceased exclusively reside eternally in a place. The earliest indications of the concept of property can be traced back to this location; it is widely accepted that no one contests a family's entitlement to maintain ownership of the land upon which they buried their deceased relatives (Figure 3).

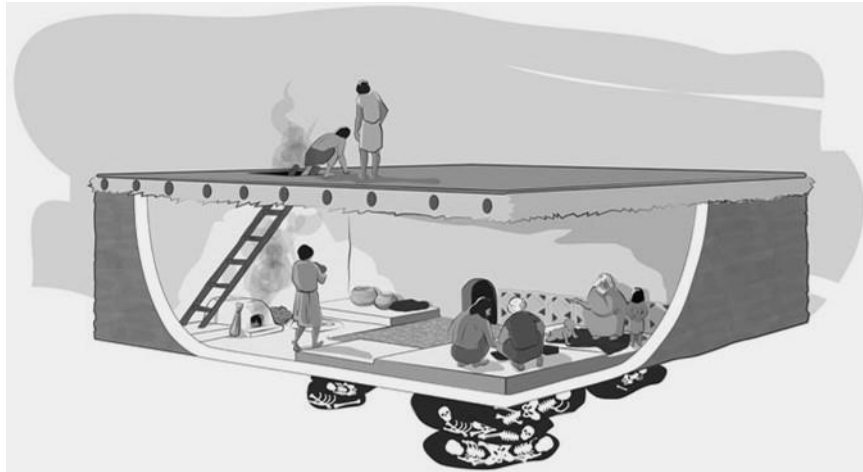


Figure 3: The dead under the ground, Çatalhöyük, 6500 BC (Killackey, 2013)

In later periods, burial rituals gave birth to various concepts. Metal gradually gained a significant role in societies over centuries. The increasing presence of metal objects and weapons among grave goods indicates the emergence of social inequality for the first time (Di Nocera, 2018). Additionally, the disruption of physiological rhythms represents another slow but irreversible change in social dynamics. It can be assumed that hunters and gatherers have developed a certain daily rhythm. Conversely, farmers engaged in stationary agriculture are constrained by a single food web, and their routines are dependent on its pace. However, with each step in this evolutionary process, there is a significant narrowing of focus and a considerable simplification of work (Lattimore, 1935). Human domestication and control of plants led to an annual sequence of routines, including reaping, bundling, beating, chaff separation, threshing, drying, and sorting. These activities regulated various aspects of society, such as working life, settlement patterns, social structure, dwelling organization, and spiritual practices. Furthermore, the daily processing of agricultural produce for consumption, including year-round activities such as beating, grinding, firing, and cooking, establishes the rhythm and routine of living spaces (Scott, 2017). This traditional routine has persisted for millennia.

Industrial Revolution

One would have to wait approximately 5000 years for another significant turning point where the aforementioned routines would change drastically. Even in such an extensive period, varying alterations are certain to have occurred, although they may not be considered turning points. It cannot be asserted that many of these changes have had a positive impact. As population growth continues to outpace the number of available living spaces in settlements, it is evident that the interior quality of living spaces and the lack of integration with the surrounding environment are ongoing issues. Despite including new actions in dwelling culture, they have not been functionally integrated into living spaces, resulting in public solutions for functions such as bathrooms, bakeries, and patient care being necessary within urban spaces. During the progression towards the Industrial Revolution, the disparity in dwelling availability between urban and rural areas continued to grow. Urban living spaces encounter issues in meeting fundamental necessities such as access to "daylight" and "fresh air", which are readily available in the countryside.

In addition to these concrete deficiencies, the medieval house also had abstract deprivations: "privacy" and "comfort" (Mumford, 1961). The Industrial Revolution, far from solving these problems, deepened them. Like the agricultural revolution, this period is basically a process of economic transformation. However, the autonomy enjoyed by communities that did not adopt food production and continued to live as hunter-gatherers was rescinded from societies focussed on food production through industrial mechanisation. In the context of agrarian capitalism, the ability to produce subsistence for self-consumption was confiscated from farmers and handed over to land-owning nobility (Çakır Kantarcıoğlu, 2018). The rural populace had to relocate to urban areas to fulfil crucial functions as they no longer had the chance to participate in independent farming. The medieval cities, ill-equipped to handle a population rise, failed to provide sufficient accommodation for their new residents to meet their fundamental requirements. Especially in England, the geographical advantage led to abandoning the safe shelter structure behind the medieval walls, resulting in settlements expanding and relocating outside the walls (Hall, 1998). Furthermore, the working class relocated from urban centres to the periphery due to industry decentralisation (Hall, 1998). Thus, it is essential to distinguish between the Upper/Middle class and the poor when analysing the development of dwelling culture and spaces.

