

GRADUATE STUDENT RESEARCH ABSTRACTS: 1987-1989

Gwendolyn Brewer, Assistant Editor

The following abstracts represent graduate student theses and dissertations completed between 1987 and 1989. Each relates to the field of housing and was sponsored or advised by one or more AAHE members. This section enables AAHE members and friends to identify the content and direction of research among new housing professionals. It also highlights the accomplishments of housing educators and their universities in producing and promoting the study of housing. The listing includes 36 entries from eight universities. They are listed alphabetically by student name preceded by title. Following the abstract is the degree and date awarded, the advisor(s) name, and the institutional affiliation.

HOUSING- AND NEIGHBORHOOD-RELATED STRESS OF FEMALE HEADS OF SINGLE-PARENT HOUSEHOLDS

S T Baillie

The relationship of housing and neighborhood deficits to stress among female, single-parent households was examined. The data were based on a systematic proportionate sample and mail survey. These included 162 responses from mothers of elementary school-age children. The data were analyzed using analysis of variance, linear, and multiple regression. Differences were found between number of deficits reported and dwelling type, length of tenancy, method of housing payment, and dwelling satisfaction. Relationship was found between number of housing- and neighborhood-related deficits and stress level using Langer's Index of Mental Illness. Twelve housing deficits were related to stress. Among these were: inadequate room size, storage and space for activities or entertaining; no private parent bedroom; lack of freedom to alter interior; hard-to clean floor and bathroom materials; no assigned parking space; and general lack of family privacy. Neighborhood deficits related to stress were: inadequate police surveillance, lack of social acceptance of the single-parent lifestyle, and neighborhoods not clean or not pleasant/attractive looking.

Doctoral, 1986

S S Day and R C Goss

Virginia Polytechnic Institute and State University, Housing, Interior Design, and Resource Management Department

A COMPARATIVE ANALYSIS OF MOVERS AND NONMOVERS TO A RETIREMENT COMMUNITY

M J W Barrow

This study sought to determine whether significant differences exist between non-movers and movers to a retirement community and how demographic and residential characteristics and residential satisfaction related. Data from personal interviews with 32 elderly (age 62+) residents of a Virginia retirement community (movers) and 32 residents at large (nonmovers) were examined with t-test and chi square analyses. Findings revealed differences between the two groups in marital status; income; tenure and length of residency; dwelling type and age; number of rooms; presence of major structural problems; and neighborhood and overall satisfaction. Nonmovers were more likely to be married, home owners, and more satisfied with their present housing and neighborhood than movers were with previous housing. Nonmovers' dwellings were more likely to be single-family, detached, older, larger, and had fewer structural problems than the previous dwellings of movers.

Masters, 1987

S S Day and R C Goss

Virginia Polytechnic Institute and State University, Housing, Interior Design, and Resource Management Department

HISTORICAL PERSPECTIVE OF BATHROOM DESIGN AND SPACE REQUIREMENTS IN THE UNITED STATES

F B Baugh

This study catalogues changes in the design and the facility of bathrooms. Included are technological and design documentations, equipment-size requirements, and an inventory of user needs. A content analysis of trade and public periodicals was conducted using a quinquennial base. Many changes have taken place in size and content as well as in treatment of aesthetics. Discussed are changes relating to personal hygiene, needs, expectations, fashion through the centuries, and adaptations of bathroom fixtures and accessories. The role of the designer in the various phases of current bath design is observed. Changing attitudes regarding hygiene, design preference, and technological advances in the bathroom and its contents are presented to help designers understand recent trends.

