



**HOUSING**



# URBANISATION

## HOUSING & SOCIAL LIFE

- Urbanisation has changed Southeast Asian housing radically since the 1960s, whereas Australian and New Zealand homes have generally stayed the same.
- The amount of time teenagers spend at home often depends on how much space they have.
- In Australia, New Zealand and the expanding middle class across urban Southeast Asia, teenagers may have their own bedrooms. These teenagers are more inclined to stay at home during their leisure time, especially if they have a computer with internet facilities.
- In the small domestic space of a high-rise apartment, it is common for teenagers to share their bedroom with other siblings. Because private space is limited, these teenagers tend to go out more often, either to see friends whose homes are larger, or to "hang-out" at malls or fastfood restaurants.



### ...and you?

"In my room I sleep, surf the net and chat online. I love my bed! Seriously - I sleep and laze on it a lot, on weekends, and on days when there's no classes."

Andrew, 18, M, Malaysia

"My friends tend to visit me in my bedroom rather than in the main sitting room."

Taimus, 17, M, New Zealand

"I play Playstation games in the lounge. Our house is always noisy; there are ten of us."

Syukri, 15, M, Singapore

"When I got my own room I was able to choose my own bed. I was really happy about this. I sleep, do homework, draw and 'be inspired' in my room."

Naema, 15, F, Philippines

"We have one main room which includes living, dining and a loft for sleeping. I eat, talk with my family, watch TV, and go on the internet to play games. My favourite piece of furniture is the sofa. Sometimes I sleep on it."

Angela, 16, F, Philippines

"A sofa is in the living room, which is also a dining room for us because our house is small. We have an altar to burn joss sticks to commemorate our deceased ancestors."

Trang, 16, F, Vietnam

# HIGH-RISE



# LEAVING HOME

- In Singapore, for example, it is common to find groups of teenage students studying together in a fast-food place. This is partly a result of limited space and frequent interruptions from siblings at home.
- In New Zealand and Australia, many teenagers over 18 leave home and live on their own, whereas in Southeast Asia, they tend to remain living with their family until they marry. This is due to different cultural traditions and the affordability of accommodation.

## ...and you?

"At home, I like to surf the internet and to play computer games. I install games that I purchase from computer shops or borrow from my friends onto my PC. My favourite furniture is my bed. The mattress is so comfortable. I do have a favourite bolster (a long pillow) that I have used since I was a little girl. I can't sleep without the bolster."

Riska, 17, F, Indonesia

## ...and you?

"We have dinner, watch TV, and use the laptops to go on Facebook in the lounge. In my room I sleep, read, talk to my sister, and plan what outfit to wear to school the next day. My family are all very loud people."

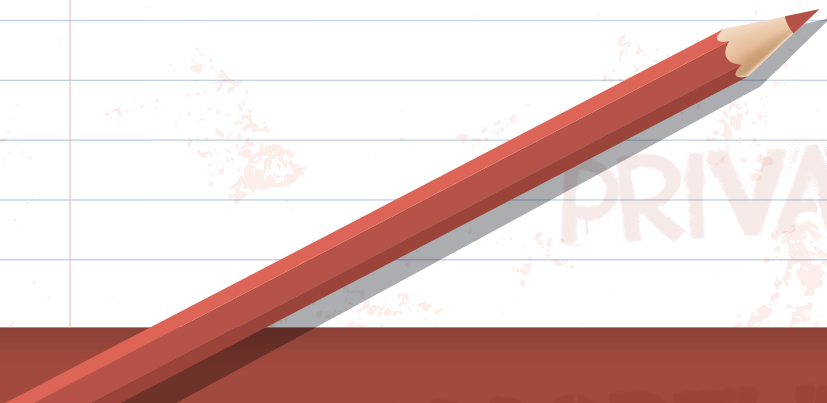
Ranjini, 17, F, Singapore

"I love my bed. Even though it is not big, I have sufficient room in it. Now, I have to share a medium-sized bed with my parents, so it is not too comfortable, as there is not much room for me to move when sleeping. I miss my bed so much."

Banuaji, 13, M, Indonesia

IN WHAT WAYS DOES HOUSING AFFECT TEENAGERS' LIFESTYLE?

