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POST-DOMESTIC  
HABITAT  
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**0. EDITORIAL #25**

**Post-Domestic Revolution** **006**  
by Michela Bassanelli & Vera Sacchetti

**I. MORE-THAN-HUMAN PERSPECTIVES. COHABITATION, TECHNOLOGY, ARTIFICIAL INTELLIGENCE**

**Biotopia. The Design of Decentered Domesticities** **020**  
by Jacopo Leveratto

**Transhuman Identities. Rewiring the Domestic Subject** **038**  
by Vanessa Galvin

**Post-Domestic Living. The Challenge of Adapting Domestic Spaces to the Evolution of Digital Technologies** **051**  
by Silvana Donatiello & Mariarita Gagliardi

**Extractivism, Gendered-Computing and Online Queer Spaces. The Case of the Sims and Liquid Nitrogen Overclocking** **073**  
by Cyrus Khalatbari, Lucrezia Perrig & Guillaume Guenat

**RGB Tour. Exploring of the “YouTube Bedroom” Type** **098**  
by Nicolas Bailleul

**Rethinking Carceral Domesticity. Electronic Monitoring, Punishment and Home as Prison** **121**  
by Ece Canli

**II. DOMESTIC DEVICES. HOW INTERIOR ARCHITECTURE AND DESIGN REACT TO THE CONTEMPORARY SCENARIO**

**Habitat as a Service. From Bespoke to Custom Interiors** **149**  
by Raffaella Fagnoni, Davide Crippa & Annapaola Vacanti

**Flexibility in the Workplace. Envisioning the Role of Domestic Spaces in the Era of Hybrid Work** **169**  
by Sofia Cretaio & Paolo Tamborrini

**Vicarious Domestic States. The Post-Domestic Turn of Digital Twinning Habitual Settings** **193**  
by Gerhard Bruyns, Daniel Elkin, Andrea Navarrete & Veronica Ching Lee

**The Scenography of Everyday Theater. A New Narrative of Domesticity** **209**  
by Jiarui Cui

<b>Vanity Chamber. Reflecting Upon Domestic Boundaries and Frontiers for a Post-Pandemic Home</b> by Nicholas Thomas Lee	<b>227</b>
<b>Post-Domestic Ageing. Living Indoors (Without) Looking Outside? Architectural Design and IT Devices for a New “Ageing in Place”</b> by António Carvalho, Tianqin Chen & Jingya Zhou	<b>254</b>
<b>Redefining Paradigms. How Technology Shapes Interior Spaces in the Age of Drones and Flying Cars</b> by Anna Barbara & Elena Baharlouei	<b>283</b>
<b>III. BIOGRAPHIES</b>	
<b>About the Authors</b>	<b>303</b>

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**EDITORIAL**  
**#25**

# The Post-Domestic Revolution

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006

## 1. Introduction

Over the past three years, the international debate on architecture and design has been deeply influenced by various *crises*, including health, environmental, social, and economic emergencies (Antonelli & Rawsthorn, 2022). In this dynamic, post-pandemic context, the integration of new technologies into domestic spaces through personal devices has profoundly altered the way these spaces are utilized (Colomina, 2006). From the initial impact of television screens and computers to the contemporary intrusion of social networks, video games, and artificial intelligence (Pasquinelli, 2023), interiors are constantly evolving and adapting to technological advancements that redefine their functional boundaries.

The notion of Post-Domesticity, as introduced by philosopher Paul B. Preciado in his work *Pornotopia. An Essay on Playboy's Architecture and Biopolitics* (2014), serves as a precursor to the current scenario marked by the erasure of boundaries between public and private spheres (Bassanelli, 2022). Preciado's insights offer a lens through which we can understand the contemporary dynamics of domestic spaces in the context of technological advancements. Inhabitants now find themselves not only as actors but also as spectators of their own actions within their living spaces. This transformation is indicative of a paradigm shift where the boundaries between the physical and digital realms become increasingly indistinct. The profound transformation of domestic spaces extends beyond mere physical changes. According to Marina

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Opening photo: Nicholas Thomas Lee and Peter Alexander Bullough, *Vanity Chamber*, multiplied interior reflections, 2022. (Photo: Hampus Berndtson).