Masters, 1989

M J Weber and G J Brewer

Oklahoma State University, Housing, Interior Design, and Consumer Studies Department

HOUSING AWARENESS, IMPORTANCE, PREFERENCES, AND SATISFACTION OF PRE- AND EARLY-ADOLESCENT CHILDREN IN APPALACHIAN KENTUCKY

G J Brewer

Housing attitudes of pre- and early-adolescent children were investigated based on the assumption that such perceptions may be indicative of future housing demand and permanence of housing norms. Sixth, seventh, and eight grade students (n=172) were surveyed regarding housing knowledge, opinions, preferences, satisfactions, and importance. Housing attitudes were traditional and conservative with unwillingness to

accept energy-efficient or manufactured dwellings. Relatively satisfied with their housing, the children did not attribute great importance to it. Older children were more aware of housing, attributed greater importance to it, and reported more normative preferences. Housing satisfaction was greater for males, those in normative residences, or those from high amenity households. Older children or those with greater housing experience were more likely to prefer neighborhood homogeneity with general preferences replicating current housing situation. Implications are drawn for housing education and refinement of research procedure and instrumentation.

Doctoral, 1986

S.S. Day, R.J. Thee, and H. Wells

Virginia Polytechnic Institute and State University, Housing, Interior Design, and Resource Management Department

MANAGEMENT OF INCOME AND HOUSING BY ONE- AND TWO-PARENT FAMILIES

S L Bunn

A comparison was made among housing behaviors, expenditures, and adjustments in one- and two-parent families emphasizing changes (adjustments) that occur in divorced households. Data analysis was based on the Panel Study of Income Dynamics. The sample of 47 one-parent and 141 two-parent families was based on marital status (1979-1982), presence of children, and age of head. Differences between the family groups occurred in income adequacy, housing expenditures and tenure, and space adequacy of dwelling. Changes in the variables over the four-year period were noted to be more negative for the one-parent (divorcing) households. Because one-parent families were not found to adhere to cultural norms for housing, further study regarding impact of divorce and housing adjustment of single-head households is recommended.

Doctoral, 1986

K K Stewart

Oklahoma State University, Housing, Interior Design, and Consumer Studies

USE OF SERVICES BY RURAL ELDERLY PERSONS IN KNOX COUNTY, NEBRASKA

C S Canaday

This study catalogues and examines the life-styles of the elderly in respect to the types of services used, frequency of use, and satisfaction with availability, quality, and cost. Data were collected through personal interviews of a stratified, random sample of 48 elderly residents 75 years or older living in a small, rural Nebraska county. Frequently used services are identified. Significant differences in frequency of service use were found by age, educational level, occupation, and distance from children. Significant associations were found between number of daughters and satisfaction with availability of services; between family income and level of assets and satisfaction with the quality of services; and between family income and satisfaction with the cost of services. It is concluded that services are vital to enable the rural elderly to remain in their own home.

Masters, 1989

E R Combs

University of Nebraska-Lincoln, College of Home Economics

DEVELOPMENT AND HOUSING STRATEGIES IN TWO RURAL VILLAGES IN SOUTH INDIA

U V Chandru

This study of two differentially developed rural villages in Karnataka, South India, compares how economic development is related to choice in housing strategies. Sample size was 29 households in the more developed village and 24 households in the less developed village. Measured floor plans were made and the data were analyzed using t-tests and an analysis of variance. A graphical method of spatial analysis was used to test the general hypothesis that there is greater freedom of choice in housing strategies for individual households of the more developed village. The results provided partial support for the hypothesis. The more developed village, with greater variation in economic opportunities, showed a greater variation in housing strategies, particularly among its wealthier households. In contrast, the housing strategies in less wealthy households were essentially the same in both villages.

Masters, 1989

M Inman

Purdue University, Consumer Sciences and Retailing Department

QUALITY AND COST OF HOUSING OF YOUNG MARRIED COUPLE AND SINGLE-PARENT FAMILIES

A C Chapman

This study examined the quality of housing among young married couple families and single-parent families to identify any differences and explore the underlying factors. The sample was taken from the American Housing Survey national computer-data tapes and was composed of 9,568 married couple and single-parent families with children under 18. All heads of household were between 20-34 years of age. Findings indicate that 20 percent of young single-parent families and 12 percent of young married couple families live in housing with three or more defects. Of the married couple families, 61.6 percent were home owners; only 23.4 percent of the single-parent families were owners. Home owners paid a smaller percentage of their incomes on housing and lived in homes with fewer defects than renters.