# PRIVATE SPACE







# FEATURES OF URBANISATION

- In the past 50 years people have begun to move to cities and towns in greater numbers, either “pulled” by the opportunity to achieve a higher standard of living and educational opportunities, or “pushed” by the increasing difficulties of making a living from the land.
  - Today, more than 75% of Australians and New Zealanders live in urban areas, while the largest Southeast Asian cities - Jakarta, Manila and Bangkok - are amongst the most populous in the world.
  - Many people across Southeast Asia and increasingly in Australia and New Zealand live in apartment buildings and other types of high-rise housing.
- Singapore
    - In 1961, the Singapore government set up the Housing and Development Board to re-house the entire population in modern high-rise apartments, because of the city-state’s very limited land area.
    - All houses except shophouses were demolished. Shophouses in the city centre, such as Chinatown and the Singapore River banks, were restored and transformed into modern offices, restaurants and bars.
    - By the mid-1980s, approximately 90% of the population lived in high-rise housing estates.



- In Hanoi, buildings are taxed on the width of their street frontages. This has led to tall, narrow buildings only three or four metres wide and 20 to 30 metres deep. Often the ground floor doubles as a retail/business space or restaurant and living room that can be opened to the street. Middle floors contain bedrooms and sometimes upper floors are smaller to allow space for roof terraces.

WHY DO MORE PEOPLE NOW LIVE IN APARTMENT BUILDINGS?

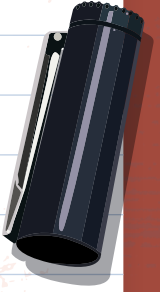


ROOF TERRACE  
HIGH-RISE



## GROUND-LEVEL HOUSES

- Some families in urban Southeast Asia aspire to move out of their high-rise apartments into a modern, detached house. By contrast, Australians and New Zealanders often associate high-rise apartments in the city with affluence.
- Spacious houses on their own land, in styles introduced by European colonists, are common in Australia and New Zealand. A typical Australian or New Zealand suburban house is single storey, free-standing with walls clad in either brick or weatherboard (a timber frame with long, narrow, overlapping planks of timber attached to the outside). There are usually living and dining rooms for shared family activities and receiving guests, a kitchen (sometimes with another, more informal living or “family” room) and three or four bedrooms. Australian and New Zealand families often have two cars in the garage, which may be attached to the house.
- Space for development has not traditionally been a problem in Australia and New Zealand. Low-intensity land usage has created sprawling cities. There is however an increasing trend in favour of more high-density developments (such as inner-city apartments) to reduce travel time and dependency on cars.



In Australia, the city of Melbourne has 4,000,000 people spread over 2,020 square kilometres, while New Zealand has approximately the same population spread over two large islands with a total area of approximately 270,000 square kilometres. In the case of Singapore, 4,500,000 inhabitants are packed into less than 700 square kilometres.

WHERE WOULD YOU PREFER TO LIVE - AN APARTMENT OR A HOUSE ON THE GROUND? WHY?



DEVELOPMENT

LOW-INTENSITY

URBAN SPRAWL

SUBURBIA





# MALAY HOUSES

- Traditional Malayo-Polynesian houses are built on piles or stilts. These houses are still built in Malaysia and coastal villages or river banks throughout the region.
- The raised floor provides protection from flooding.
- The distance from the ground and gaps in the floorboards allow air to circulate underneath. This cools the building in the hot, humid climate.
- The steep-pitched roof allows rapid run-off of rain water and the escape of hot air.
- The wide eaves of the roof shelter light wooden walls, which have holes for windows to let in light and air.
- The house is divided into a low deck (or verandah) where guests are met, and an inner private section of the house, including bedrooms and a kitchen.
- Unfenced houses are connected by paths.
- Children play and adults socialise in open spaces also used to grow fruit trees.

## Houses around the region

"When we lived in Sydney we lived in an apartment block. Our apartment had two bedrooms. It was square but had a good backyard. We then shared a house with my auntie and cousin for a few years. It was a nice house and had a sandpit. I shared a bedroom with my cousin."

Joshua, 17, M, Australia

"My home is a double storey corner lot. It's spacious and comfortable, well furnished with air-conditioning."

Nuraini, 17, F, Malaysia

"I live in a three-floor house where five families reside. Two families stay on the ground floor. Two families (my family - with six children, another with two children) stay on the second floor and our grandmother has a studio on the top floor. We have one room for living and dining and a loft for sleeping. There is a kitchen at the back of the house."