The spatial practices of the palace had a gradual impact on the dwelling culture of the middle class during this period, as cultural leakage persisted. Just as functions are spatially distinct in cities, living spaces are also specialised according to crucial actions. Firstly, meal organisations became independent of living spaces; next, sleeping activities were withdrawn to their spaces (Mumford, 1961). The functions spatially and structurally fragmented in the city were also fragmented in the dwelling. The birth of the concept of the corridor transformed the medieval house's lack of privacy.

The impoverished labourers resided in a living space plagued by damp walls. Each room occupied a single family, and in some areas, two families alternated using the same room and bed (Figure 4). The back-to-back spaces lacked proper ventilation and natural lighting. Furthermore, there was no access to water, and dozens of families shared a solitary toilet (Ragon, 1972). Engels (1872) noted that numerous areas were comprised of rooms with damaged doors and windows cluttered with rubbish. These rooms measured one hundred and fifty centimetres in width and one hundred and eighty centimetres in height.



Figure 4: 3 Different "Back-To-Back" dwelling textures, England, 1800s (Dauntun, 1983)

It is impossible for humans to satisfy their fundamental need for dwelling in such a spatial arrangement. The described conditions will indisputably result in physiological complications for individuals, as well as psychological problems. A growing body of evidence suggests that emotional instability is prevalent in urban areas that are at the forefront of industrialization (Obschonka et al., 2017). Hence, mental health must be a part

of this discussion, even though it is not given priority. One aspect that exemplifies this is the experience of loneliness. Loneliness, as a concept in the category of the basic need of the individual in certain periods, although not continuously, is unattainable for the worker who lives with his family in a narrow dwelling and knows neither free space nor free time (Lefebvre, 1991). Therefore, "contemplation" was a luxury in the conditions of the period.

Information Revolution

The last break in the process was the technological developments at the beginning of the 20th century. In this period, as the speed of reflection of the innovations in daily life increased compared to the past, the number of transformed points also increased. In this context, the most important factor in the change of dwelling practices is the mechanisation and electrification of movement (Clark et al., 2008; Richard, 2020). "Man, who for millennia has moved with the power of himself or his animal, thus his speed has remained constant, has increased his speed 10-15 times with the opportunities offered by technology and made it a standard that the majority can use" (Bilgin, 2001). Railway transport between settlements, which started with the Industrial Revolution, has triggered urban fringing by creating a pattern within the cities since the beginning of the 20th century. In this way, living spaces were able to break away from settlement centres and evolved into a form independent of certain constraints imposed by the centre. In the following period, it is observed that the middle class shifted to the periphery with the highway network added to this structure. After the unhealthy, high-density dwelling conditions of the Industrial Revolution, the suburbs, which were thought to have the potential for an organisation where the population could spread out but still have access to the centre, transformed the living spaces physically and sociologically.