Otero Verzier (2018), everything traditionally categorized as private life – including domestic space, the human body, and communication – is now intricately woven into the production and working processes. This intertwining of the private and professional realms emphasizes the need for a reevaluation of traditional concepts related to privacy and personal space. These ongoing crises and technological advancements have propelled a redefinition of domestic spaces, challenging conventional notions of privacy and blurring the lines between public and private spheres. Understanding these shifts is crucial for architects and designers to adapt their approaches to meet the evolving needs of contemporary inhabitants. This issue of PAD offers a critical reflection on these changes. Collecting thirteen essays, the issue is divided into two chapters: *More-Than-Human Perspectives* and *Domestic Devices*. This division organizes the selected contributions in an effort to emphasize different levels of interpretation, from more reflexive to case-study discussions.

## **2. More-Than-Human Perspectives. Cohabitation, Technology, Artificial Intelligence**

Showcasing examples that decenter the human, the first chapter of this journal invites the entanglements (Lowenhaupt Tsing, 2015) of More-Than-Human Perspective to create an enriched understanding of the dimensions in which these elements contribute to question and transform conventional norms of world-building (Sacchetti, 2023). Furthermore, conventional notions of nature, gender, and technological progress, among others, are questioned and analysed in a series of inquisitive reflections that many times offer speculations



on alternative understandings of the domestic and personal realms. The More-Than-Human, here, exists in the digital and physical sphere, in a biodiverse understanding of the planet and its ecosystems, and in the creation and erasure of boundaries within a renewed understanding of the contemporary domestic realm. In Jacopo Leveratto's *Biotopia. The Design of Decentered Domesticities*, the More-Than-Human manifests in a concrete design approach that subverts the traditional strategies of domination that are prevalent in architecture and design. Instead, the outcome – a domestic space, a house – integrates an approach of adaptation to the existing context and setting, proposing a new way of inhabiting the world that mimics ideas of biodiversity, described by the author as, in this example, “the most beautiful way of inhabiting the world that one may imagine.” Vanessa Galvin, on the other hand, bridges the gap towards the technological disruption of the last decades. In *Transhuman Identities. Rewiring the Domestic Subject*, the author contemplates technological discourses beyond design and domestic environments that have shaped the understanding of the inhabiting self. Drawing from evolutionary biology, historical fiction and contemporary film, the author focuses on Sir Julian Huxely's 1968 definition of Transhumanism – a branch of philosophy that seeks to enhance physical, emotional and intellectual human attributes via scientific and or technological interventions – to define a more-than-human entity that inhabits contemporary interiors, determining the transition, still in course, to a post-domestic realm and interior.

Technology permeates this chapter in analyses that consider smaller or larger scales. In Silvana Donatiello and Mariarita

Gagliardi's *Post-Domestic Living. The Challenge of Adapting Domestic Spaces to the Evolution of Digital Technologies*, dimensions of augmented reality (AR) and artificial intelligence (AI) are considered to challenge a functional understanding of spatial planning and the conception of interiors. Looking at the cases of virtual assistants and the multiplication of instances of play and entertainment – or alienation – within the domestic interior, the authors describe the opportunities and responsibilities that come with the evolution of the home towards an ever-evolving dynamic and adaptive space – not unlike the biodiverse interior. The dimensions of play and entertainment are at the center of *Nature as a Resource for Our Gendered Computing-Culture. Between Material and Digital Domesticity*, by Cyrus Khalatbari, Lucrezia Perrig, and Guillaume Guenat. The paper focuses on two case studies, one at the level of software and one at the level of hardware, to demonstrate how ideas of domination and control associated with the constructs of “nature” and “gender” are at the basis of contemporary computing culture; it then shifts the gaze to employ a set of queer analytical tools in the analysis of gaming culture, in order to adopt a so-called “meta-hybrid approach” to deconstruct the aforementioned preconceptions.