Angela, 16, F, Philippines



STEEP PITCH

STILTS



# CHINESE HOUSES

- Traditional Chinese architecture can be found in many Southeast Asian countries, reflecting the influence of Chinese migrants and settlers.
- Houses are built on the ground rather than on stilts.
- They are often closed on three sides except the south to capture the positive, Yang, while the north is walled to fend off the negative, Yin.
- Bedrooms and the kitchen surround the three closed sides of the hall.
- The main entrance is centrally placed and leads directly into a reception or 'ancestral' hall. Opposite the main entrance is an altar where the household gods are placed.
- The area under the extended eaves is often enclosed by a half-fence to form an open verandah, an adaptation of the Malay house.
- Chinese houses face footpaths/pavements and roads. This gives Chinese settlements very clear demarcation of private property and public space, in contrast to the unfenced, open informality of a Malay settlement.
- Chinese homes are traditionally considered to provide a space for women to socialise with their friends, while the men generally meet at local coffee shops.

## Houses around the region

"My home is brick. It has four bedrooms, two bathrooms and a neat, organised kitchen. There is no dining area; the family eats in the living room. The laundry is a subset of the kitchen and we dry the clothes by hanging them on the bamboo poles outside the kitchen window. There are ten people in my family and it's always noisy!"

*Syukri, 15, M, Singapore*

"My home is an old house with three bedrooms. I used to have my own room. But since last year, my room has been used by my mother's father. There are six people living in my house. We have two bathrooms in our home. One is located in my parents' room. The other one is for the rest of the family to share. Our living space is not big. In it, we can find an old small-sized sofa, four wood chairs, a TV set, and my old game console. We do not have a washing machine and a washer dryer. They are too expensive to buy. They are also energy consuming. My mother prefers to do our laundry manually. My maid usually helps her do this."

*Banuaji, 13, M, Indonesia*

COMPARE TRADITIONAL CHINESE HOUSES WITH MALAY HOUSES.

WHAT IS THE SAME,  
WHAT IS DIFFERENT?

VERANDAH

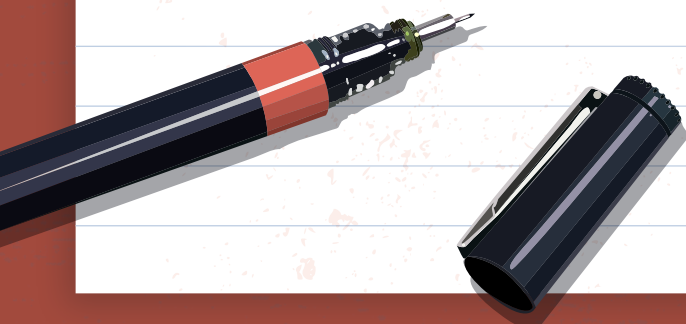
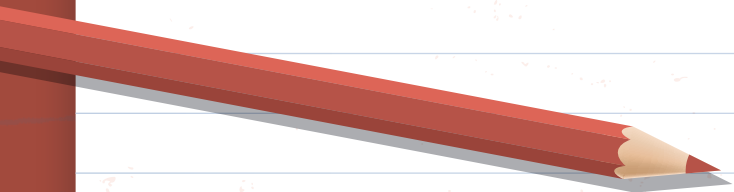


# ADAPTING CULTURE TO URBANISATION & STYLES OF HOUSING

- Many people living in apartments have to work out how to practise their social, cultural or religious traditions in a confined space.
- People move or add internal walls to their homes to change room spaces.
  - A Hindu household might convert a store-room into a prayer room to shelter the deities from potential ritual "pollution". In a standardised flat, the washroom and toilet are often placed alongside the kitchen, creating a situation where "pure" food preparation is threatened by ritual "pollution". Placing a light wall between the bathroom door and the kitchen can be a simple symbolic adjustment.



- People may adapt now-impractical physical practices into more symbolic acts.
  - In a Malay high-rise apartment, women cannot avoid passing through the living room to reach the other rooms. To cross the room, a Malay woman may put up her hand in a symbolic gesture to "veil" herself from men outside of her family.
  - The traditional Chinese house emphasises formal symmetry, but in high-rise flats the front door is seldom centred. Adjusting for this, an ethnic Chinese household may ignore the position of the door and place the altar in the centre of the living room's end-wall.



