

living stories

object management in the home

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overview

- i. needfinding methodology
 - ii. interview results
 - iii. analysis
 - iv. insights
 - v. summary
 - vi. questions
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needfinding
methodology

—

a couple questions

- What's your current living environment? (ex. House, apartment, dorm? Suburb, city, college campus? Alone or with others?)
- Growing up, did you move or stay in one place?
- Growing up, were you an only child or did you have siblings?
- How did your social/living situation change after you moved out/graduated/moved to a new place?
- Who are the people you talk to or see most often?
- What makes you happy at home? What about your living space makes you happy? Why?
- Tell me about a time you felt lonely at home.

interviewees

What we wanted

- diversity of background
- diversity of living area
- diversity of living mates

How we achieved this

- **diversity of interview location and targeting**

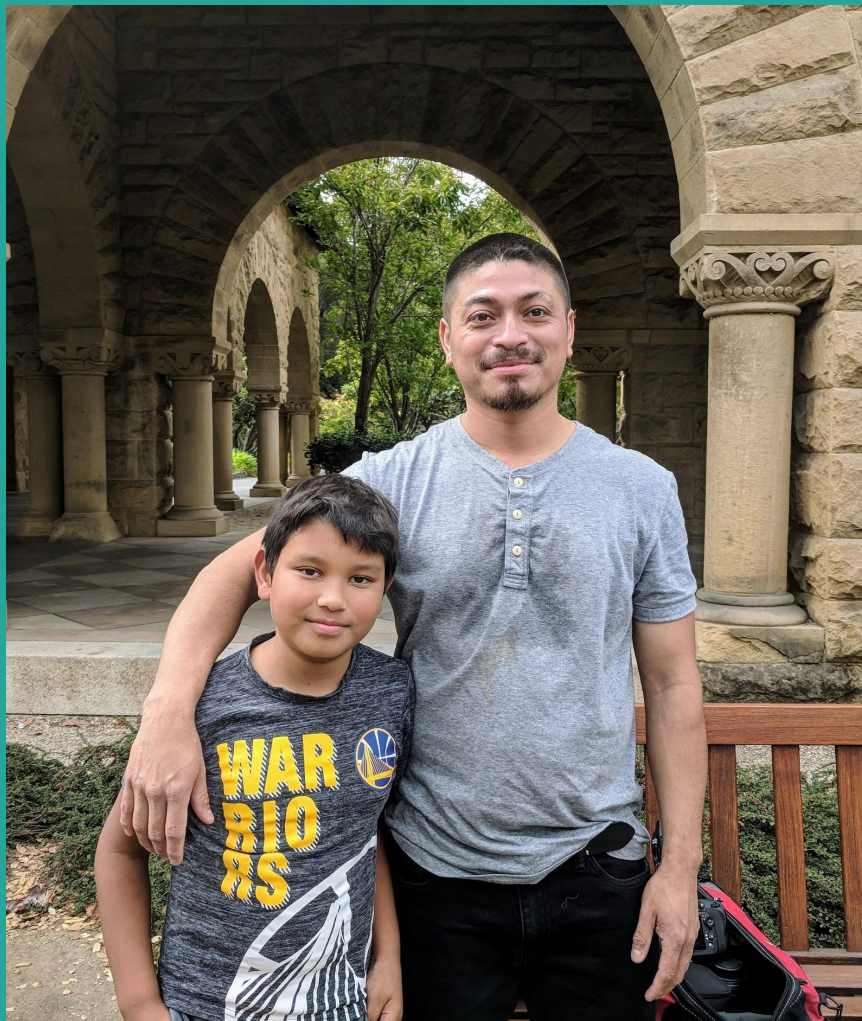
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interview

results





“I cleared out everything, sold stuff I never used, and used the space to relax.”

Diego

*Cook manager, freelance photographer
House, Oakland, CA*



“[I hold] mostly small gatherings in the home, but inviting people is troublesome.”

Michael

Chip designer

House, Fremont, CA

“I think I just really like how we're comfortable enough to just, like, spend most of our time at home in the living room either watching TV or talking or vegetating.”

Jason

Software Engineer, Amazon
Shared house, Santa Clara, CA



“I always try to plant something. I was always crazy about that place that my mother-in-law and grandmother had.”

