

*INTRODUCTION: SPECIAL ISSUE ON CROSS-CULTURAL HOUSING*

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Focus on a cross-cultural perspective of housing makes possible the achievement of improved environmental quality and provides a deeper understanding of human-environment relations. By identifying and analyzing culturally-based approaches to current worldwide problems, we can expand our awareness of alternatives and, thereby, increase the possibilities for choice. By analyzing traditional housing, we may better understand the relation of the environment to lifestyle and values.

The first set of papers in this special issue of *Housing and Society* focuses on how various nations and governments are dealing with current worldwide housing concerns (i.e. energy use, housing for the elderly, homeless and low-income families). A paper dealing with the transfer of a coal-mining culture from England to Michigan presents a cross-cultural perspective of change over time and how that change affects the sense of identity and tradition. Another paper presents an overview of recent housing dissertations with a cultural aspect.