

Proportion
Harmonies
Identities

phi

9th International
Multidisciplinary
Congress

Creation,
Transformation
and
Metamorphose



05th - 07th
October 2023

SEVILLE
SPAIN

The *Maid's Room*: Inception, Obsolescence, and Transfiguration

Ana MOREIRA¹, Hugo FARIAS¹

(1) CIAUD, Research Centre for Architecture, Urbanism and Design, Lisbon School of Architecture, Universidade de Lisboa

E-mail: ana.silva.moreira@gmail.com

ORCID: 0000-0001-8325-9162;

E-mail: hfarias@fa.ulisboa.pt

ORCID: 0000-0001-9346-4039

Abstract

As a cultural product of a determined era and society, the home is shaped and its program defined according to social norms, characteristics, and specific needs related to necessary domestic functions. Portuguese mid-20th century middle-class urban homes' layout incorporates a setting with a particular place in the home designed for a specific user – the *maid's room*. The article aims to analyze this domestic space's characteristics at the time of its creation, morphology, and topology. It also aims to understand how contemporary families have transformed and adapted to the former *maid's room* in the present context when live-in *maids* are no longer the norm. The research is based on a case-study analysis of a few dwelling units of Modern buildings in Lisbon, built in the early 1950s, in Alvalade. Results show that, as a consequence of social transformations up to present times that have dictated a progressive disappearance of live-in *maids*, the *maid's room* has been given alternate uses and has been transfigured and metamorphosed to better address the household's needs and demands. The article also concludes that, despite this event (creation and transformation of the *maid's room*), new builds in Lisbon, in a luxury segment, have returned to the mid-century matrix, promoting dwelling models with this compartment, once rendered obsolete.

Keywords: maid's room, social transformations, dwelling layout, home use, domestic layout