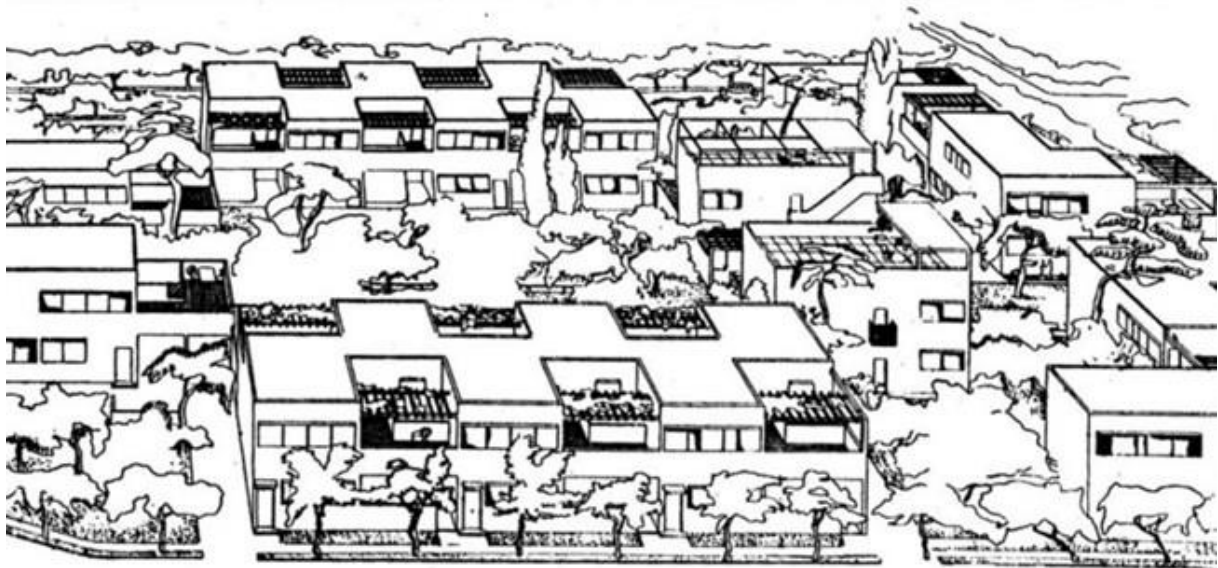


Figure 5: Decentralised residential patterns Pessac, France (World Haritage, 2016)

Under the influence of modernism, this process aimed to cultivate a fresh way of life through planning and architecture by considering it a chance to reorganise society. Consequently, the emergence of prefabricated concrete, cutting-edge kitchens and bathrooms, and spacious dwelling areas with natural lighting (Wakeman, 2016). In this light, there has been a tendency to integrate some functions specifically in the living spaces, especially in medieval cities. Urban infrastructure has become more accessible both technically and economically due to technological advancements. This has brought about significant transformations in urban living spaces.

The digitalisation of information and communication is yet another change, which emerged as a crucial component of the technological revolution in the latter half of the 20th century.

During the Information Revolution, Castells (2010) argues that the city transformed into an informational process, with structural dominance of the space of flows. This is due to the nature of modern society being based on information, organized around networks, and partially composed of flows. Castells states that this evolution is not just an urban form, but a continuous process. Patterns emerge between spaces that have become segregated due to the increased mobility of humans since the turn of the century. The result of the flexible organization of production and the substantial increase in subcontracting is the replacement of the vertical integration of the industrial era by horizontal, loosely connected networks managed by elite experts at the center (Susser, 2002). Another flow occurs between work-living spaces, with specialised companies (Petresin, 2000) able to break the symbiotic relationship with labour, due to their higher accuracy, speed and low-cost organization compared to the extensive production dynamics of the industrial age. But the focus remains on the home as both the starting and ending point of flows, much like in historical processes where it represents a place of refuge.

3.2 Crisis

Undoubtedly, the evolution of dwelling practices encompasses not just revolutionary turning points experienced by humanity, but also crises that affect daily life and its spaces at various junctures. Crisis constitutes a negative subset of the turning point phenomenon and is derived from the Greek words "krisis" and "krino", meaning "to make a distinction" and "to decide", respectively (Merriam-Webster Dictionary, 2023). According to Diamond (2019), a crisis is a sudden emergence or mobilization of pressures that have been increasing for an extended period and can be defined in different ways based on frequencies, durations, and impact areas. Epidemics constitute one of the most critical crises addressed in the literature, considering the duration and impact area.

Epidemics

In recent years, advancements in medical science have led to a reduction in the prevalence of diseases affecting large populations since the mid-20th century. However, the existence of settled people involved in fixed agriculture has witnessed a disease that has reached epidemic proportions (Caldwell, 2001), which can also be traced back to the earliest written sources. Increased size and decreased mobility as populations shifted from foraging to farming provided conditions that promoted the maintenance and spread of infectious disease generally (Larsen, 2006). Crowded populations, typically associated with settled life, foster ideal conditions for pathogens to reproduce (Scott, 2017). This transformation serves as proof that epidemics necessitate changes in living spaces to cope. As a result, living spaces have been forced to adapt to manage this self-inflicted problem.

