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What Will Future Housing Be Like After the COVID19- Pandemic?

Ahmad Al-Dafar

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Ahmad Al-Dafar August, 7 2020
 Advisors: Deborah McGraw & Jacqueline Schneider

Abstract

This poster discusses how the Covid19- Pandemic has influenced rapid changes in housing design trends with a greater focus put on the multiple uses of interior spaces. The post-pandemic house will be ready to serve as an office, a school, a park or even a meditation space. It will have to operate independently making it possible for inhabitants to generate their own electricity and water and grow food.

Introduction

Squeezing the world into one space is no longer science fiction, but rather is a new trend for future housing where one space is required to serve a variety of functions. The needs and challenges imposed by the pandemic started from day one; working from home with no adequate furniture, no privacy and uncontrolled noise was a common concern. As Covid19- transmits through surfaces and Air, WHO, (2020). It is a big challenge to protect our houses from the virus. According to Asmundson and Taylor (2020), Staying indoors for long periods of time prompted psychological effects such as anger, stress and depression. Therefore, requirements and needs in our houses are being rethought, "The quality and comfort of our homes will come at the top of the list." (Harrouk, 2020).

Thesis Statement

The post-pandemic house will have adaptable layouts and furniture to meet different needs including working from home, it will include disinfection buffer zones to isolate the house from viruses and will also be strongly connected to the private outdoor spaces to reduce the feeling of confinement.



Figure 1: Adaptable layouts, Source: <https://architizer.com/>

Solutions

1. Adaptable layouts: a great emphasis is put on making the inner space a flexible one. According to Bahadursingh, N. (2020), Some architects are including adjustable walls, screens and furniture that could change the living room into an office, a study area, or even a play area. The more flexibility provided within building elements, the more options it provides.



Figure 2: Sanitized Entryways, Source: <https://uraiqat.com/>

2. Sanitized Entryways: entryways will be made as buffer zones to keep homes safe and clean. It will have a flooring material that is easy to clean, will include a dedicated space for hanging the clothes and sanitizing it. It might also include a shelf with hand sanitizers and a water tap. Uraiqt Architects, (2020).

3. New forms of home office, integrating home offices into private outdoor spaces. Bahadursingh, N. (2020). For example, utilizing the garden space to create an office that is partially underground will achieve privacy and provide the feeling of transitioning from home to work.



Figure 3: Outdoor office, Source: <https://architizer.com/>

Conclusion

The requirements and needs in our houses are being rethought, where the new normal is going to be:

- More resilient houses, most building elements will be adaptable and ready to serve for long quarantine periods.
- More focused on the outdoors, green areas, bigger windows and balconies to connect with the outdoors. (Harrouk, 2020)
- Including Post-Pandemic functions like sanitized entryways, buffer zones and dedicated house parts for home quarantine.

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