Nicolas Bailleul's paper *RGB tour* explores a known video typology on YouTube to chart the evolution and preservation of the specific interior of the bedroom. The paper closely details the practical outcome of such research, which in Bailleul's case manifests in an online taxonomy that is available to anyone. Speculating on how the bedroom has lost its primary role due to its entanglement with the digital spaces of the web,

the author also points out how this has enabled the erasure of the boundaries between inside/outside, mobility/stasis, rest/work. Closing off the chapter, Ece Canli's paper *Rethinking Carceral Domesticity. Electronic Monitoring, Punishment and Other Designs* starkly rebuilds the boundaries that the previous paper aims to erase, by turning our gaze to the realities of carceral domesticity and its dimensions of control, monitoring and surveillance. Focusing on Electronic Monitoring (EM) as a contemporary "techno-penal" practice, Canli looks at how these devices ultimately shift the balance between ideas of privacy, dignity, economy and safety within the domestic sphere. In so doing, they reinforce existing inequalities and strengthen the present manifestation of the criminal justice system. The author speculates on how to transform spaces and justice, and proposes a new understanding of interior spaces based on this approach.

### **3. Domestic Devices. How Interior Architecture and Design React to the Contemporary Scenario**

In recent times, for many reasons including the Covid-19 health crisis, the territory of the home gained a new centrality and is being increasingly considered within the scientific and cultural debate as demonstrated by many publications (Borasi, 2021; Hester & Srnicek, 2023). The concept of home as territory refers to the complexity of spheres, relations, spaces that make up its totality. It is not our purpose here to retrace the history of the home as much as to dwell on the moment when the composition of living space acquired the connotation and distribution that persists in most cases to this day, starting with Henry Roberts' model house presented at

the 1851 London World's Fair (Aureli, 2020). Since then, living space has become an increasingly specialised and typologically defined construct in terms of sphere, gender, and roles. It has become the manifesto of the nuclear family, which has forged its characters over time, taking it as its main model.

Among the biggest transformations in the domestication project is the first great revolution linked to the entry of new technologies with particular emphasis on information and communication technologies (ICT). The phenomenon of *domestication* has been addressed by authors such as Eric Hirsch and Roger Silverstone (1992) who analysed the social and cultural transformations caused by the integration of ICT into everyday life. The arrival of television has changed domestic spaces and influenced the ways in which people live and interact within them. This transformation is not only limited to the technological aspect, but also involves social and cultural facets. Television has acted as a medium that has shaped family dynamics and behavioural patterns. Moreover, it has helped define a new form of domestic culture, introducing visual content that has influenced perceptions of the outside world. If mobility and obliquity characterised the 2000s by determining a different use of space, both in the urban and domestic spheres, a space capable of continuous change through the ongoing passage of people who establish ever-different relationships with their surroundings (Bassanelli, 2015), in the last few years we have been witnessing a second great revolution that concerns the introduction of personal devices and social networks into everyday life. Presently, we incessantly traverse physical and virtual domains, transition-

ing amid various interior spaces and oscillating between the tangible and the conceptual. The spatial encounters, formerly rooted solely in reality, have undergone a transformative evolution with the advent of social media, introducing a virtual dimension to our engagements. Starting from the definition of the *The Grand Interior* (Sloterdijk, 2013), these locales collectively contribute to the conceptualization of the *diffuse house* (Maio, 2021), characterized by a horizontally integrated structure that seamlessly amalgamates production and consumption.

Starting from these premises this second section of the issue focuses on specific topics concerning the effects of technological, social and working transformations on the architecture of inhabited space. *Servisation Scenarios for the Design of Domestic Spaces* by Raffaella Fagnoni, Davide Crippa and Annapaola Vacanti delineates two principal trends: the hybridization of domiciliary spaces attributable to remote work, educational pursuits, training activities, and sociability facilitated by digital modalities, alongside the escalating dynamism in the lifestyles of the younger demographic, notably millennials and Generation Z. These cohorts frequently inhabit leased residences and exhibit an inclination toward the adoption of remote occupational modalities. The second essay *Flexibility in The Workplace. Envisioning the Role of Domestic Spaces in the Era of Hybrid Work* by Sofia Cretaio and Paolo Tamborrini focuses on the effects of remote work in the office space and the introduction of small working space in the house with an analysis of the furniture elements.