Masters, 1987

C B Meeks

University of Georgia, Housing and Consumer Economics Department

BARRIERS AND INCENTIVES TO THE ADOPTION OF INNOVATIVE, ENERGY-EFFICIENT HOUSING: PASSIVE AND ACTIVE SOLAR AND EARTH SHELTERED

R Conway

This study sought to determine the perceptions of intermediaries regarding barriers and incentives to innovative, energy-efficient housing in Iowa. Data were collected in two surveys. First, data regarding building permits issued for all new single-family dwellings, 1975-1985, were collected from 102 Iowa communities. The number of permits issued for passive solar, active solar, and earth-sheltered housing were specified. A rate of adoption was calculated. A second survey was conducted among 481 intermediaries from the communities. These included builders, building inspectors, realtors, landers, and solar suppliers. Significant differences were found among the perceptions

of intermediaries as to whether code mandates or risky resale potential act as barriers to energy-efficient housing. Major barriers were "first costs" of building and lack of construction skills. A significant relationship between category of building official and rate of adoption among communities occurred. There were few perception differences among builders; but, differences were found between lenders who had or had not financed innovative housing.

Doctoral, 1988

S S Day and R C Goss

Virginia Polytechnic Institute and State University, Housing, Interior Design, and Resource Management Department

HOUSING COSTS AND QUALITY AFTER A MOVE BY ELDERLY HOME OWNERS: A COMPARISON BETWEEN RECENT MOVERS AND STAYERS

C C David

The differences in housing characteristics between dwellings of elderly movers and stayers were analyzed in order to identify changes made in housing characteristics after a move. The sample was from the 1983 American Housing Survey national computer-data tapes. Two groups, movers and stayers, were identified, with each group having 1,783 participants aged 55 and older. T-tests revealed significant differences between the two groups for either monthly housing expenditures or housing-quality index scores. No significant differences between the two groups were found for housing costs or housing quality, although the mortgage had a strong impact on housing cost. The elderly population experiencing housing problems were mostly nonwhite, unmarried, and in a low-income group.

Masters, 1986

A L Sweaney

University of Georgia, Housing and Consumer Economics Department

THE PROVISION OF SERVICES FOR THE "FRAIL" ELDERLY FROM THE PERSPECTIVE OF SERVICE PROVIDERS

E J Fellows

This study investigated the extent to which supportive services enable rural elderly persons to continue living in their homes. Data collected from 355 service providers were examined using analysis of variance with the least significant difference test. Service providers agreed it is very important that "frail" elderly be provided with services to remain in their own homes. Respondents believed family members should assume the greatest responsibility for providing services and that elderly persons with greater resources should assume most responsibility for payment. The findings provide information regarding types of services needed and provides insight on attitudes regarding responsibility for the provision of services.

Masters, 1988

E R Combs

University of Nebraska-Lincoln, College of Home Economics

VIRGINIA HISTORIC SITES: ARE THEY ACCESSIBLE TO THE MOBILITY IMPAIRED?

A E Gray

This study quantified the response of historic organizations in Virginia to the needs of the handicapped. The study identifies which historic sites are accessible to the mobility-impaired, the access features on the respective sites, and any modifications that have been made to programs and activities. Of 228 historic sites, 147 returned surveys. This met research criteria. Most sites had at least one access feature; only 40 sites were reported to be fully accessible. At some sites video-tours, slides, or photographs are available for those who cannot fully participate in tours. Many organizations cited structural difficulties and expense as reasons for noncompliance. Forty-eight historic organizations plan to make properties more accessible. A directory with table of accessible features at sites, general tourist information, and description of site programs available for the disabled was compiled from the findings.