SOCIAL

RELIGIOUS

CULTURAL





# CULTURAL & RELIGIOUS TRADITIONS

- Religious beliefs may affect the layout, structure or usage of a house. For example, for Muslims in the region:
  - the layout of the house is culturally significant.
  - the main house is largely for men and the kitchen for women.
  - women use the main house for prayer as the prayer hall of a mosque is generally a male space.
  - the house may face towards Mecca, if this does not cause it to face another house directly.



## HINDUS

- In Southeast Asia, Hindus of Indian descent live in either Malay or Chinese style houses often marked by dried palm leaves hanging above the main door.
  - Hindu houses are designed in a number of ways to separate ritual “purity” and “pollution” in daily life, including:
    - washing facilities are located in a separate building away from the main house to allow ritual washing before stepping into the house.
    - the kitchen is set apart from other spaces in the house.
    - if possible, unmarried male and female family members sleep in separate areas.





# AIR CONDITIONING



## CLIMATE

"We do not use air conditioning in our home, as we do not want to contribute to global warming. But we do have a good ventilation system, so we manage to maintain the temperature at around 25 degrees Celsius."

Riska, 17, F, Indonesia

"In winter we usually keep the house at 18 degrees. We have a gas heater with vents in the floor. We don't have air conditioning, so in summer it can get really hot. We have to use the fans."

Sian, 19, F, Australia

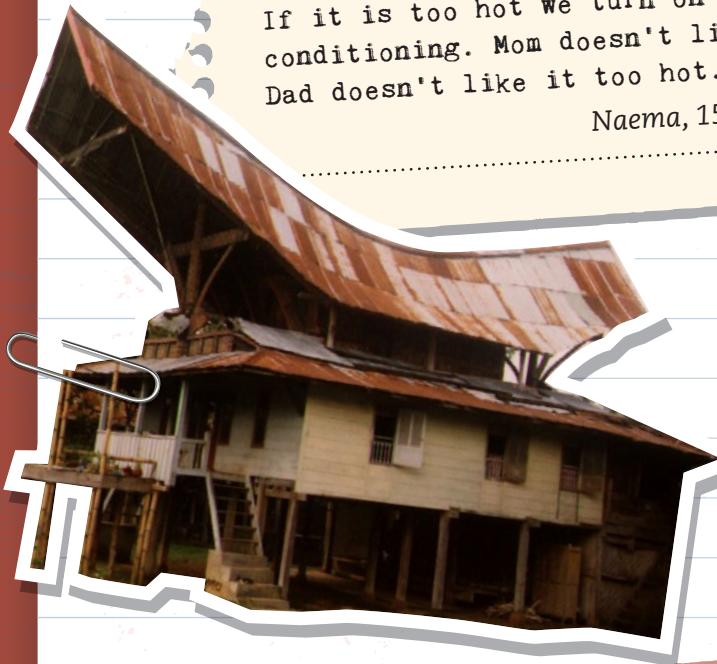
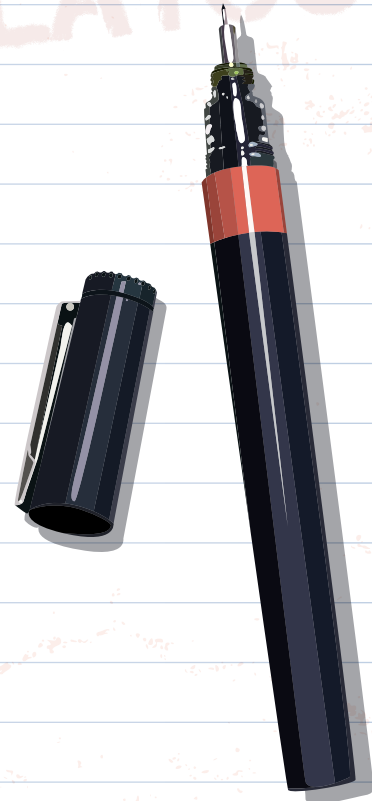
"The temperature is usually in the 30s. We use a fan to keep cool."

Syukri, 15, M, Singapore

"It is around 24-32C where I live. If it is too hot we turn on the air conditioning. Mom doesn't like it cold; Dad doesn't like it too hot."

Naema, 15, F, Philippines

# LAYOUT



HOW ARE MALAY HOUSES KEPT COOL?

WHAT FORMS OF TEMPERATURE CONTROL ARE USED?

WHAT IS THE TEMPERATURE WHERE YOU LIVE? HOW DO YOU KEEP YOUR HOUSE WARM/COOL?

# VENTILATION