

# The Difference Between Dwelling And Home In Architecture

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## Abstract

In the low rating city environment which is the accomplishment of a society that makes technology rule over anything, home and dwelling have become the last shelters for human being. Considering today's life demands (Speed/Crowdedness/Noise Pollution/Technological improvements and fading communication at home) necessity of attention towards home as a shelter for tranquillity, stillness and a space for gathering and presence of all family members after a hard day's work, gets more important. Among all spaces around man, home is the most direct space related to man that affects him and gets affected by him on a daily basis.[1] It is the first space that man experiences a feeling of belonging. All our five senses are continually surfing it and are adopted to it as soon as possible. This article has a quick review on the concepts of dwelling and home, their role in human's life, and it insists on analyzing and separating these two concepts. Although these two concepts totally differ from each other, but usually are considered the same. It also states the necessity of difference between dwelling and home in relation to human being, by proposing arguments about human's relation to home and dwelling and the importance of understanding this relation for designing (specially architecture and urbanization) to create a framework to analyze the relation between human and environment.

**Keywords:** Dwelling, Home, Living Environment, Human

## 1. Introduction

Today, fundamentals of family in all societies are gradually being broken and the role of family as a society of a few people is fading and family as a one person society is getting more concrete. In this situation, everybody is about to develop and grow the quantities of their life. Now, human beings are invited to a competition. The competition is about getting more benefit and developing life standards. With technology development, human needs are getting extended more and more and older productions are being replaced by modern technologic productions. In this circle, everybody is attempting and trying to be up-to-date, without even thinking that these attempts and efforts are never going to end.

Now, to us, even house has become an industrial production like any other. We use the term "building industry" in our daily conversations and as a result, it is obvious that as time goes by, we have to destroy the old house and build a new one. New cell phone, new computer, new car and maybe a newer house. This is the utmost ideal of human, who has lost his essence and spirit.

In the low rating city environment which is the accomplishment of a society that makes technology to rule over anything, personal house has become the last shelter for human being. Therefore, personal house in the small world, is a social concept against the old personal philosophy. This, itself, is an opportunity to understand that how architecture should be related to life environment, specially houses. Excessive spaces available in house design can be a starting point for designing all kinds of different architectural spaces in different houses. At first, it seems clear that by using the terms "dwelling" and "home", we mean the same meaning and concept for both, and in a glance, there is no necessity to define these two words, because both of them are a place to provide comfort and convenience for human beings. But with a little thinking, regarding the point that the concept of dwelling is something more than a physical place, we find out that it is totally different from the concept of home.

In this article, a little bit of qualitative and quantitative values of dwelling and home as valuable spaces in man's personal life, is proposed and reviewed. So, we go through with the definition of dwelling and home and also their situation in people's private life.

## 2. Definition of Dwelling and its concept

From a literal point of view, in Persian language, Dwelling is equal to the word "dwelling", which means a place for getting tranquility and residence, and it is called to a place which a human lives in it. In Persian Dictionary, "dwelling" is defined: A place for settling and being, home, a lake of residence, a still place.[2]

Heidegger argues that the manner in which we dwell is the manner in which we are, we exist, on the face of the earth - an extension of our identity, of who we are. In his article "building, dwelling, thinking", he opens up old indications

and conceptual areas on the root of the German word "Bauen" (to build) to explain a soul's ailments and interprets dwelling as being with things: as he debates the residence of human essence in the truth of being, in being and time. He insists that thinking and poetry are the necessities for dwelling. He assumes dwelling as the most fundamental characteristic regarding mortals. At the end of his article we read: "On all sides, we hear talk about the housing shortage, and with good reason... What if man's homelessness consisted in this, that man still does not even think of the proper plight of dwelling as the plight?". Heidegger answers the question as follows: "This they accomplish when they build out of dwelling, and think for the sake of dwelling".[3]

On the Second UN Conference on Human Settlement in 1996 which was held in Istanbul, Turkey, a proper dwelling is defined as follows: "A proper shelter is not only the existence of a roof over people's head. A proper shelter means proper comfort, a proper space, suitable physical approach and security, ownership security, structural stability, lighting, ventilation, proper heating system, primary substructure such as water, health-care and education, garbage evacuation, proper environmental elements, proper health factors, accessible to work place and accommodations and all these factors must be provided according to financial status of people".[4]

What seems obvious at first is that the meaning of dwelling is clear and there is no need to define it, but with a little thinking about the point that the definition of dwelling is something more than just a physical place, we understand that we have to have more focus on its definition. Dwelling is a word which seems to have a simple meaning but actually consists of a wide range of definitions. And it is also a very wide and complex affair. The importance of dwelling comes from the point that many primary needs of human such as preparing food, rest, etc. is provided in it. The concept of dwelling, other than a physical place, includes the whole residence including all necessary facilities and services for well-being of the family, and also working, education and health-care programs for people.[5]

From what Schulz says, we understand that discovering humane identification is in making meaningful relations with a world comprised of things which are depended on material form of a place as if he states that the double aspects of dwelling are identity discovery and locality determination. This double aspects of architecture in buildings, are coincided on the architectural functions of visualization and admission, thus every place in its state of providing possibilities to other functions accepts them inside itself, and also takes new concepts and meaning with them.