Masters, 1988

R C Goss

Virginia Polytechnic Institute and State University, Housing, Interior Design, and Resource Management Department

THE DETERMINANTS OF RESIDENTIAL ENVIRONMENTAL QUALITIES AND SATISFACTION: TOWARD DEVELOPING RESIDENTIAL QUALITY INDICES

M Ha

This study developed an instrument to measure residential environment quality; to assess the differences between the residential environment of rural and urban areas; and to test a model of residential quality evaluation and satisfaction. Dimensions of residential quality including environment, housing economics, and physical quality of housing were incorporated into a residential quality index through use of principal component-factor analysis. Analysis indicated urban residents had a higher mean quality of public services, housing regulations, and sociocultural environmental components than rural residents. As an exploratory study, an environmental evaluation model was proposed that concentrated on three factors –environmental, community-social, and housing quality. Housing quality was the most influential factor of the three. Policies and programs improving quality of homes are likely to be more beneficial in improving residential satisfaction than other dimensions.

Doctoral, 1989

M J Weber

Oklahoma State University, Housing, Interior Design, and Consumer Studies Department

ARCHITECTURAL AND SOCIAL COMPARISONS OF ENGLISH MANOR HOUSES 1260-1735

D D Hagerty

This study examines architectural and social change from the perspectives of the 13th-century Medieval, 16th-century Tudor, and 18th-century Georgian dwellings. A dwelling type was selected to represent each time period. The transition from uncomfortable, communal 13th-century dwellings through the more hospitable 16th-century

Tudor Renaissance and on to the grand edifices of the 18th-century Georgian period is cataloged. The social changes are reflected in the structures from the simple, communal life of the medieval household to the 16th-century Tudor home with private rooms. The 18th-century Georgian dwelling represents a massive inhuman building where individual apartments and the numerous rooms separated individuals as well as classes. Sources for the study included original building and household records, oral history, and current and historic printed material.

Doctoral, 1987

J A Brandt

Oregon State University, Family Resource Management Department

SATISFACTION WITH STRUCTURAL QUALITY OF CONDOMINIUMS BY OWNER-OCCUPANTS

M Hintz

This study surveyed owner satisfaction regarding construction quality between new condominiums and new single-family homes and compared the data. A questionnaire mailed to a randomly selected group of home owners in San Diego County, California, asked respondents to rate satisfaction with construction quality, identify specific structural problems, and rate quality of materials and workmanship. A response rate of 32 percent was achieved from 354 respondents. This represented 241 condominium owners and 113 single-family home owners. Soundproofing was the most frequently cited problem in condominiums. The total number of problem areas was higher in single-family houses. Implications for consumer education, industry, policy, and future research were drawn from the findings.

Masters, 1987

R L Null

San Diego State University, School of Family Studies and Consumer Sciences

FACTORS RELATING TO HOUSING AND NEIGHBORHOOD SATISFACTION IN PEKIN, ILLINOIS

J E Hough

This study examined housing and neighborhood satisfaction in relation to seven demographic characteristics. The characteristics are: income, tenure, age, and education of the head of household, plus length of residence, housing size and quality, and neighborhood satisfaction. A telephone-survey method was conducted in Pekin, Illinois with 89 respondents selected through systematic random sampling techniques. Six hypotheses examined housing satisfaction in terms of the independent factors. Frequencies, Pearson's correlation coefficients, regression analysis, and analysis of variance were used to cross-tabulate the data. The study indicates that renters are less satisfied than home owners with their housing, that housing satisfaction and neighborhood satisfaction are correlated, and that there is a significant relationship between overall neighborhood satisfaction and housing quality. Further research is suggested using a larger population and mail survey or personal interviews.

Masters, 1988

J Memken

Illinois State University-Normal, Home Economics Department

THE WELL-BEING OF MIDWEST FARMERS IN COMPARISON TO OTHER RURAL OCCUPATIONAL GROUPS

C E Johnston

This study compared the perceptions of well-being of farmers with other rural occupational groups. Perceptions of economic, financial, physical, psychological, social, overall housing, and overall well-being of farmers were quantified. The study counterposed current well-being, satisfaction levels, and changes in well-being over the last five years with an ideal. As corollaries, housing adjustment behavior, possible differences in "ties to community," and socioeconomic characteristics were investigated.

