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Ideal Homes

Domestic Materiality and Past Identities

Edited by

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*What happened is, we grew lonely
living among the things,
so we gave the clock a face,
the chair a back,
the table four stout legs
which will never suffer fatigue....*

*...Even what was beyond us
was recast in our image;
we gave the country a heart,
the storm an eye,
the cave a mouth
so we could pass into safety.*

Lisel Mueller. "Things"

Mobile societies of the past may well have defined their sources of security and socialisation in different terms than later agricultural peoples, as an entire landscape was 'home' for them.

Structures which had provided temporary shelter for those who followed herd and shoal became permanent (or even semi-permanent) formalised nodes of domestic relationships, security, nurture, personal maintenance, and industry from the Neolithic onwards. The combination of activities and social relations produced considerable innovation in domestic objects and how they were used, some of these even being taken to the grave, presumably for use in an afterlife.

Did the objects generate the concept of 'home', or did the type of dwelling influence the style and use of the artefact? Did activity and artefact generate identities and roles? To what extent can experimental and experiential archaeology give a genuine flavour of domestic life in the past?

This volume invites scholars exploring the relationships between domestic activity, crafts and artefacts of peoples of the past, each paper illustrating different aspects of the process of domestic life and artefactual innovation which occurred through everyday life.

Non-European perspectives and contributions are particularly welcome.

**Please contact the editor Rena Maguire on
rena.maguire@qub.ac.uk to discuss submissions.**



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Submission Guidelines

Abstract submission:

Please send us your titles and abstracts, accompanied by a short author bio by **October 31st, 2022**.

**Please email the editor at:
rena.maguire@qub.ac.uk**

Once your abstract is accepted, you will be informed about the full paper submission deadline.

Publication Information

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