Heidegger in his article "building, dwelling, thinking" states that getting an identity is possible through dwelling

and is in relation with understanding things and on this basis, has a phenomenological approach towards the universe and location for identification discovery, as he believes understanding phenomenon (specially location) plays a basic role in identity retrieval and the essence of human.[6]

Regarding the explanations about the concept of dwelling in last paragraphs, we can have a conclusion as the following: In fact, common definition and concept of dwelling is not a residential unit but the whole residence of living (Pictures 1 & 2). A simple definition states that a residential unit is a space consisting of at least one unit of kitchen, a room, and a private toilet, which constitutes the whole or a part of a residential building and has private exit to a street or an alley... or to a public stairway or corridor.



Picture No(1):Habitat by Moshe Safdie

A residential building is a space limited, fixed and independent from its neighbor grounds and buildings, that all or part of it is roofed and is built for the intention of living and has no special space for economic activities (service or producing) and is traded as a place for living.



Picture No(2): A residential building is a space limited

### 3. Definition of home and its concept:

To study the definition of home and its concept, first we refer to some quotations of some great architects about home:

**Mr. Pirniya:** Home is a place that its occupants do not feel uncomfortable, and the lady of the house and her children who spend their time in it, should not feel tired of it.[7]

**Charles Moore:** Home is the center of the world to its occupants. (To a residential area, the most indicative kind of building to enforce its locality).

**Amos Rapoport:** Home, in the first place, is an institution, not a structure for complex matters. For cultural matters, it is under the influence of culture. Even at first, the concept of home has not been a totally functional space. The positive point of creating an ideal environment for the family as a social environment points to home as shelter, but the important thing is that this makes sheltering as an obligation for this social institution. From the first day, man created his home because of his beliefs in rituals and cultural issues.[8]

**Gaston Bachelard:** Home, before anything, is an inner space and location. Its inner space gets a meaning in relation to its outside, alley and street, river and farm, village and city, sea and earth and sky, nature and world, and at last the whole universe. Its most important virtue is to raise dreams. And finally, home provides the facility, for us, to drown into our dreams, in tranquillity.[9]

We can conclude that: Home, being posed as an architectural structure in the environment, defines our identity and provides security for us, and finally we find relaxation when we set foot in it. It's at home that we find things that we know and cherish them. We bring them

from outside and live beside them because they form a part of our world. When realizing a private residence, we try what is called "Internal Relaxation"

So the concept of home in man's life is not a general definition, but a united purpose which we live in it and it preserves us from the outside world.

### 4. Conclusion: (An analysis on the difference between Home and Dwelling in Iran)

In Iran, home gets its real meaning beside a more complex concept, Family. Family is the most basic social institution which in Iran, an Eastern country, has an introverted function. Home and family are two inseparable elements. As family has a non-stop functionality, and is unchangeable, home also, has a lasting and unchangeable concept.

In other words, for an Eastern man, home is not like a hotel or a temporary habitation. Home is not an old car that we can change it into a new one as we reach better economic situation, or is not a temporary habitant that when we get more earnings, add to its extent. Home has a deep meaning, on the same level as family.

In Iran's classic architecture, when we look at Tabatabaees (Picture 3) or Borujerdis (Picture 4) dwellings, we always bring the family's name before their place of residence. Never the great Borujerdi built that brilliant dwelling with the intension of temporary residence, because if that was so, they would've changed their house many times and their name wouldn't last long.



Picture No(3):Tabatabaees House,Iran



Picture No(4): Borujerdis house,Iran

According to our research, we can have its result as follows: If we want to compare the words "dwelling" and "home" from a literal point of view, the definition of home is not just equal to a place to reside. In Persian language, some words receiving the suffix "KHANEH" meaning "home" get a wide range of meanings and dimensions which are related to "Residing". Residing creates cities with their culture. So we can say that home is almost a subsidiary of dwelling.

As a result we imagine home as a three dimensional space which surrounds a family of definite number of people. Home is the demonstrator of a fixed relationship between a more personal environment compared to other fixed spaces. Also the extent of home is limited to the space which man can reach everything, the architecture and whatever that mixed in it and man connects to it (Micro scale). So, home cannot be a place for different characteristics (because in a wide extent, political, economic and social situations have a background and cannot be disregarded, but home is a totally private place to secure the man from other things).

As Schulz says, residence can express the general situation and identity discovery. Comparing above subjects, we conclude that residence can express the creation of a meaningful relation between man and environment around him that this relation is a result of being identified, meaning to have feeling of being related to a place.

Dwelling is a collection of all the spaces which provide different needs of human such as proper relaxation, proper space, physical approach and proper security, ownership security, stability of the structure, lighting, ventilation, proper heating system, primary facilities like water, health-care, and education, garbage evacuation, proper quality of environment, suitable place, etc. (Mass scale).

Also, among the spaces around, maybe it can be said that home is a place that man feels a personal belonging to it. Home, being posed in an architectural framework, saves man from outside space and brings privacy to him and at last, when man sets foot in it, provides a totally personal

space for him. Home is the first place which man's very first experiences happen in it. Being alone, or with your wife, children and others, all of it is possible at home, without any external disturbance. Here, the definition of home is totally against the definition of dwelling, because our perspective of dwelling, other than the physical place, is the whole residential place and so a public place consisting of all necessary facilities and services for family living. In other words, dwelling is a more general concept compared to home, and the first concept which comes to mind after hearing the word "residence". Dwelling is residing in a place (a place where residence has different kinds: natural, complex, public and private), a space consisting of some buildings which along with primary needs, provide other needs of human being, regarding their necessity.

Home is a three dimensional limited space. Although we can partly break these limitations with correct designing, but maybe we can say that home is limited to its own definition and that dwelling has a more extended functionality than home.

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