Masters, 1987

E R Combs

University of Nebraska-Lincoln, College of Home Economics

FACTORS THAT INFLUENCE ENERGY-CONSERVATION ALTERATIONS IN OREGON

K J A Johnson-Carroll

This study analyzed the influence of behavioral factors in energy-conservation alterations by Oregon households. Data from the longitudinal survey conducted by the Western Regional Research Project W-159 in 1981 and 1983 were analyzed using path analysis. Plans to improve the energy efficiency of dwellings lead to both energy-efficient improvement behaviors and energy-curtailement behaviors. Plans to curtail energy use, however, lead only to curtailment behavior. Belief in the seriousness of the energy problem does not lead to alteration or curtailment of energy usage.

Doctoral, 1986

J A Brandt

Oregon State University, Family Resource Management Department

PHYSICAL ASPECTS OF SPECIALIZED UNITS FOR ALZHEIMER PATIENTS IN LONG-TERM CARE FACILITIES

O-J Kwon

This study compared the specialized environments of segregated Alzheimer-Dementia Units (ADUs) with selected physical aspects of the parent institution. A nonrandom, purposive sample included 99 nursing homes with ADUs in 34 states. Data were collected using a mail questionnaire and analyzed using descriptive statistics and the nonparametric McNemar test. A 79 percent response rate was achieved. To provide freedom of movement with safety and security for dementia patients the data suggests five key features: 1) simple, uncluttered areas with all hazards removed or secured, plus locked or alarmed "fire safe" exits; 2) a homelike, personalized environment; 3) personal marker or patient photo posted near room entrance to help patients find their way; 4) sound-absorbent ceiling and wall surfaces and modified public address systems to provide a quiet, calm ADU atmosphere; and 5) safe, secure outdoor facilities.

Masters, 1988

B J White

Oregon State University, Department of Family Resource Management

LIFE-CYCLE HOUSING FOR THE BABY BOOM GENERATION

J G Landa

This project provides life-cycle housing-design solutions for the baby boom generation. A literature review explored potential housing problems in the next century and viable solutions. The project demonstrated the need to research and publicize problems and to design and build housing suitable for the aging population. A design solution was shown through three floor plans, each with the same basic design for the physically handicapped, though interchangeable for different users. The conclusion offered further applications in research, teaching, and community service.

Masters, 1989

A L Sweaney

University of Georgia, Housing and Consumer Economics Department

POST-OCCUPANCY EVALUATION OF SUBSIDIZED HOUSING AS PERCEIVED BY INDEPENDENT ELDERLY RESIDENTS

P S Ledous

This study examined the perceptions of elderly residents of subsidized congregate housing. Residents of two housing complexes for the elderly in a small New England town were interviewed. Four hypotheses were tested: 1) Similarities will be found in the personal and social climate of respondents in each of the two complexes, 2) Previous housing type will have an effect on respondents' personal and social climate, 3) Similarities will be found between personal space attitudes of respondents in each of the two complexes, and 4) Previous housing type will have an effect on respondents' personal space attitudes. Social climate (PES) and space attitude (PSA) responses were not significantly different based upon residents' most recent previous housing type. This indicated the lack of influence of respondents' previous housing type on both personal space attitudes and social climate.

Masters, 1988

M Inman

Purdue University, Consumer Sciences and Retailing Department

HOUSING ADJUSTMENTS OF RURAL HOUSEHOLDS: DECISIONS AND CONSEQUENCES

K A Lodi

This study identified the types of housing adjustments in rural households; investigated factors related to housing adjustment decisions; and examined the differing consequences that result from the type of adjustment decision. Data from the North Central Regional Research Project NC-178 were analyzed. The data were collected in 1985 through personal interviews with 506 rural respondents living in six midwestern states. Analyses include frequency distributions, chi-square analysis, and analysis of variance. Findings indicated that housing adjustments had taken place. The types of adjustment decisions were related to socioeconomic and housing characteristics of the household.

