

# Outlining Subtext and Characteristics of Home in Lagos, Nigeria

Ekhaese E. N. \*, Izobo-Martins O. O., Ediae O. J., Anweting Patrick

Department of Architecture, School of Environmental Studies, Covenant University, Ota, Ogun, Nigeria

---

**Abstract** This Research studied the various opinions people living in Lagos have about home in its true nature. Home generally can be a socio-cultural, psychological and ideological construct. Home means different things to different people and can be interpreted along cultural and religious lines. Therefore, the focus of the paper is to explain the connotation and characteristics of home in Lagos, in order to identify indicators that may define a Home. The study uses triangulation, involving qualitative and quantitative methods that relied on focused group interview guides, questionnaires distributed amongst residents currently residing in Lagos, Nigeria and inference statistics. The findings presented two important indicators of subtext and characteristics that were based on Psychological and Socio-physical backgrounds. The research results revealed that a broad-spectrum template framed and used to underscore significance and characteristics of home, for residents in major Nigeria cities (Lagos, Port Harcourt, Abuja, Benin, Jos, Calabar etc.) with little or no variance to the outcomes, the difference in culture and ideology notwithstanding.

**Keywords** Outlining Home, Subtext of Home, Characteristics of Home, Home in Lagos

---

## 1. Introduction

Home has been argued over time as an element of ideological construct. Others' arguments however suggest that the home cannot be adequately understood in terms of "taxonomic generalizations" (Lima, et al, 2015). "Home is not just a matter of feelings and lived experience but also of cognition and intellectual construction people may have a sense of home even though they have no experience/memory of it" (Lind, & Cresswell, 2005). Home is a dwelling-place used as a permanent or semi-permanent residence for an individual, family, household or several families in a tribe. It is often a house, apartment/ building/ alternatively a mobile home, houseboat, yurt or any other portable shelter (Mahadevia, Liu, & Yuan, 2012). Homes typically provide areas and facilities for sleeping, preparing food, eating and hygiene. Larger groups may live in a nursing home, children's home, convent or any similar institution. Homestead also includes agricultural land and facilities for domesticated animals. Where more secure dwellings are not available, people may live in the informal and sometimes illegal shacks found in slums and shanty towns (Hardoy, & Satterthwaite, 2014). "Home" may be considered to be a

geographic area, such as a town, village, suburb, city, or country. A house is a building that functions as a home for humans ranging from simple dwellings such as basic huts of nomadic tribes and the improvised shacks in shantytowns to complex, fixed structures of wood, brick, or other materials contain plumbing, ventilation and electrical systems (Nasiali, 2016). Most conventional modern houses in Western cultures will contain a bedroom, bathroom, kitchen or cooking area, and a living room. In traditional agriculture-oriented societies, domestic animals such as chickens or larger livestock (like cattle) may share part of the house with humans. The social unit that lives in a house is known as a household (Easthope, 2004). Most commonly, a household is a family unit of some kind, although households may also be other social groups or individuals. The design and structure of the house is also subject to change as a consequence of globalization, urbanization and other social, economic, demographic, and technological reasons (Castles, De Haas, & Miller, 2013). Various other cultural factors also influence the building style and patterns of domestic space. It is certain that various people have their different views and perception of what a home is and its characteristics based on varying factors; the type of houses they live in or their environment (Andrews, & Withey, 2012). It is against this backdrop, the study has highlighted the various issues that relate to home. Therefore, the focus of the paper is to examine the meaning and characteristics of home in Lagos, in order to identify the key misconceptions associated with Home.

---

\* Corresponding author:

noel.ekhaese@covenantuniversity.edu.ng (Ekhaese E. N.)

Published online at <http://journal.sapub.org/arch>

Copyright © 2018 The Author(s). Published by Scientific & Academic Publishing

This work is licensed under the Creative Commons Attribution International

License (CC BY). <http://creativecommons.org/licenses/by/4.0/>

## 2. Study Area

This research will however be reviewed in the context of contemporary Nigerian culture using Lagos as a case in point. While the growth of the population in the metropolitan Lagos has assumed a geometrical proportion, the provision of urban infrastructure and housing to meet this demand is, not at proportionate level (Ogunnaike, 2017). This has resulted in acute shortage of housing to the teeming population with Lagos alone accounting for about 5 million deficit representing 31% of the estimated national housing deficit of 18 million (Olugbenga, & Adekemi, 2013). The extent of the housing shortage in Lagos is enormous. The inadequacies are far-reaching and the deficit is both quantitative and qualitative; even those households with shelter are often subjected to inhabiting woefully deficient structures as demonstrated in the multiplication of slums

from 42 in 1985 to over 100 as at January 2010. The urban poor, who are dominant in Lagos, are transforming the city to meet their needs, often in conflict with official laws and plans (Agbola & Falola, 2016). They reside in the slums and squatter settlements scattered around the city and are predominantly engaged in informal economic activities which encompass a wide range of small-scale, largely self-employment activities. 60% of residents are tenants and have to pay rent as high as 50-70% of their monthly incomes since most of the existing accommodations are provided by private landlords (Opoko, & Oluwatayo, 2014). The concentration of housing and income levels has stratified the metropolis into various neighborhoods of low income/high density, medium income/medium density and high income/low density (Lawanson, 2012).



Source: Author, (2018).

**Figure 1.** Graphics of Lagos, Nigeria

### 3. Conceptual and Theoretical Overview

The early man, made use of caves which served as a shelter against elements of the weather, in areas where caves could not be located, rudimentary shelter was constructed using available materials (Flannery, 2012). For nomadic societies whose existence depends on hunting and food gathering, and frequently moved from place to place in search of food, they had no permanent shelter, hence their homes moved along with them. Communal homes were used by societies or large families with relations settling in a place which usually shares public utilities. Land in this case was owned by the community. Individual homes are usually permanent dwellings which came about as a result of people owning individual properties to call their own which as a result led to the urban setting (Makinde, 2014).

