

ONE'S OWN PLACE

Men want a study room, and women want a place called "housewife corner." Like some sort of a catch phrase or proverb, it is a regular request when planning a house. The compensation for the possible lack of space where each one build their own personalities, as is discussed in the previous column, seems to take such forms. Ok, let's admit that we all want our own places.

But what in the world is a place of one's own? Unlike the time when it was said that no home for women in the three realms of existence —the past, present, and future— men are getting more and more displaced in their own home. Some go to the extreme described as nostophobia or "not-wanting-to-go-back-home" syndrome.

My father back home leaves things all over the place as if he declares where he stands were always his own place, but it is not always possible in the narrow house. Animals have territories, and define their own worlds according to their smell or ability to move. Humans seems to be losing such instincts.

A study room that most of men want is not necessarily for male only. I once made two study rooms for each one of the couple, or placed five desks in the playroom so that the whole family can use the space. We often times embrace the illusion of study room as a room solely to study, but it is actually a space for hobby and play as well. Let's not turn a dream-come-true study room into storeroom, but make our own place suited to ourselves.

Likewise, so called "housewife corner" is not only for housewives, but, ideally, also for everyone in the family. A fridge functions as a bulletin board in some houses. Where family events, messages, or notifications gather and are transmitted might be named "lifestyle management corner," rather than "housewife corner."

I recommend you get your own desk first, so that you start learning to organize your intellectual life. The drawer soon will be full of your dreams and memories.