

Workshop: The “home factor” between caring for oneself, others, and the environment

Rome, March 7, 2025, Pontificia Università della Santa Croce (PUSC), 3-5 pm

Organizers: PUSC & HRF

The Architecture of Home: Inquiry into the fluidity of space, culture, time and care.

Professor Mohamed Gamal Abdelmonem

Chair of Architecture, Founding Director of Research

York School of Architecture, University of York, UK

Director, Home Renaissance Foundation.

Abstract:

Looking beyond the physical attributes of the house, investigating the notion of ‘home’ opens up multitudes of frontiers where space, culture and time intertwine to shape the home to cater for changing needs of the family, community, and society at large. This paper discusses the spatial and cultural fabric of home, where it adapts to family needs across time, and how it enabled us to overcome the challenges of global pandemic, health inequalities, intergenerational care, and enable agile response to climate change. It analyses the culture and architecture of home in different contexts, from the UK, Europe, Middle East and Asia to understand the universal values and attributes of home and its architecture. The dynamics of the socio-spatial spheres of home, this paper reports, reveal a complex system of architecture where space, culture, time and care operate in tandem and can reshape to support local customs and social needs.