#### 3.1. Theory of Home

The meaning of home/“dwelling” have been studied from different perspectives by various people. Fox, (2002) state that home studied from various views, this includes Architectural, sociological, psychological and environment-behavior and archeological based studies. The meanings of home can be derived from perceptions, age, cultural and economic factors. Home may be located in a house, but a house may not necessarily mean a home (Mallett, 2004). It could be permanent/temporary and may exist in separate locations for different individuals (i.e. a home away from home). Home in the sense of territory is a place where one can be independent, be in charge and take control, even if it is only perceived control, which means the extent to which one believes what happens is a matter of fate, one’s own powerlessness, versus a belief that one is the master of one’s own destiny (Ross, & Mirowsky, 2013). Home can also be an emotional attachment to a physical environment where an individual’s memories and experiences are created, which in turn provides a basis for self-identity (Scannell, & Gifford, 2010). It is a place of rest, privacy, refuge which provides its inhabitants an envelope or boundary which separates it from the exterior world. It serves as a point of origin or as a reference to the past. Home could also be referred to as a physical space that the inhabitants are familiar with intimately which provides a sense of security to enable its inhabitants develop routines in order to carry out everyday activities. Home imparts a sense of identity, security, and belonging (Premdas, 2011).

#### 3.2. The Concept of Home, Place and Space

In the humanistic geography space and place are important concepts (Simonsen, 2013). These concepts in this case don’t have the same meaning. Space is something abstract, without any substantial meaning. While place refers to how people are aware of/attracted to a certain piece of space. A place can be seen as space that has a meaning. The underlying theory for this way of thinking is the phenomenology, which tries to find the essential features of experiences in the direct and

indirect experiences. Great thinkers gave contributions in defining space, place and the differences between these concepts. The same ideas about the distinction between space and place and searched for meaning of place, space and environment. According to Hall, & Page, (2014) the difference between “space” and “place” can be described in the extent to which human beings have given meaning to a specific area. Meaning can be given/derived in two different ways, namely: In direct and intimate way, i.e. through the senses such as vision, smell, sense and hearing, and in an indirect and conceptual way mediated by symbols, arts etc. (Hall, & Page, 2014). ‘Space’ can be described as a location which has no social connections for a human being. No value has been added to this space. Karsten, (2005) believes that it is an open space, but may mark off and defended against intruders. It does not invite or encourage people to fill the space by being creative. No meaning has been described to it, it is more or less abstract. ‘Place’ or the contrary is more than just a location and can be described as a location created by human experiences (Cresswell, 2014). The size of this location does not matter and is unlimited. It can be a city, neighborhood, region or even a classroom et cetera. In fact “place” exists of “space” that is filled with meanings and objectives by human experiences in this particular space. Places are centers where people can satisfy their biological needs such as food, water etc. MacCannell, (2011) agrees that a “place” does not exist of observable boundaries and is besides a visible expression of a specific time period. Examples are arts, monuments and architecture.

#### 3.3. Environment-Behaviour Studies on Home Environment Satisfaction

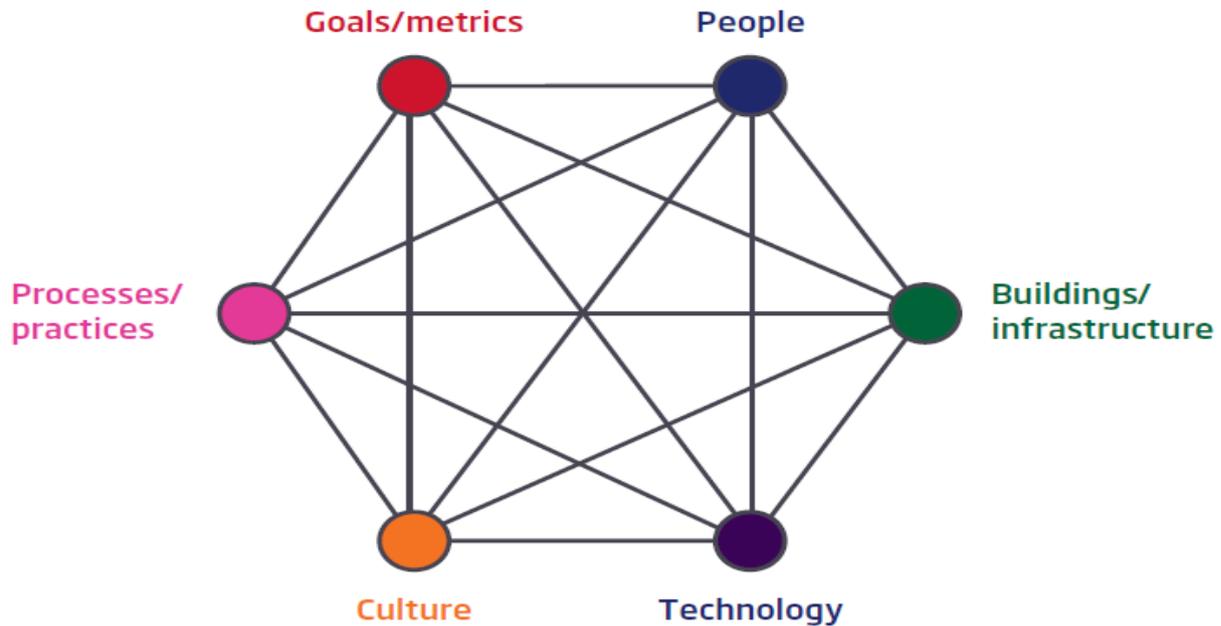
The scope of environment-behaviours’ concerned include, use of resources, creation of waste, health and wellbeing, performance and productivity, crime, and security. These can run for years given the expected lifetime of a building. Human element and the way it affects other aspects of the system can be unpredictable, particularly when timescales are long and the system is complex and open-ended. The interrelationships between home design and human behaviour, are disjointed and spread across professions, disciplines, workers at different stages in the lifecycle of buildings and academia/practice. Architects, designers, engineers, facilities managers and building users all have different experiences and have accumulated different knowledge that can be broadly applied, and some is well-verified. Knowledge within built environment disciplines exists beside a growing body of behavioural theory and experience in behavioural science application to policy-making process (Cabinet Office & Institute for Government 2010), Conveying the relationship data between design and behaviour from built environment professions, along with behavioural theories emerging from psychology and other social science disciplines, has the possibility to deepen characteristic of home. Designing for end-users, a good home design needs to embrace well