Fernanda

Lawyer, mother

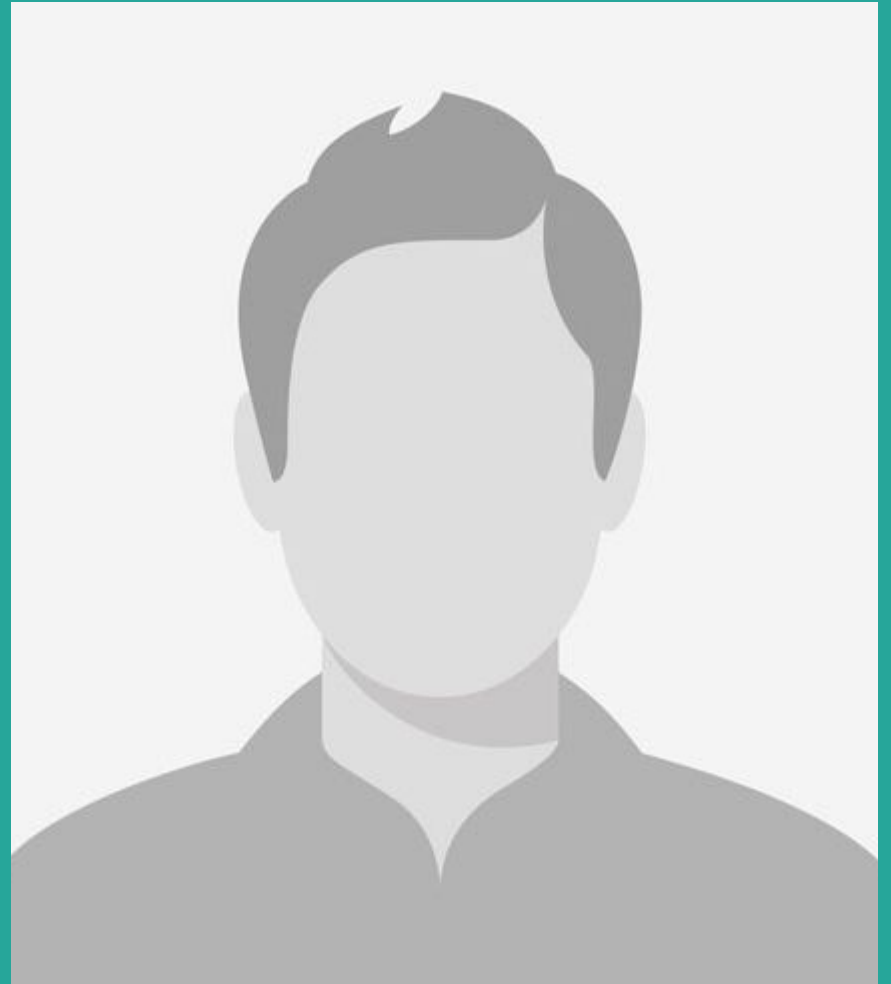
Large duplex, San Paulo, Brazil



“That belonged to my grandmother. That’s what she used to do laundry in. I cleaned it up a bit.”

Professor Snipp

*Murray Resident Fellow, Sociology Prof.
Large RF House, Stanford, CA*





“We’re not tied to anything; I think a sense of what home is is the people.”

Edith and John

Okada Resident Fellows

Small RF House, Stanford, CA

What?

How?

Why?

Edith and John

Okada Resident Fellows

Small RF House, Stanford, CA



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analysis

SAY

• I like
personality
• I like
personality
• I like
personality

THINK

• I like to be shared
• I like to be shared
• I like to be shared

FEEL

• happy
• happy
• happy

EDIT

SP

• I like to be shared
• I like to be shared
• I like to be shared

THINK

• I like to be shared
• I like to be shared
• I like to be shared

FEEL

• happy
• happy
• happy

SI

• I like to be shared
• I like to be shared
• I like to be shared

DI

• I like to be shared
• I like to be shared
• I like to be shared

DEMO

THINK

• I like to be shared
• I like to be shared
• I like to be shared

FEEL

• happy
• happy
• happy

JASON

• I like to be shared
• I like to be shared
• I like to be shared

DU

• I like to be shared
• I like to be shared
• I like to be shared

THINK

• I like to be shared
• I like to be shared
• I like to be shared

FEEL

• I like to be shared
• I like to be shared
• I like to be shared

SAY

THINK

DO

FEEL

SAY

“That belonged to my grandmother. That’s what she used to do laundry in. I cleaned it up a bit.”

“[I hold] mostly small gatherings in the home, but inviting people is troublesome.”

“What’s bad is that we get used to not fully unpacking.”

“Nobody paid attention to whether I was there or not . . . I don’t think I felt a strong sense of community in my residence.”

“I think a sense of what home is is the people.”

“I don’t have people over very often.”

“I always try to plant something. I was always crazy about that place that my mother-in-law and grandmother had.”

“I think [lack of responsibility from dormmates] showed who had been involved in household duties.”

“When we moved back here, [husband] went back to the storage room, pulled out the sofa, and gave it to [member of community].”