Masters, 1986

E R Combs

University of Nebraska-Lincoln, College of Home Economics

OCCUPANTS' SATISFACTION AND PROBLEMS AMONG FOUR CATEGORIES OF PASSIVE SOLAR SYSTEMS

Y L Malroutu

This study compared satisfaction levels of occupants of four different passive solar housing systems. Respondents' satisfaction was quantified for 12 house features, overall satisfaction with houses, reported occurrence of 18 problems, and overall problems. The sample was obtained through a 1986 mail survey of passive solar housing residents in Oregon (n=273). The data were analyzed using frequency distributions, chi-square tests, and one-way analysis of variance. There were significant differences in occupant satisfaction with general maintenance requirements and three specific problems. These were high noise levels, inadequate weather-stripping or caulking, and problems with coverings for sloped windows. No significant difference in occupants' overall satisfaction or in overall problems were indicated.

Masters, 1989

J A Brandt

Oregon State University, Family Resource Management Department

DEVELOPMENT AND IMPLEMENTATION OF A PROGRAM FOR SINGLE PARENTS AND DISPLACED HOMEMAKERS AT UPSON COUNTY AREA VOCATIONAL-TECHNICAL SCHOOL, THOMASTON, GEORGIA

E McClung Ingram

This project was developed to meet the specific needs of single parent and displaced homemakers in the service area of the Upson County Area Vocational-Technical School. A literature review was conducted to identify problems of single parents and displaced homemakers. A curriculum and activities were developed to help students improve or gain marketable skills and strengthen the work-family relationship. Job search and survival skills were taught in the community and on campus through seminars, classes, and workshops. An intern program and support group were also established. A resource guide, organized by county, was compiled to assist students in locating beneficial resources. Subjects included in this directory are child care, counseling, emergency assistance, health care, housing, and information about training and instruction.

Masters, 1986

A L Sweaney

University of Georgia, Housing and Consumer Economics Department

DIFFERENCES IN HOUSING COSTS/INCOME RATIOS BY SELECTED CHARACTERISTICS OF RURAL HOME OWNERS

L M M Olson

This study examined the ratio between income and housing and utility costs among rural home owners and how these relate to selected household, socioeconomic, and housing characteristics. Data were collected by personal interview in six midwestern states from households in towns of less than 20,000. The responses of 399 home owners were analyzed using analysis of variance with the Least Significant Difference test. The results indicate that home owners between age 21 and 34, low-income home owners, and home owners living in rural areas paid a higher proportion of their income for housing than other groups. Lower income households paid a higher proportion of in-

come for utility costs as did one-person households, those with less than a high school degree, and those living in older, smaller, less expensive housing. Home owners in towns of less than 2,500 and towns of 10,000 through 19,999 population paid higher utility costs than other size communities.

Masters, 1987

E R Combs

University of Nebraska-Lincoln, College of Home Economics

RESTROOM USAGE IN SELECTED PUBLIC BUILDINGS AND FACILITIES: A COMPARISON OF FEMALES AND MALES

S K Rawls

This study determined the number and types of activities performed in public restrooms by gender and the time involved. Data were collected by a self-administered questionnaire at four sites: an airport, highway rest area, sports arena, and conference center. Males (n=230) and females (n=224) were similar in activities performed: urination, washing hands, and checking appearance were most frequent. The average number of activities was greater for females at the airport and sports arena. Females were more likely to wait (less than five minutes) to use the restroom and required more time. There was no clear pattern to the relationship between amount of time spent in restrooms and number of activities performed. There were differences among the sites for amount of time for males. For both genders there were differences between number of activities performed and site. The data indicate that females need more toilets than males. Also suggested is a need to revise plumbing codes and for further research.

Doctoral, 1988

S S Day, R C Goss, and H Wells

Virginia Polytechnic Institute and State University, Housing Interior Design, and Resource Management Department

AGE AS A PREDICTOR OF ACCEPTANCE OF HOUSING ALTERNATIVES AMONG THE NONMETROPOLITAN POPULATION

J D Reagor

This study investigated a model of acceptance predictors for housing alternatives among the nonmetropolitan population. The sample was obtained from the S-141 project and included 1,234 households with a subsample of 556 over age 55. The independent variables were housing situation and satisfaction, concept of home, and demographics. The dependent variable was acceptance of housing alternatives. The alternatives were active and passive solar, apartment/multifamily, earth sheltered, manufactured/mobile home, and retrofitted energy-improved. Using multiple regression, age did not significantly add to the amount of variation in acceptance that was explained by the predictors model. For the subsample, addition of age increased the amount of variation in acceptance. In regressing the set of predictors on each of three age groups, the set of predictors explained more variation for the age groups of 55-64 and 65+ than it did for the group under 55. It appears that age is important in predicting acceptance of housing alternatives, particularly for individuals over age 55.