established 'inclusive' or 'universal' design principles (British Standards Institute 2005). Principles of Commission for Architecture and the Built Environment (2006) propose that inclusive design- places people at the heart of the design process, acknowledges diversity and difference, offers choice where a single design solution cannot accommodate all users, provides for flexibility in use and provides buildings/environments that are convenient and enjoyable for everyone to use. The beliefs is that inclusive design is user centred, population-aware and good for business (University of Cambridge & BT 2013). The built environment should be similarly designed to meet the needs, capabilities and aspirations of all potential users (CA & TBE 2008). The home, the built environment and the user together form a system (Clarkson, & Coleman, 2015), There is sign that home designed to be inclusive are popular with all users (UC, Department of Engineering 2005). Users are expected to behave in a certain way if the impact of doing so is clear, immediate and if the default option is the desirable behaviour. Users prefer to be in control of their lives, as well as their work environment. They favour empowerment to 'command and control'. Human behaviour in complex systems is habitual, repeated and quick decision-making result that is not subject to careful analysis (Kahneman, 2013). Once entrenched, a habit is hard to change although, with time, habits can be erased. There are specific points when behaviour is more likely to change (Thompson, et al 2011). This is a way behaviours are nested in each other, rather than determined in isolation. The design of the built environment in association with social factors equally support how people behave and feel (Cabinet Office and Institute for Government, 2010). An understanding of how the built environment design along with other factors/policy interventions, can influence behaviour in a positive way would benefit both policy and practice (Thaler, & Sunstein, 2009, De Ridder, 2014). Experience has shown that needs and behaviour of users cannot be designed into a system at a late stage because system design choices are almost always constrained by earlier choices. This means that user behaviour needs to be considered during the development of the design brief, making behavioural assumptions clear very early in the process, and opening them up to analysis and challenge. For home design carrying out testing using mockups, prototypes and simulations will create financial cost but reduce failure risk (UCL and DoT 2008). However, if human behaviour is fused into the process of identifying and managing risk, the probability of un-satisfaction can be reduced (Gill, & Spriggs, 2005).

### **3.4. Human Interactions with the Built and Natural Environment**

Understanding interactions between design and human

behaviour is a key factor in creating, operating and maintaining a successful built environment that supports resource stewardship, health and wellbeing, and performance and productivity (Cole, Oliver, & Robinson, 2013). A useful approach is to consider buildings and the people who use them as parts of a complex system. Systems thinking is described as holistic, total, joined-up, socio-technical, or user-centred thus requires multidisciplinary collaboration, since no single discipline, profession or stakeholder group has all the necessary expertise to tackle the whole system (Meyer, 2014). Systems thinking complements the detailed knowledge that stakeholders may have of individual components, and helps to identify how different parts of the system interact, and what developing characteristics it may have. There is a great deal of evolving knowledge about the factors that influence behaviour but much of it is fragmented across disciplines. The knowledge of built environment professions could be brought together along with initial knowledge about behavioural theory to provide a more inclusive accepting of the relationship between design of the built environment and behaviour. Interdisciplinary approaches to design that allow knowledge to be used should be promoted through education and best practice (Greenhalgh, & Wieringa, 2011). Funding is however needed to strengthen the data base by means of post-occupancy evaluation and other types of research, and develop practical, evidence-based tools. A systems approach to design, and the built environment is helpful. More work is needed to identify how this approach can complement or add to existing best practice, along with the development of practical tools. Suggestion should be sought on how the design of the built environment, alongside other factors or policy interventions, mutually reinforce behaviours that lead to improved stewardship of resources, health and wellbeing, and performance and productivity (Arthurson, 2012). Despite the understanding of interrelations between home design and environmental behaviour and human interactions, there are several potential barriers to be consider. These includes- cost, resource, time, and lack of knowledge, current practice and the expectations of key stakeholders. There is a need to demonstrate and justify the value of using a behavioural approach beyond avoiding failure later in the lifecycle of a building and beyond the understanding of human behaviour that architects, engineers and designers already have. The wider benefits and opportunities particularly for meeting policy challenges also need to be demonstrated. One major barrier is that there is no single agreed model of human behaviour that can be used in a design project. Furthermore, some of the most widely used models are criticised for being too individualistic and static, and so lacking in appreciation of context.



Source: socio-technical Centre, Leeds University Business School in Watson, et al (2015).

**Figure 2.** Socio-technical system illustrating the interrelated nature of an Organisational system

### 3.5. Categories of Home

The characteristics and features of an ideal home can be viewed from various aspects as earlier stated. For the purpose of this paper, the Socio-cultural and Socio-physical characteristics will be considered: Psychologically home should be inviting to anyone living in and viewing it. Visual pleasure is a major characteristic of an ideal home (Hobfoll, (2001). Physical features like aesthetics and cleanliness however are also a major boost to this psychological feeling of being welcome. Home as hearth connotes the warmth and coziness which home provides causing comfort and ensuring a welcoming and homely atmosphere for others (Ringel, 2017). In other words, the welcoming feature in a home is not limited to a physical building, rather is a feeling of being welcomed that “make a house a home” for people living in the house on a usual basis. An ideal house should be safe for its inhabitants. This can be achieved by the physical elements placed (Michie, et al 2011). The rooms in the house should be planned well as all areas utilized in connected activities near to each other. The kitchen should be near the dining room to allow foods being served easily during mealtime, The living room should be near the dining room to allow the guests to be served easily during meal time, The bathroom should be adjoined to the bedrooms for personal necessities, The washing area should be positioned at the back of the house so that the clothes will be hung in the clotheslines with relative ease, Rooms in the house should spacious enough, There should be wide enough windows for proper ventilation and lighting that might contribute to the family’s good health, It should have sufficient supply of water for tasks such as laundering, bathing and other personal needs of the family, Work Areas should be planned to prevent crowded space (Schaaf, Toth-Cohen, Johnson, Outten &