The exploration of how technology is influencing people's living and home environments is addressed in the following three papers through application to specific contexts. *Vicarious Domestic States. The Post-Domestic Turn of Digital Twinning Habitual Settings* by Gerhard Bruyns, Daniel Elkin, Andrea Navarrete, Lee Ching Veronica, employing 3D scanning technology to capture the details of houses across various sites in Hong Kong, illustrates archival procedures and conjectures about the potential effects of the post-digital era on domestic settings and behavior. Jairui Cui in his essay entitled *The Scenography of Everyday Theater. A New Narrative of Domesticity* uses the metaphor of *scenography* to interpret the new domestic space as a platform, where the inhabitants use their surrounding elements, spaces, and environments as settings for their own narrative. The ordinary aspects of our daily lives – bodies, actions, items, furniture, and spaces – all play a role in the creative endeavor, turning these spaces into what can be aptly termed *Everyday Theater*. In the third essay *Vanity Chamber. Reflecting Upon Domestic Boundaries and Frontiers for a Post-Pandemic Home* Nicholas Thomas Lee continues the reflection on the acts of voyeurism and vanity by exploring the spatial installation named *Vanity Chamber*. The article contemplates the influence of reflective devices within households and raises questions about the potential impact of their heightened utilization on the delineation between the interior of the home and the external world.

The last two papers focus on specifically architectural issues, trying to understand how the existing housing stock can respond to new needs and social changes. *Post-Domestic*

*Ageing. Living Indoors (Without) Looking Outside?* by António Carvalho, Tianqin Chen and Jingya Zhou focuses on a radical topic concerning the rapid ageing of the population. This paper seeks to delve into the significance of architectural design choices, encompassing both exterior and interior spaces, along with the integration of information technology (IT) for the development of smart homes. The ultimate goal is to create environments that empower older individuals to age in place, offering autonomy or varying degrees of support instead of resorting to institutionalization in care facilities. *Redefining Paradigms. How Technology Shapes Interior Spaces in the Age of Drones and Flying Cars* by Anna Barbara and Elena Baharlouei investigates the potential impact of emerging airborne transportation, such as drones, on the future configuration of our interior spaces. These aerial vehicles are poised to revive the distributive principles of an iconic and historically significant Milanese architectural typology where the allocation of spaces adhered to a private/public logic, aligning seamlessly with the structures of the drone city. The article delves into the anticipated changes in floor plans, materials, facades, lifestyles, and interpersonal dynamics that this impending revolution will likely introduce to our living spaces and overall existence.

#### 4. Interior Constellations

The papers presented in this issue of PAD confirm and attest the healthy diversity of perspectives within the realm of interior architecture and design. As a metaphorical framework, we can propose term *interior constellation*, which symbolizes the convergence of diverse disciplines and perspectives in the

study and design of contemporary living environments. By embracing this trans- and multidisciplinary approach, architects and designers can navigate the complexities of ongoing crises and technological advancements, fostering an all-inclusive understanding that goes beyond traditional boundaries.

The exploration of the multifaceted transformations occurring in domestic spaces present in this volume not only underlines the urgency to adapt architectural and design approaches to meet the evolving needs of contemporary inhabitants, but it also illuminates possible roads and approaches to take. The redefinition of domestic spaces challenges traditional notions of privacy, gender roles, and the separation between work and personal life. In this light, this issue of PAD journal offers critical reflection and valuable insights for shaping the future of domestic spaces in a world marked by constant change and adaptation.

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She has worked with participatory processes through design workshops, creating synergies toward endogenous forms of development, design and autonomy.

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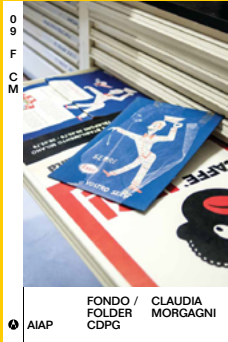
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