

## **Cities, Communities and Homes: Is the Urban Future Livable?**

• **Paper / Proposal Title:**

Home Outside The Boundaries

• **Format:**

Written Paper

• **Author(s) Name:**

Heba Mohamed Salah Sarhan

• **University or Company Affiliation:**

Northumbria University

• **Abstract (300 words):**

The proposed paper discusses the way people interact with their surrounding communities and how this communication influences the development of their sense of 'home' towards the context of the place of residence. Changes in political and economic forces influence the communities and result in a dynamic social character for the social interaction between individuals and the changing social identity of the environments where they live. In some cases, when individuals are not engaged in shaping these changes, they develop a sense of placelessness towards the outside community where the concept of 'home' is confined within the physical boundaries of their dwelling units.

The paper proposes a review of the literature which is led by the following enquiry:  
With respect to taking the thresholds as a context for interaction between the insideness of the place of dwelling and the outside context; how can the meaning of the social interaction between individuals and the community be understood in relation to the spatial characteristics of the thresholds?

The research objective is to explore former approaches and methods for understanding the dynamics of change of the meaning of the social interaction between individuals and their surrounding communities. The paper aims to integrate these approaches and methods with tools of spatial analysis in order to study the meaning of people's experiences in relationship to the spatial structure of the inside-outside threshold of their place of dwelling.

The review indicates limitations in the applications within literature where the meaning of the social aspects of home was discussed in relation to the spatial characteristics of the places of dwelling.

**• Author(s) Biography (200 words each):**

The author is a graduate of the school of Architecture - Cairo University (2001). In 2009 she earned her Master's degree in environmental studies from the School of Architecture at University of Sheffield, and later assigned Assistant Lecturer at the Modern Sciences and Arts University in Cairo - Egypt (2015). The author is currently studying her PhD program at Northumbria University focusing on the meaning of place in residential environments. Alongside academia she is a practicing architect mainly engaged in residential projects.