Towards a more intelligent dwelling: the quest for versatility in the design of the contemporary home

Hugo L. FARIAS
CIAUD – FAUL, Lisbon School of Architecture, Universidade de Lisboa, Lisboa, Portugal
Email: hugolfarias@gmail.com
ORCID: 0000-0001-9346-4039

Abstract

Dwelling, today, must meet the profound social, labour and technological changes that occurred in recent decades, and brought different and evolving requirements to the house. A clear dissociation between emerging ways of living and proposed housing models, heirs of modern rationalist architecture, can be observed. Addressing this question, several authors have pointed to different strategies as a way to find a more suitable house for the accelerated transformation of contemporary ways of dwelling: flexibility, adaptability, functional ambiguity and spatial de-hierarchization. The article aims to frame these concepts, contribute to the establishment of strategies and design tools developed to promote a more intelligent dwelling: a more open-use and versatile interior domestic space, more adapted to change, present and future.

Keywords: Dwelling, Change, Versatility, Flexibility, Adaptability.