Benevides, 2011). The rooms should also give a sense of Intimacy and ease. Socio-Physically home should have some personal items that reflect you and/or your family. It should be clean without being pristine (Cohen, N. (2013). An idyllic home should meet the physical and social needs of the family. It must be equipped with: kitchen, dining, Bedroom, bathroom, living room, garden and lawn and children play area. In environment-behavior studies, the following ten general categories of Home often occur (Prayag, & Ryan, 2012): Home as security and control, Home as reflection of one’s ideas and values, Home as acting upon and modifying one’s dwelling, Home as permanence and continuity, Home as relationships with family and friends, Home as center of activities, Home as a refuge from the outside world, Home as indicator of personal status, Home as material structure: Categories according to material structure, the various examples include: Apartment, Condominium, Cottage, Townhouse, Single-family detached home, multi-family residential dwelling, Duplex and so on (Wells, Evans, & Cheek, 2016).

### 3.6. Idea of Home to Nigerians

What does a home mean to Nigerians? Pretty much everything, it turns out. World Remit, a digital money transfer service, asked Nigerians all over the world about the things that made them think of home. They wanted to find out how Nigerians feel about where they come from and what keeps them in touch with the places they are now. Countless number of answers was received and they couldn’t have been more different. Home, a simple four-letter word, yet everyone have their own ideas of what it means (Saguy & Ward, 2011). Sometimes it was the sounds, smells and tastes of where you came from, but the most common answer of all was family, a photo of your grandparents – comfort, joy and

memories of a life shared (Poulos, 2016). “My home is my kids”, said one of the customers. Family reminds us of home, a place where we are among kin. But home doesn’t have to be Lagos or Ibadan. For many Nigerians living abroad, Nigeria isn’t the only place on their mind. Home is playing soccer in the U.S, eating ice cream in the UK, and getting used to the snow and the cold in Switzerland. When life couldn’t be more different from Sokoto or Kaduna, Nigerians everywhere have found new places they call home. Generally, a people’s culture affects the types of homes they live in. Home must be accommodating, calm, and in a “respected” area. For example, Edos, Nigeria believe that the homes should be sacred, a cultural symbol, respected and used wisely. Some houses are built with bigger and additional spaces as a result of different cultures. For instance, the Igbos in Nigeria believes that one needs to erect four/more buildings in one compound in one’s native town to accommodate large families. The home is people and a person is home Fossey, et al, 2014). The relationship between people and home is sacrosanct. Whether a house is occupied by a person or ten persons, the state of the home is affected either in positively/negatively. Each year, Nigerians welcomes thousands of people to the country and majority of this population bring their different culture and beliefs and expectations on their homes too (Wilson, Houmøller, & Bernays, 2012). The homes are a product of what each individual wished it to be. In conclusion, culture and home work hand in hand and the home is deeply affected by materials, beliefs, environment, traditions and diversities (Durand, 2011).

### 3.7. Home and Place Attachment

Home attachment has to do with bonding of people to places, which can be functional attachment and emotional attachment (Anton, & Lawrence, 2014). People tend to build homes in places that meet their needs, both physical and psychological, and match their goals and lifestyle. Research indicates that the strongest influence upon an individual’s place attachment is the length of residence in the area. The longer a person lives in a particular area, the more positive the sentiments toward the community are likely to be. An individual is most likely to feel attached to a place where they have many local friends and relatives and where there are long term residents in the area (Scannell, & Gifford, 2010). There are indications that an individual is more attached to the people associated with a place than to the place as a physical entity. This refers to the ability of home and place to enable us achieve our goals and desired activities. If there is an ongoing relationship with a place and it supports our highly valued goals and activities, then there will be an attachment to the place. Emotional home and place attachment has to do with the feelings, moods and emotions people have about certain places Wiles, et al., (2011), Points out, that people can relate to home itself and the communities defined by it. Place attachment is seen as a good thing by commentators. Seligman, (2004) noted that emotional place

attachment certainly has a strong positive effect in defining our identity, in filling our life with meaning, in enriching it with values, goals and significance thus contributing to our mental health and well-being.

## 4. Research Methodology

A total of 250 questionnaires were distributed to ascertain the various perceptions people living in Lagos have about what a home really means. The paper provides a description of the research methods used in data collection and analysis. Research was design to include focused group interview through a semi structured interview guide and qualitative narrative was also employed, questionnaires was use to elucidate information from residents of Lagos, Nigeria as well as observation. Therefore triangulation method was used to expound the required facts for the research. The questionnaires were circulated among different household in Lagos. 249 were filled and returned. It covered areas on general section, and attitudinal questions section.

## 5. Findings and Result

The findings and results were presented, analyzed and Interpreted along the line of data collated from the questionnaires shared and observations made. A critical analysis on meanings and characteristics of home in terms of what people living in Lagos think was revealed. Basic mediums of Representation are Descriptive Statistics (Tables, Frequencies and Charts). SPSS was used to analysis the data collected through the instrument (questionnaires).

### 5.1. Psychological and Socio-Physical Characteristics of Home

The data collected through the use of questionnaires according to the different psychological and Socio-physical characteristics of home in Lagos are as interpreted below as shown the various tables. Table 1 showed that there were more Male (59.8%) respondents than Female (40.2%). This variation was because at the time of sharing the questionnaires, the people around were mostly male. The data collected however showed that most of the male respondents were completely supported by friends, family and partners in times of family conflicts or challenges. This reveals that psychologically, their houses can be called homes viewing its psychological values. The female respondents, however mostly replied to a moderate level of support from friends, family and partners as shown in Table 1. Most of the residents were above 41 years of age, which comprised mostly of men and women in their late 40s and early 60s. The questionnaires were shared around midday. The least number of residents had an age range of 31-35 which explained the fact that most of these people of that age range were still in rented apartments. A better understanding

of what home is was explained by people who already have families. See Table 1.