The discussion surrounding the effects of epidemics on living spaces requires an objective and clear approach, beginning with the understanding that settling and establishing habitats creates the epidemic. One such adaption is the oldest and simplest element of having sick individuals in households leave the living space until they regain their health. To clarify, the initial development occurs through the sociological aspects of space rather than physical ones. A preliminary impact of the pandemic on dwelling culture was the elimination of dangerous waste materials generated by humans and animals from domestic environments, albeit through rudimentary waste disposal techniques (Reader, 2004). However, the lack of development of technical competencies alongside population growth during the Middle Ages meant that conditions were difficult in contiguous and sewer less areas, particularly in cities. Additionally, in these cramped spaces where daily goods were not personalized, some individuals and livestock cohabited. The plague, one of the most devastating epidemics to hit medieval Europe, spread rapidly in this environment. The rodents that infested the houses with compacted soil floors were a significant vector for the disease. This resulted in a notable transformation in the manner of house construction. The use of soil as a building material was replaced with stone in order to reduce the likelihood of rats and other pests invading living spaces. It is evident that this transformation was advantageous to the ruling and merchant classes, and it took a

considerable length of time for its advantages to be extended to the impoverished (Özden & Özmat, 2014).

Despite the prediction that the relationship between space and disease in the Middle Ages would decline in the subsequent era, the opposite occurred, with the effects being more severe in industrial cities. The lack of access to clean water resulted in inadequate domestic cleaning during this period. Rooms without sunlight caused rickets in children. Poor hygiene conditions, resulting from a lack of water, caused skin diseases. The inadequate removal of waste from houses caused the spread of diseases such as smallpox and typhoid fever. The absence of fresh air caused mass deaths from diseases such as tuberculosis.

World Wars

Another era of widespread fatalities was the two world wars that occurred during the first half of the 20th century. The First World War brought about significant modifications in the dwelling culture. The primary causes of these changes can be attributed to inflation, hunger (Blum, 2011), and dwelling shortages. The exponential need for dwelling units due to the returning soldiers from the war necessitated novel settlements and innovative dwelling solutions. However, the economic constraints of the time meant that solutions had to focus on achieving maximum production through inexpensive and standard materials, and simple designs (Ekici, 2013). Measures were taken during this period to combat the emergence of unhealthy living conditions resulting from the population explosion in urban areas after the Industrial Revolution. For instance, in the United Kingdom, the Tudor Walters committee's report aimed to introduce regulations regarding the location, organization, density, access, plans, cost, materials, and equipment of dwelling units (Ohtsubo, 2023). The dwelling crisis, which escalated during the latter half of the 20th century, owing to the urban destruction caused by the Second World War, reached a critical point with post-war population growth. One primary strategy to resolve the crisis was the construction of fresh dwelling zones, as observed in post-industrial cities. To scrutinise the workings and consequences of this approach, it is imperative to examine the cultural and social framework that transformed the war. Following the altering family patterns that ensued after the war, there was a notable escalation in marriage and birth rates, and with the return of men from war, women resumed the domestic routine. Moreover, the industry pivoted from wartime production to civilian life, ultimately facilitating standardised middle-class dwelling estates (Sönmez, 2014). It could be argued that these developments paved the way for the emergence of the "neighbourhood" concept, which forms the foundation of modern planning methodologies. Wakeman (2016) describes the impact of the neighbourhood unit on the evolution of dwelling culture as follows:

"The neighbourhood became part of a return to the order in which the family was the basis of social life... / ...The antidote to these disasters was the everyday community practices, the ordinary banality of homes, schools and playgrounds. The neighbourhood was a space of normality, an incubator of citizenship and civic virtues... / ...The neighbourhood was also a mechanism for organising state investments around specific objectives. New cities were the prototypes for the organisation of these investments, and the neighbourhood was the socially designed space in which these investments would take shape."

From this point onwards, several dwelling-related trends have been observed. Firstly, it has been recognised that households have become smaller, the diversity of household types has increased, and society has become more multicultural, leading to a wider diversity of dwelling preferences. Secondly, there is a demand for holistic quality in residential neighbourhoods. Finally, residents spend longer in the same dwelling due to economic conditions. These trends suggest the need for more individualised approaches in the planning of residential areas and the design of units (Coolen, 2015). Additionally, there is a growing demand for dwelling options that offer a higher degree of privacy (Tsubaki, 2000).

4. FINDINGS AND CONCLUSIONS

This article examines the evolution of dwelling culture and spaces, focusing on the dramatic transformations brought about by the agricultural, industrial, and information revolutions, and the effects of epidemics and World Wars. Table 1 presents the parameters and effects obtained from this analysis. Table 1 illustrates that significant turning points in human history have impacted and altered the physical, sociological, cultural, and psychological aspects of living spaces and their surroundings. Consequently, planning and design processes have also developed and adapted to these changes. Furthermore, upon analysis of this progression, it has been discovered that the evolutionary context has not consistently and unceasingly advanced in a positive direction and has even experienced some setbacks.

