

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

- **Paper / Proposal Title:**

Dwellscape

'The Contemporary Dwelling Interior as a Continuation of Architectonic Space'

- **Format:**

Written paper / verbal presentation

- **Author(s) Name:**

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- **University or Company Affiliation:**

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- **Abstract (300 words):**

The dwelling interior is arguably the most significant built environment that we inhabit given the central position that it plays in our daily lives. Despite the importance of this built environment, the contemporary architectural discourse related to the domestic environment often seems to be focused on either the purely functionalist programming of space or the formalistic expression of the exterior.

I will investigate new knowledge that can be generated by applying 'structuralist' architectural theory from Aldo van Eyck relating to spatial organisation, thresholds and social participation to the dwelling interior in order to challenge the realisation of interior environments based upon either the purely functionalist programming of space or as a consequence of the formalistic expression of the exterior. Perhaps in part due to the pressing needs of the urban realm during the 1950s, realised projects from the architects of Structuralism have largely been confined to large scale urban developments such as housing estates, office buildings, airports and city master plans. I believe that due to the

symbiotic nature of the city and the dwelling that this 'structuralist' theory is equally applicable to the domestic interior.

The methodological framework for this study will involve the development of a series of epistemic artefacts through research by design. I will employ theory from Aldo van Eyck that has typically been applied at the urban scale relating to spatial organisation, thresholds and social participation and apply it to the domestic interior scale through a scale-shift.

I will make a critical analysis of the epistemic artefacts in order to identify architectural strategies that can make a positive contribution to discourse related to spatial organization, thresholds and social participation within the domestic environment. It is intended that these observations will contribute to the current discourse on the contemporary dwelling interior.

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

Nicholas Thomas Lee is currently studying for a PhD and teaching in The Institute for Architecture and Design at The Royal Danish Academy of Fine Arts, School of Architecture, Copenhagen. His project is entitled 'Dwellscape: The Contemporary Dwelling Interior as a Continuation of Architectonic Space'. Nicholas specialises in micro-architecture and furniture design with a research focus on interiority and dwelling. Prior to starting his PhD he has worked internationally as an architect and furniture designer in the UK, France, Sweden and Denmark. He has been involved in projects ranging from housing to the design of industrial furniture, collaborating with architects and designers such as Toyo Ito, Ron Arad, Ab Rogers, Cecil Balmond & Kontrapunkt. He has exhibited work in Milan, London, Luxembourg & Denmark. Nicholas holds an MA from The Royal Danish Academy of Arts, School of Architecture and a bachelor degree in Architecture from The University of Bath.