**Table 1.** Psychological and Socio-cultural Characteristics of Home

SN	Psychological and Socio-cultural Characteristics of Home	items	Frequency	Percent
1	Sex Distribution of Residents	Male	149	59.8
		Female	100	40.2
2	Age Distribution of Residents	31-35	49	19.7
		35-40	51	20.5
		41 & above	149	59.8
3	Educational Background	Primary/Secondary	10	4.0
		NCE/OND	12	4.8
		Degree/HND	122	50.2
		Postgraduate	105	42.2
4	Marital Status	Single	40	16.1
		Married	209	83.9
5	Religion	Christian	249	100
6	Family type of Residents	Nuclear	244	89.8
		Extended	5	10.2
7	Number of occupants of Residents	1-5	126	50.6
		6-10	114	45.8
		11-15	8	3.2
		16-20	0	0
		21 and above	1	0.4
8	Tenure Status of Residents	Tenant	38	15.3
		Landlord	208	83.5
		Free-Houser	3	1.2
9	Number of Children of Residents	2-3	120	48.2
		4-6	100	40.1
		more than 6	29	11.7
10	Monthly Incomes of Residents	5,000-10,000	10	4.1
		10,000-20,000	10	4.1
		30,000-40,000	40	16.1
		40,000-50,000	70	28.1
		50,000-100,000	18	7.2
		above 100,000	101	40.3
	Total	249	100	

Source: author s' fieldwork

Table 1 explained that most of the respondents were HND/Bachelor degree holders (122). This is because most people that own homes in Lagos are graduate/degree holders. Among the respondents were 40 single people while the remaining 209 were married. This is expected because few persons own their first homes as single, and the homes people build with spouse are most times not the first one. Most of the single residents were bachelors than spinsters and mainly career persons having vested interest in the work than personal relationships as show in Table 1. All 249

respondents were Christians. This can be explained because in Lagos, Christianity is the major religion being practiced. This reveals that religion plays a vital role in the psychological characteristics of man of Home. When the residents were asked their families type, 244 of them replied nuclear families while the rest said extended family. In Lagos and most parts of Nigeria, houses like apartments, duplexes and bungalows are built for nuclear families consumption. Table above showed that the number of occupants in the various residents' house was more of 1-5 (50.6%), then 6-10 (45.8%) and 11-15 (3.2%). However, this can be explained using the family types, because a nuclear family comprises of mother, father, and children which is why most residents had 1-5 and 6-10 occupants in their homes. The frequency of landlord (208 residents) was more than tenants who were 38 in number. The remaining 3 residents are 'Free- Houser'. This reveals that most of the people in Lagos live in mortgage/government/public private property they bought. However, there are still people who do not own properties; neither do they pay any rent to live in houses and these are free Houser's.

**Table 2.** Psychological and Socio-Physical Characteristics of Home

SN	Psychological and Socio-Physical Characteristics of Home		Frequency	Percent
1.	What building category does the Resident' house belong to?	Bungalow	76	30.5
		Duplex	83	33.3
		Apartment	90	36.2
2.	Number of Rooms Resident' house has.	1-2	30	12.0
		3-4	112	45.0
		5-6	106	42.6
		7-8	0	0
		9 and above	1	0.4
		Total	249	100.0

Source: author s' fieldwork

The number of children varied from 2-3 children (120 residents) to 4-6 children (100 residents) to more than 6 children (29 residents). This explains why the most common family type in Lagos is the nuclear family which comprise of 2-6 children. The monthly income of residents ranged from 5,000-10,000 to 10,000-20,000 to 30,000-40,000 to 40,000-50,000 to 50,000-100,000. 101residents replied 'above 100,000' as their monthly income. From table 1, most of the residents earn over 100,000 monthly and enough money to build a home, meaning that the monthly income of residents affects the type of homes constructed. One resident however was not willing to disclose his monthly income and when asked why, he stated that "I believe my monthly income should be my own 'palava'." Connoting that he believes his monthly income figure is personal to him. The buildings the respondents live in were categorized and the frequency of response include; Bungalow (76 residents),

Duplex (83 residents) and Apartment (90 residents). Apartment's occupants were more than people living in duplexes and bungalows, and this affects the socio-physical characteristics of home in that as a mortgage owner/tenant, there are features you cannot change or things you cannot do to a house that isn't yours. Table 2 showed that apartment building is the most common categories of home in megacities like Lagos, Nigeria. Table 2 reveals that the number of rooms in residents' house ranged from 3-4rooms (112 residents) which made up 45.0% of the entire number of residents. The others include 5-6 rooms (106 residents) which is 42.6%, 1-2 (30 residents) while a respondent said there was 9 or more rooms in her house. For a house that has just 1-2 rooms, the occupants would want more space for children, visitors and extended family members given the socio-cultural characteristics of the residents of a typical south-westerner (Lagosian), while the resident that has over 9 rooms in the house, has ample spaces to spend time in the house.

## 5.2. Perception of Home in Lagos, Nigeria

The data on various perceptions of home in Nigeria from the distributed questionnaires are as interpreted in descriptive frequency table 3. The Number of years spent in the houses and the time or year of construction of houses was gathered. From Table 3, 140 residents alleged to have been living in the houses for up to 1– 5 years while 80 residents replied 6-10 years. The remaining (29 resident) have lived in the house for 11-15 years. Revealing that majority actually tend to relocate from the present houses but would still carry the perception of home to wherever they go. This explains the difference between space and place giving a different space meaning and eventually turning it to a 'place'. When asked when the houses were constructed, 0.8% (i.e. 2 residents) did not know the date of construction while 103 respondents (41.4%) retorted that houses were constructed before 2000. 130 residents (52.2%) replied 2000-2005, while 10 residents (4.1%) replied 2006-2011.

