ABSTRACT

A place called home is many things. It’s not just a container of occupants and material things, but collects in its hollowness a set of events, spirits, and memories. While it occurs for some in a fixed location, others seek home attachments in objects. The world today consists of mobile populations who know home not as physical entities, but as breathing, living and changing environments, imbued with meaning and substance far greater and beyond the spatial experience. My dissertation is titled, "How can an individual find home away from home?" Here, a subjective and human centered approach is adopted and studied through a wide array of disciplines such as anthropology, philosophy and psychology, in order to discover how it is conceived by the mobile population. This dissertation examines home environments as they exist and their influence on the home-created. A variety of theories and philosophies are discussed to gain perspective on how these objects turn into spaces of feeling.