

PREFERENCES OF INTERNAL DOMESTIC SPACE OF APARTMENT HOUSING RESIDENTS IN KWANGJU CITY

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During the two decades of Korean economic development since the early 1970s, many apartment dwellings were built in a short period of time to meet rising homeownership demand. This apartment housing was very homogeneous both in shape and floor plans. These buildings, therefore, have not adequately met the housing needs demanded by the residents.

In order to meet the diverse needs of the people, it is necessary to change the traditional housing design paradigm into a user-oriented one. Since a big change in family organization and values is expected in the near future, customer-oriented housing designs need to be pursued. Consequently, individualization, diversification, and differentiation is inevitable in the area of housing planning. In this respect, an empirical study on the preferences and desires of apartment housing dwellers in Kwangju, located in the southern part of Korea, has been conducted.

This study has been designed to explore the preferences of internal domestic space for those living in apartment housing. It also examines the relationships between preferences of internal domestic space, such as storage space, organization type of LDK (the living room, the dining room, and kitchen), space facing south, an interior garden, the concept of each room, and the characteristics of the dwellers, such as age, educational background, employment status of homemakers, occupation of the primary income provider, family-life cycle, total household income, the size of floor space, and homeownership.

The target population of this study was female residents living in apartment units of over 20 pyong (711.6 ft²) in the Kwangju area.

Questionnaires were self-administered to 278 female residents from four residential areas, through their children attending kindergarten, primary school, high school, and college during the month of August, 1997. Statistical data were compiled to determine frequencies and percentage distributions, and subjected to Chi-square analysis.

The majority of dwellers strongly preferred and desired storage spaces for the living room, dining room, and the *Anbang* (Korean style master bedroom). Moreover, they desired an interior garden and preferred apartment units facing south. The *Anbang* was perceived as being the couples' area, while the living room was regarded as a family-centered room. The dining-kitchen area was perceived as a space for working as well as dining.

Preference of interior domestic space by the residents' characteristics were:

(1) Homemakers 45 years and older were more likely than those less than 45 years of age, to prefer the plan of L+D+K type, which has a separate living room, dining room, and kitchen.

(2) Families with a child attending primary school or younger were more likely than those with a child in high school or older to want storage space for the *Anbang* and to locate a child's room on the southern side of the housing unit.

(3) Homemakers who had graduated from a university were more likely than those who had only graduated from high school, to want storage space for the *Anbang* and to locate a child's room in the southern side of the housing unit.

(4) Those living with 50s pyong (1,779 ft²) and over tended to perceive the dining-kitchen area as a space for dining as well as for family interaction, and to perceive the living room as a space for family interaction as well as for guest receptions, as compared with those with less than 50s pyong (1,779 ft²).

In conclusion, this study suggests that at the time of designing apartment housing units, serious consideration should be given to built-in closet or storage space in the *Anbang* and to the location of a child's room facing to the south of the housing unit, especially for families with a child attending primary school or younger. This study also recommends that the organization of the living room, the dining room, and the kitchen should vary according to floor space size.

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