The remaining 4 resident replied 2012-2016 as shown Table above. The external spaces of the houses were used for various things, mainly as open spaces for parking of cars (66.9%) then open spaces (16.9%) then Green areas (16.1%). The ratio of green areas is rather low compared to the amount of open spaces used for developed buildings. It is important that this be reviewed given that the perception an individual will have about home is largely based on the affects thermal comfort. This is based on the physical ideology of home as shown in Table 3. The house demarcation for residents' houses include; Fence (56.6%), Open space (27.3%) and Green spaces (16.1%). The level of security is considerably high given that a lot of buildings in Lagos have fence demarcations. The level of security also affects the perception an individual builds about their homes. Residents' previous abodes are in the Western region (53.0), Eastern region (18.1%) and Southern region (28.9%) of Nigeria.

None of the residents were living previously in the northern region of Nigeria. Residents showed that they have definitely had a changed in geographic location but this does not take away their individual perception although it may have caused a few changes in the initial perception maybe because of the environmental change. When asked the level of Support residents get from family and friends when conflicts arises, None of the residents experience no support, 42 residents experience Slight support, 2 residents were Undecided, 70 had Moderate support and 135 had complete support. The level of support residents get from family and friend in various situations in the houses goes a long way in affecting perception of what home is to them. Table 3 showed that most of the residents feel completely supported by family and friends and this could have a positive effect on perceptions. When asked the level of Support residents gets from their partner when conflicts arise as a result of family responsibility, 16 residents have No support, none of the residents experience Slight support, 7 residents were Undecided, 106 had Moderate support and 120 had complete support. The level of support residents get from their partners in various situations affects their perception too. Data gathered reveal that most of the residents feel completely supported by partners although it is slightly lower compared to the level of support from family and friends as shown in table 3. When asked if the things resident wants to do at home do not get done because of family demands on them, 11 residents replied No support, 107 residents experience Slight support, a resident were Undecided, 130 had Moderate support and none had complete support. The demands on an individual affect the decision to return home and also affect their view/perception of what home is. The data suggests that a large percentage of the residents slightly support this statement meaning that most of them actually do the things they want to do, without being affected by family demands. When asked if the demands of the president's job interfere with home and family life, 17 residents replied No support, 21 residents experience Slight support, 4 residents were Undecided, 105 had Moderate support and 102 had complete support. The demands on an individual's job can interfere with home and family life. Table 3 submits that a large percentage of residents have no support towards this statement meaning that most of them actually don't have interferences from jobs on home and family life. When asked if the resident's doesn't return home immediately after work because of family challenges, 36 residents replied No support, 103 residents experience Slight support, 4 residents were Undecided, 106 had Moderate support and None had complete support. Therefore the Perceptions of people about home can be greatly influenced by the level of family challenges experience at home. The study hints that a large percentage of residents have no support for the statement implying that most of them actually return home after work, not being affected by family challenges.

**Table 3.** Perception of Home in Lagos, Nigeria

SN	Perception of Home in Lagos, Nigeria.		Frequency	Percent
1.	How long has the resident lived in the house?	1-5 years	140	56.2
		6-10 years	80	32.1
		11-15 years	29	11.7
		16-20 years	0	0
		20 years & above	0	0
2.	When was the resident's house constructed?	2000-2005	130	52.2
		2006-2011	10	4.1
		2012-2016	4	1.6
		Don't know	2	0.8
		Before 2000	103	41.4
3.	What is the external space of the resident's house used for?	Parking	160	66.9
		Green area	40	16.1
		Open space /	49	16.9
4.	How is the space around the resident's house demarcated?	Green area	40	16.1
		Open space /	68	27.3
		Fence	141	56.6
5.	Where did the resident live before now?	Western region	132	53.0
		Northern region	0	0
		Eastern region	45	18.1
		Southern Region	72	28.9
6.	Level of Support Residents gets from family & friends when conflicts arise.	No Support	0	0
		Slightly Support	42	16.9
		Undecided	2	0.8
		Moderately Support	70	28.1
		Complete Support	135	54.2
7.	Level of Support residents gets from partner when conflicts arise as a result of family responsibility.	No Support	16	6.4
		Slightly Support	0	0
		Undecided	7	2.8
		Moderately Support	106	42.6
		Complete Support	120	48.2
8.	The things resident wants to do at home do not get done because of family demands on them.	No Support	11	4.4
		Slightly Support	107	43.0
		Undecided	1	0.8
		Moderately Support	130	52.2
		Complete Support	0	0
9.	The demands of resident's job interfere with home and family life.	No Support	17	6.8
		Slightly Support	21	8.4
		Undecided	4	1.6
		Moderately Support	105	42.2
		Complete Support	102	41.0
10.	Resident doesn't return home immediately after work because of family challenges.	No Support	36	14.6
		Slightly Support	103	41.7
		Undecided	4	1.6
		Moderately Support	106	42.6
		Complete Support	0	0
		Total	249	100.0

Source: author s' fieldwork

## 6. Conclusions

Home is vital tool that is necessary in a society that takes its place of importance as a building block on which the society cannot do without. Home is a dwelling-place used as a permanent or semi-permanent residence for an individual, family, household or several families in a tribe. A house is a building that functions as a home for humans ranging from simple dwellings such as basic huts of nomadic tribes and improvised shacks in shantytowns to complex, fixed structures of wood, brick, or other materials contain plumbing, ventilation and electrical systems. Most conventional modern houses in Western cultures will contain a bedroom, bathroom, kitchen or cooking area, and a living room. The study has identified the meaning, perception, perspectives and characteristics of home and the key issues associated with home. The different perspectives of home has been consider in this study as residents of Lagos have both negative and positive perceptions and perspectives of what home means, usually because of historical background and past events. From following deduction reveal that the psychological, socio-cultural and socio-physical views/perspective are amongst main indicators that has shape the meaning and characteristics of home in Lagos, Nigeria. However, from this study, the following are recommendations to be incorporated into the design of Nigerian homes. When designing, the Architect should include the socio-cultural background of client in other to provide a sense of intimacy that should link to the Cultural background. This can be achieved by using features in the home like finishes, arrangement of spaces, spaces sizes used, furniture and house furnishing, façade of the house and relationship between private and public areas. The Architect should incorporate physical features and spaces to the building during the design process to ensure that the structure is an ideal home (Functional & Aesthetically pleasing). These spaces and features include-Living room, dining, kitchen, bedrooms, Bathrooms and Toilets, Store, garden, parking and other specialized spaces based on clients requirements. These spaces should satisfy the client's physical, social and emotional needs. Therefore various perceptions people have of home reflect their background and lifestyle. This should be taken as a vital consideration during the design process of houses. Due to the fact that a family is the basic unit of a society and every family requires a home.

## ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

This paper has benefitted immensely from the financial assistance of Covenant University, Ota Nigeria. The authors acknowledge the important contribution of Wells, N. M., Evans, G. W., & Cheek, K. A. The authors are solely responsible for any errors and omissions.

## REFERENCES

- [1] Adeyemi O.V., (2012). The Home In Nigeria Context; A Study of User Perception and Satisfaction of Nigerian Homes.
- [2] Agbola, B. S., & Falola, O. J. (2016). Planning Law Reforms in Africa: Case Studies From Uganda, South Africa and Nigeria. In *Governing Urban Africa* (pp. 125-147). Palgrave Macmillan, London.
- [3] Andrews, F. M., & Withey, S. B. (2012). *Social indicators of well-being: Americans' perceptions of life quality*. Springer Science & Business Media.
- [4] Anton, C. E., & Lawrence, C. (2014). Home is where the heart is: The effect of place of residence on place attachment and community participation. *Journal of Environmental Psychology*, 40, 451-461.
- Arthurson, K. (2012). *Social mix and the city: Challenging the mixed communities consensus in housing and urban planning policies*. CSIRO publishing.
- [5] British Standards Institute (2005). *British Standard 7000-6:2005 Design management systems — Guide to managing inclusive design*, Guide, British Standards Institute, London, UK. Available from: [www.bsi-global.com](http://www.bsi-global.com)
- [6] Cabinet Office and Institute for Government (2010). *Mindspace: influencing behaviour through public policy*.
- [7] Castles, S., De Haas, H., & Miller, M. J. (2013). *The age of migration: International population movements in the modern world*. Palgrave Macmillan.
- [8] Chakrabarty, D. (2009). *Provincializing Europe: Postcolonial thought and historical difference*, Princeton University Press.
- [9] Christopher M., (2013). Physical Characteristics of Housing: American Community Survey Briefs.
- [10] Clarkson, J. and Coleman, R. (editors) (2015). *Applied Ergonomics: Human Factors in Technology and Society, Special Issue: Inclusive Design*, 46(B), 233—324. <http://www.sciencedirect.com/science/journal/00036870/46/part/PB>.
- [11] Cohen, N. (2013). Territorial stigma formation in the Israeli city of Bat Yam, 1950–1983: planning, people and practice. *Journal of Historical Geography*, 39, 113-124.
- [12] Cole, R. J., Oliver, A., & Robinson, J. (2013). Regenerative design, socio-ecological systems and co-evolution. *Building Research & Information*, 41(2), 237-247.
- [13] Commission for Architecture and the Built Environment (2006). *The principles of inclusive design*. Available at <http://webarchive.nationalarchives.gov.uk/20110118095356/http://www.cabe.org.uk/publications/theprinciples-of-inclusive-design>.
- [14] Commission for Architecture and the Built Environment (2008), *Inclusion by design: Equality, diversity and the built environment*. Available at: <http://webarchive.nationalarchives.gov.uk/20110118095356/http://www.cabe.org.uk/publications/inclusion-by-design>.
- [15] Cresswell, T. (2014). *Place: an introduction*, John Wiley & Sons.