Doctoral, 1989

S S Day and R C Goss

Virginia Polytechnic Institute and State University, Housing, Interior Design, and Resource Management Department

SHARED HOUSING AS AN ALTERNATIVE LIVING ARRANGEMENT

D A Redeker

This study examined shared housing for the elderly as an option to increase the inventory of affordable housing, to facilitate self-help, and to augment social and economic resources. The sample was obtained from 263 active participants in the Atlanta Jewish Community Center's Housemate Match Program. Chi-square analysis revealed that 60 percent of the participants, evenly divided between tenants and providers, had not previously participated in home sharing. Of the sample, 50 percent had lived at their present address less than five years. The household production model was used to analyze the trade-off that occurs when the tenant provides service to the provider. Of the providers, 53 percent wanted companionship instead of service. Tenants preferred to provide services rather than companionship.

Masters, 1987

A L Sweaney

University of Georgia, Housing and Consumer Economics Department

A HISTORIC STUDY OF AMERICAN FOURSQUARE: IMPLICATIONS FOR HISTORIC PRESERVATION

A M Schertz

This study cataloged the characteristics of Foursquare homes built in the Bloomington-Normal area during the early 20th-century. Historical research on interiors and exteriors of these homes from 1900-1925 was gathered from both popular and professional literature. Photographs of 319 Foursquare homes were obtained and classified by exterior style. A questionnaire concentrating on interiors was completed by 34 home owners. Analysis of the data showed that the homes could be classified in four groups: 1) Standard, 2) Classical, 3) Eclectic, and 4) Craftsman/Prairie/Bungalow. Interior decoration reflected a large choice of available materials during the time period. Further research could be done to determine the percentage of Foursquares built at the time and to identify decision-making factors involved.

Masters, 1989

J Memken

Illinois State University-Normal, Home Economics Department

OFF-CAMPUS RENTAL HOUSING OF STUDENTS ATTENDING VIRGINIA POLYTECHNIC INSTITUTE AND STATE UNIVERSITY

D W Sites

This study determined factors which influence off-campus rental housing choices of students attending Virginia Polytechnic Institute and State University. A telephone interview schedule was used to create a random sample of 204 students who were renting off-campus housing in Blacksburg, Virginia. The data were examined by analysis of means, frequencies, correlations, and t-tests. Findings revealed significant differences between students in apartments and condominiums regarding preferences for amenities, lease options, and maintenance. No difference in satisfaction levels was found between the groups. Students preferred a large number of amenities. Cost was identified as having the greatest influence on housing choice for the sample. Noise and inadequate parking were cited as major dissatisfactions.

Masters, 1989

R C Goss and S S Day

Virginia Polytechnic Institute and State University, Housing, Interior Design, and Resource Management Department

AN ARCHITECTURAL REVIEW OF CENTRALIZED AND DECENTRALIZED NEWBORN NURSERIES

M K Sullivan

This research focused on differences between centralized and decentralized term hospital nursery systems and the architectural implications. Behavioral mapping was implemented and questionnaires were given to 19 nurses of two Indiana hospitals. The study sought to distinguish between traffic pattern and flow of patients/visitors in each facility. No statistical differences were found between users of the two floor plans. The research was undertaken to inform the architectural community of inherent strengths and weaknesses in the design of both nursery formats. The study was a reconnaissance or initial exploration of two physical layouts of nursery systems to provide an overview of findings. Suggestions for future design criteria and further study of the problem are noted.