“I can have a schedule; my space turns into an office. At night, I stop everything, and it becomes my living area. Everything goes away.”

“I cleared out everything, sold stuff I never used, and used the space to relax.”

SAY

THINK

DO

FEEL

DO

Pets his cat while responding to questions. The cat softens his tone and gives him opportunities to make jokes.

Washes dishes and moves around kitchen purposefully cleaning up from a dorm lunch

eats while talking

Looks away while thinking about memories

Keeps emotional important objects (stories)

Asks only to be photographed if we were in the picture with her

Asks to keep interview short

shows us stored objects that are not needed at the moment

Very carefully packs photography bag while talking to us

Gets excited when talking about self-designed home refurbishments

didn't touch others' objects, ask not to be photographed

is concerned about how she looks in the photograph

Pauses multitasking when talking about things he enjoyed

SAY

THINK

DO

FEEL

Needs organization and
personal control in home

Keeps and values
practically useful things

THINK

Moving is not too much
trouble, working around
day-to-day is more
important

Home is to be shared

**Objects themselves are
not that important;
people make community**

Values space to invite
friends and family

Spends time in spaces in
which personal time and
effort was invested

Public place & personal
place are separate, didn't
touch others' objects and
asked not to be
photographed

It's valuable to take care of
items that are personal

No need for excessive
objects, objects viewed as
transient

SAY

THINK

DO

FEEL

Feels his schedule has become more complicated as the kids grow older

Distanced from the rate of change around him

Not at home when living in a dorm of people who didn't pay attention to her presence

Less lonely because he moved to a place with more friends (and a girlfriend)

Content with space after active change

Attached to objects that resurface memories and have stories told

enjoyment with structure & dedicated, purposeful spaces

Happy when reminded of outdoors inside

Positive about proximity and convenience

Wishful for a place to relax

FEEL

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insights



Enjoys structure & dedicated, purposeful spaces

“I cleared out everything, sold stuff I never used, and used the space to relax.”

is concerned about how they look in the photograph

Public place & personal place are separate, didn't touch others' objects and asked not to be photographed

Gets excited when talking about self-designed home refurbishments

INSIGHT

People like to feel like they have personal control over their belongings

NEED

A way to exercise purposeful agency on their objects

Needs organization and
personal control in home

“What’s bad is that
we get used to not
fully unpacking.”

“I think [lack of responsibility
from dormmates] showed
who had been involved in
household duties.”

INSIGHT

People don't like losing track of/disorganization with what they have

NEED

To categorize and manage belongings

Washes dishes and
moves around kitchen
purposefully cleaning
up from a dorm lunch

“[I hold] mostly
small gatherings in
the home, but
inviting people is
troublesome.”

Asks to keep
interview
short

eats while talking

Positive about
proximity and
convenience

Carefully packs
photography bag while
talking to us

INSIGHT

People value their time

NEED

Make their goals as easy and low-commitment as possible, while still being effective

“I always try to plant something. I was always crazy about that place that my mother-in-law and grandmother had.”

It's valuable to take care of items that are personal

Very carefully packs photography bag while talking to us

“That belonged to my grandmother. That's what she used to do laundry in. I cleaned it up a bit.”

INSIGHT

People keep or create things that have associations to past or passed experience

NEED

To retain and share stories

Objects are not that important; people make community

“I think a sense of what home is is the people.”

Values space to invite friends and family

“When we moved back here, [husband] went back to the storage room, pulled out the sofa, and gave it to [member of community].”

Less lonely because he moved to a place with more friends (and a girlfriend)

“I think I just really like how we're comfortable enough to just like spend most of our time at home in the living room either watching TV or talking or vegetating.”

“Nobody paid attention to whether I was there or not . . . I don't think I felt a strong sense of community in my residence.”

Home is to be shared

Objects are not that important; people make community

“I think a sense of what home is is the people.”

Values space to invite friends and family

“When we moved back here, [husband] went back to the storage room, pulled out the sofa, and gave it to me [member of community].”

Less lonely because he moved to a place with more friends and a girlfriend.

“I think I just really like how we’re comfortable enough to just like spend most of our time at home in the living room either watching TV or talking or vegetating.”

“Nobody paid attention to whether I was there or not . . . I don’t think I felt a strong sense of community in my residence.”

Home is to be shared

VERY IMPORTANT!

INSIGHT

People value community and their friends/family

NEED

To build, preserve, remember, and emphasize community, whether or not certain objects are physically present

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summary: people need...

- A way to exercise purposeful agency on their objects
- To categorize and manage belongings
- Make their goals as easy and low-commitment as possible, while still being effective
- To retain and share stories
- To build, preserve, remember, and emphasize community, whether or not certain objects are physically present

questions?