- [16] De Ridder, D. (2014). *Nudging for beginners: A shortlist of issues in urgent need of research*, The European Health Psychologist, 16(1), 2-7.
- [17] Durand, T. M. (2011). Latina mothers' cultural beliefs about their children, parental roles, and education: Implications for effective and empowering home-school partnerships. *The Urban Review*, 43(2), 255-278.
- [18] Easthope, H. (2004). A place called home. *Housing, theory and society*, 21(3), 128-138.
- [19] Flannery, K. (2012). *The creation of inequality: how our prehistoric ancestors set the stage for monarchy, slavery, and empire*. Harvard University Press.
- [20] Fossey, J., Masson, S., Stafford, J., Lawrence, V., Corbett, A., & Ballard, C. (2014). The disconnect between evidence and practice: a systematic review of person-centred interventions and training manuals for care home staff working with people with dementia. *International journal of geriatric psychiatry*, 29(8), 797-807.
- [21] Fox, L. (2002). The meaning of home: A chimerical concept or a legal challenge? *Journal of Law and Society*, 29(4), 580-610.
- [22] Gill, M. and Spriggs, A. (2005). *Assessing the impact of CCTV* (pp. 1-176). London: Home Office Research, Development and Statistics Directorate (see p.45).
- [23] Greenhalgh, T., & Wieringa, S. (2011). Is it time to drop the 'knowledge translation' metaphor? A critical literature review. *Journal of the Royal Society of Medicine*, 104(12), 501-509.
- [24] Hall, C. M., & Page, S. J. (2014). *The geography of tourism and recreation: Environment, place and space*, Routledge.
- [25] Hardoy, J. E., & Satterthwaite, D. (2014). *Squatter citizen: life in the urban third world*. Routledge.
- [26] Hobfoll, S. E. (2001). The influence of culture, community, and the nested-self in the stress process: advancing conservation of resources theory, *Applied psychology*, 50(3), 337-421.
- [27] Kahneman, D. (2013). *Thinking Fast and Slow*, reprint edition, Farrar, Straus and Giroux Cabinet Office and Institute for Government (2010), *Mindspace: in\_uencing behaviour through public policy*.
- [28] Karsten, L. (2005). It all used to be better? Different generations on continuity and change in urban children's daily use of space. *Children's Geographies*, 3(3), 275-290.
- [29] Lawson, E. O. (2011). Physico-chemical parameters and heavy metal contents of water from the Mangrove Swamps of Lagos Lagoon, Lagos, Nigeria. *Advances in Biological Research*, 5(1), 8-21.
- [30] Lawanson, T. (2012). Poverty, home based enterprises and urban livelihoods in the Lagos metropolis. *Journal of Sustainable Development in Africa*, 14(4), 158-171.
- [31] Lima, S. L., Blackwell, B. F., DeVault, T. L., & Fernández-Juricic, E. (2015). Animal reactions to oncoming vehicles: a conceptual review. *Biological Reviews*, 90(1), 60-76.
- [32] Lind, J., & Cresswell, W. (2005). Determining the fitness consequences of antipredation behavior. *Behavioral Ecology*, 16(5), 945-956.
- [33] MacCannell, D. (2011). *The ethics of sightseeing*, Univ of California Press.
- [34] Mahadevia, D., Liu, Z., & Yuan, X. (2012). Housing of urban migrants in India and China. *Environment and Urbanization Asia*, 3(1), 143-163.
- [35] Makinde, O. O. (2014). Housing delivery system, need and demand, *Environment, development and sustainability*, 16(1), 49-69.
- [36] Mallett, S. (2004). Understanding home: a critical review of the literature, *The sociological review*, 52(1), 62-89.
- [37] Meyer, I. (Ed.). (2014). *Achieving Effective Integrated E-Care Beyond the Silos*. IGI Global.
- [38] Michie, S., Ashford, S., Sniehotta, F. F., Dombrowski, S. U., Bishop, A., & French, D. P. (2011). A refined taxonomy of behaviour change techniques to help people change their physical activity and healthy eating behaviours: the CALO-RE taxonomy. *Psychology & health*, 26(11), 1479-1498.
- [39] Nasiali, M. (2016). *Native to the Republic: Empire, Social Citizenship, and Everyday Life in Marseille since 1945*, Cornell University Press.
- [40] Ogunnaike, A. (2017). *Enhancing homeownership opportunities among middle-income earners in Nigeria: A case study of Lagos Metropolis* (Doctoral dissertation, University of the West of England).
- [41] Olugbenga, E., & Adekemi, O. (2013). Challenges of housing delivery in metropolitan Lagos. *Research on Humanities and Social Science*, 3(20), 1-8.
- [42] Opoko, A. P., & Oluwatayo, A. (2014). Trends in Urbanisation: Implication for Planning and Low-Income Housing Delivery in Lagos, Nigeria. *Architecture Research*, 4(1A), 15-26.
- [43] Poulos, C. N. (2016). *Accidental ethnography: An inquiry into family secrecy*. Routledge.
- [44] Prayag, G., & Ryan, C. (2012). Antecedents of tourists' loyalty to Mauritius: The role and influence of destination image, place attachment, personal involvement, and satisfaction. *Journal of Travel Research*, 51(3), 342-356.
- [45] Premdas, R. R. (2011). Identity, ethnicity, and the Caribbean homeland in an era of globalization, *Social Identities*, 17(6), 811-832.
- [46] Ringel, D. (2017). Housing experience and well-being of asylum seekers. A comparative ethnographic case study of refugees, living in different types of refugee accommodations in a German municipality.
- [47] Ross, C. E., & Mirowsky, J. (2013). The sense of personal control: Social structural causes and emotional consequences, In *Handbook of the sociology of mental health* (pp. 379-402), Springer Netherlands.
- [48] Saguy, A. C., & Ward, A. (2011). Coming out as fat: Rethinking stigma. *Social Psychology Quarterly*, 74(1), 53-75.
- [49] Scannell, L., & Gifford, R. (2010). Defining place attachment:

- A tripartite organizing framework. *Journal of environmental psychology*, 30(1), 1-10.
- [50] Schaaf, R. C., Toth-Cohen, S., Johnson, S. L., Outten, G., & Benevides, T. W. (2011). The everyday routines of families of children with autism: Examining the impact of sensory processing difficulties on the family. *Autism*, 15(3), 373-389.
- [51] Seligman, M. E. (2004). *Authentic happiness: Using the new positive psychology to realize your potential for lasting fulfillment*, Simon and Schuster.
- [52] Simonsen, K. (2013). In quest of a new humanism: Embodiment, experience and phenomenology as critical geography. *Progress in Human Geography*, 37(1), 10-26.
- [53] Thaler, R. H., and Sunstein, C. R. (2009). *Nudge: Improving decisions about health, wealth, and happiness*, New Haven, CT: Yale University Press.
- [54] Thompson, S., Michaelson, J., Abdallah, S., Johnson, V., Morris, D., Riley, K. and Simms, A. (2011). *Moments of change as opportunities for influencing behaviour: A report to the Department for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs*, New Economics Foundation / Defra, London.
- [55] UCL and DoT (2008). *Investigation into Train Dwell Time*.
- [56] University of Cambridge Department of Engineering (2005). *Inclusive design examples*. Available at: <http://www.eng.cam.ac.uk/inclusivedesign/index.php?section=introduction&page=ex-focus>.
- [57] University of Cambridge and BT (2013). *Inclusive design toolkit*. Available at: <http://www.inclusivedesigntoolkit.com/betterdesign2/>.
- [58] Vanclay, F. (2002). Conceptualising social impacts. *Environmental Impact Assessment Review*, 22(3), 183-211.
- [59] Watson, J.D.M., Clegg, C.W., Cowell, R., Davies, F., Hughes, C., McCarthy, N., and Westbury, P. (2015). *Built for Living: understanding behaviour and the built environment through engineering and design*. Royal Academy of Engineering: London.
- [60] Wells, N. M., Evans, G. W., & Cheek, K. A. (2016). Environmental psychology, *Environmental Health: From Global to Local*, 203.
- [61] Wiles, J. L., Leibing, A., Guberman, N., Reeve, J., & Allen, R. E. (2011). The meaning of “ageing in place” to older people, *The gerontologist*, gnr098.
- [62] Wilson, S., Houmøller, K., & Bernays, S. (2012). ‘Home, and not some house’: young people's sensory construction of family relationships in domestic spaces. *Children's Geographies*, 10(1), 95-107.