Table 1: Evolutionary analysis of dwelling culture and spaces

	Milestones	Parameters	Impacts
Turning Points	Agricultural Revolution	Transition to the food production economy (Childe, 2003)	Storage activities to preserve food with a focus on consumption and exchange
		Seasonal Routines (Scott, 2017)	The domestication of plants into human control, the set of routines that regulate working life, settlement patterns, social structure, the organisation of living spaces and spiritual life.
	Industrial Revolution	Urban Class Divisions (Mumford, 1961) (Engels, 1872)	Privatisation of middle-class spaces with a focus on vital functions / Unhealthy living spaces of the urban poor
		Psychological Problems (Obschonka et al., 2017; Lefebvre, 1991)	Lack of free space in the context of aloneness
	Information Revolution	Mechanisation and electrification of movement (Clark et al., 2008; Richard, 2020; Bilgin, 2001)	The ability of living spaces to break away from settlement centres, to be independent from certain constraints imposed by the centre and urban sprawl
		Digitalisation of Information and Communication (Castells, 2010; Petresin, 2000; Susser, 2002)	Specialised companies with an organisation according to the comprehensive production dynamics of the industrial age can break the symbiotic relationship with the labour force (i.e., living spaces)
Crisis	Epidemics	Agricultural Society (Caldwell, 2001; Larsen, 2006)	Epidemics caused by settling in a place
		Basic Waste Management (Reader, 2004)	Removal of harmful wastes of humans and animals from their habitats
		Transformation of Construction Materials (Özden & Özmat, 2014)	Replacing the use of soil in houses with stone to reduce the possibility of mice and pests reaching living spaces
	World Wars	Changing family structure after the war (Wakeman, 2016)	The birth of the concept of "neighbourhood", which is at the basis of modern planning approaches
		Geometric population increase (Coolen, 2015; Tsubaki, 2000)	A process in which households are becoming smaller, diversity in household types is increasing and society is becoming more multicultural / Increasing demand for larger dwellings and privacy

As people change, they also change and transform their spaces. To the extent that daily actions are differentiated, environmental elements react to this and present new problems to human beings. Societies have created historical turning points as they cope with these situations and have been dragged into crises when they could not find solutions. The following conclusions were derived from the comprehensive evaluation of these critical incidents:

- I. As the methods and systems utilized in the production of goods and services evolve, the internal organizational structure of dwellings undergoes transformation.

- Concurrently, the external environment in which they are situated is subject to change. These shifts in the external environment and in the internal organizational structure of dwellings give rise to alterations in the routines of their inhabitants.
- II. Throughout history, privileged groups have had access to all physical and social elements that engender comfort. These opportunities have only disseminated to the general population after their widespread acceptance.
 - III. Each period of transition has led to significant alterations in the relationship between housing and work, as well as in the cultural context of housing. Depending on the mode of production, there have been periods in which housing and working areas have been intertwined, while in other periods, the relationship has been broken.
 - IV. Throughout the historical process, novel activities have been incorporated into the dwelling. This phenomenon has resulted in a transitivity of function between the interior of the dwelling and the urban space.
 - V. All periods of transition have been accompanied by significant alterations in population dynamics. A notable increase in population is observed at these junctures, while a decline is typically seen during periods of crisis.
 - VI. All evolutionary processes are directly related to human mobility and accessibility.

As a result, the culture of dwelling has evolved from a natural, opportunity-based approach to one that shapes natural resources to provide shelter. In the transition from a subsistence society based on food production, processing and storage to a self-sufficient lifestyle, the development of private living spaces was a key aspect of this change. In the initial stages of this transition, individuals began to establish their own private living spaces, utilising a diverse range of materials, including earth, glass, wood and steel, to provide privacy and shelter. These developments facilitated an enhanced quality of life.

The present discussion, situated within the context of this humanistic narrative, illustrates that the coexistence of all living beings on a planetary scale is not a mere option, but rather an imperative. It is evident that human beings, who have adopted the principle of determining their parameters in accordance with their own welfare, must alter their perspective in order to survive. Living spaces are once again undergoing an evolutionary process, with the emergence of new actions that lead to new spaces within the culture of shelter. The outcome of this evolution will be contingent upon the democratic fiction that is created through the utilisation of resources in an appropriate manner.

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