Masters, 1986

M Inman

Purdue University, Consumer Sciences and Retailing Department

ANALYSIS OF HOME MAINTENANCE BEHAVIOR OF THE SINGLE-FAMILY, DETACHED HOME OWNER IN GREENE AND BARROW COUNTIES OF GEORGIA

J S Valente

This study explored aspects of home owner maintenance and improvement behavior through an analysis of 100 home owners living in FmHA subsidized single-family, detached homes in two counties in Georgia. Instruments used were a worksheet for recording demographic data and an observational survey form developed by the researcher. Through univariate analysis and standard regression, it was found that maintenance behavior is affected by race, household size, sex, annual adjusted income, exterior materials, and the age of the home.

Masters, 1986

A L Sweaney

University of Georgia, Housing and Consumer Economics Department

THE ADOPTION OF COMPUTERS BY THE KITCHEN AND BATH INDUSTRY

S J Waldorf

Kitchen and bath firms' adoption of computer systems, as affected by size of the firm, the availability of information, and satisfaction with the characteristics of innovation, was investigated. The sample included 89 kitchen and bath designers, dealers, remodelers, and cabinet makers in Georgia. Chi-square analysis determined that size of the firm, measured by the number of employees, affects adoption. Chi-square anal-

ysis also determined that the availability of information affects adoption of computers by all firms, regardless of size, location, or length of time the computer was owned. Satisfaction with the characteristics of innovation -complexity, compatibility, and profitability-affects the adoption decision.

Masters, 1987

A L Sweaney

University of Georgia, Housing and Consumer Economics Department

DETERMINANTS OF HOME BUILDERS' ATTITUDES TOWARD CONSTRUCTING EARTH SHELTERED DWELLINGS

C Welte

This research evaluated the adoption behavior of home builders toward earth sheltered dwellings. Data were collected during the fall of 1982 from a sample of 182 Nebraska home builders to determine their perceptions of the complexity, relative advantages, and risk associated with building earth sheltered dwellings. Although a large portion of the home builders sampled had not constructed earth sheltered homes, most had formulated perceptions related to earth-sheltering. It was found that home builders generally supported policies pertinent to solar and earth sheltered construction.

Masters, 1987

C E Combs

University of Georgia, Housing and Consumer Economics Department

SOCIOECONOMIC CHARACTERISTICS, HOUSING CHARACTERISTICS, AND MEASURES OF WELL-BEING: DIFFERENCES BETWEEN AGE GROUPS

A M Wiemann

This study investigated socioeconomic characteristics; housing characteristics; and three levels of well-being for six domains to discover if differences exist between the age group classifications non-elderly vs. elderly and young-old vs. old-old. Personal interviews were conducted with 506 households in the North Central Region. It was found that the elderly generally have lower incomes, less education, and smaller households than non-elderly. They tended to live in small towns rather than on farms. They own their homes, but the structures are more often one-story, older, and of less value. The elderly rate their housing situation higher than non-elderly, but rate physical health significantly lower than the non-elderly. The old-old have a significantly lower value of home. Larger proportions of elderly than non-elderly live in apartments and mobile homes rather than in single-family dwellings.

Masters, 1988

E R Combs

University of Nebraska-Lincoln, College of Home Economics

**TYPES OF HOUSEHOLD COMPOSITION THAT INFLUENCE ENERGY-
PROBLEM BELIEFS AND HOME ENERGY-CONSERVATION BEHAVIORS
ACCORDING TO RESOURCE CONSTRAINTS AMONG WESTERN UNITED STATES' RENTERS**

K S Yoo

Using Niemeyer's and Morris' (1986) model of energy adjustment, differences between female-headed and jointly-headed households' energy-problem beliefs and home energy-conservation behaviors were examined. Western Regional Research Project W-159 data were analyzed using Pearson correlations and analysis of covariance statistical tests. Female-headed households reported less belief in the seriousness of the U.S. energy problem when controlled for age, education, and income than did jointly-headed renter households. Female-headed households also reported fewer home energy-conservation behaviors when controlled for age, number of children, and type of household than did jointly-headed households. Further research into differences between female-headed and jointly-headed households could aid educators and policy makers in targeting the differing needs of these types of renter households.

Masters, 1987

J A Brandt

Oregon State University, Family Resource Management Department