

1972

EC72-2014 Why you Choose a Home- Castle, Cave or Igloo

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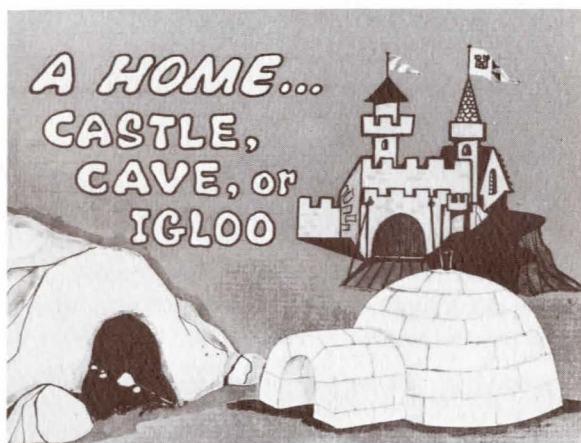
Why You Choose **A HOME-Castle, Cave or Igloo**



Extension Service
University of Nebraska-Lincoln
College of Agriculture Cooperating
with the U.S. Dept. of Agriculture
and the College of Home Economics
E. F. Frolik, Dean, J. L. Adams, Director

Why You Choose....

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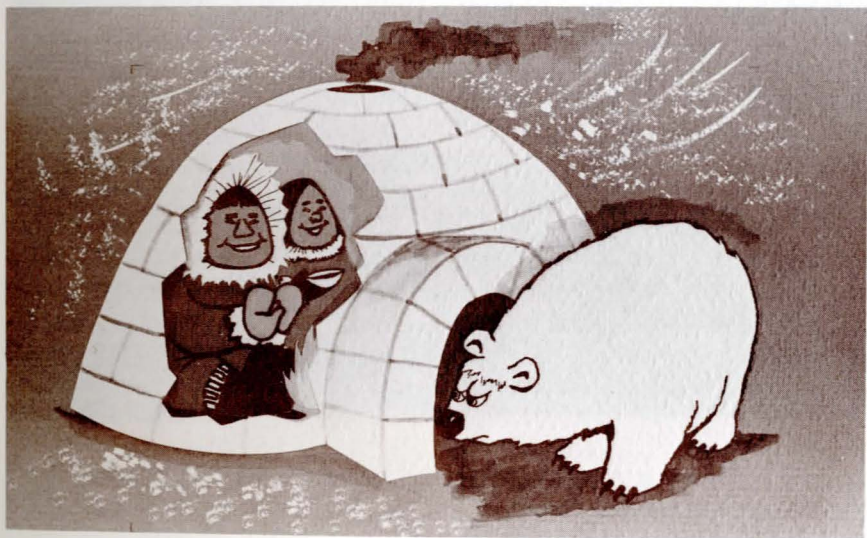
Castles, caves and igloos are houses. They may or may not be the type of houses you could naturally call "home." However, around the world and through the years castles, caves and igloos as well as tents, grass huts, tree houses, house boats, apartments, mobile homes and ranch houses have been "home" for many individuals and families.

Each of these forms of housing has something to offer for particular people at a particular time and place that has made them acceptable and desirable. In order for the house to be accepted by individuals, families and cultures, it obviously must meet their needs.

The word "home" means something special to all of us. A home is more than a house—four walls and a roof—which serves as a shelter from wind and rain. A home provides us with a sense of belonging, a feeling of security and a place to relax and "be ourselves"—to be at home. Human beings have several specific needs that homes help to satisfy.

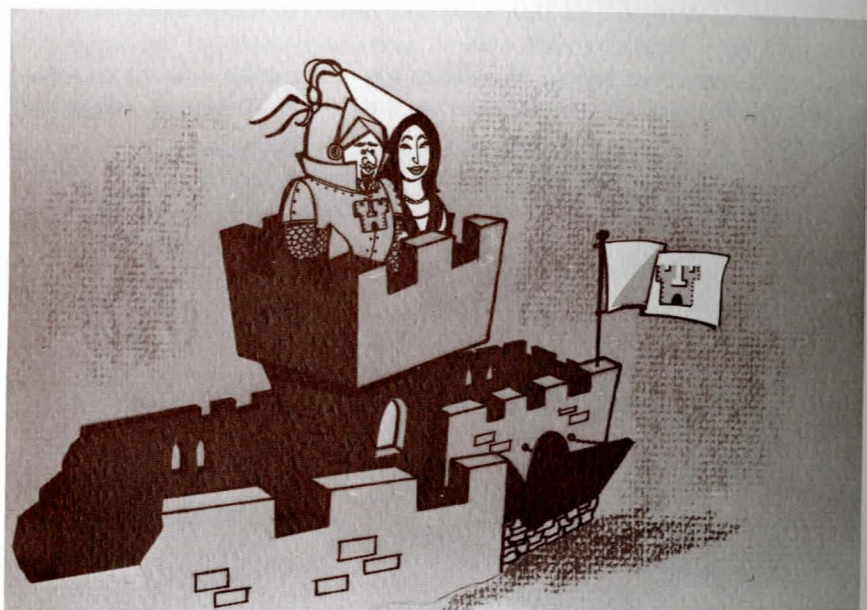
Health and Safety

Human beings have an obvious need for health and safety. The home provides a place to eat, to sleep, and to have reasonable control of temperature, humidity, sound and light. Homes provide a clean, safe environment for the family. We need to feel safe in our homes. We need to know that children have a safe place to play, that the family is not subjected to the dangers of weather, insects and rodents or to the dangers of poisons, unsafe stairs or floors.



Social

The home may help also to satisfy social needs of the family as a center for individual and group entertainment and recreation. Privacy for the family and for the individual family members is an important need that must be met in some way. In some cultures, privacy is provided by screens, walls and doors. In other cultures, individuals find privacy through customs instead of housing facilities. For example, an Englishman wanting privacy may simply set up an invisible barrier and become silent. The American who withdraws like this could be considered unfriendly and discourteous.





Psychological and Aesthetic

Living in a home also helps fulfill psychological and aesthetic needs. Home can provide us with pleasant surroundings which allow us to be creative, to enjoy beautiful objects and to have the degree of order that we want.

One of the most important functions of a home is providing a sense of security. The home is "our" territory which, in a sense, belongs to us whether we own or rent. This feeling of belonging is a strong need in most of us. It is one of the reasons why people get emotionally attached to their homes. The "old home place" has meaning. Its structure may be questionable but its value to the family may be extremely high. Families who move frequently may transfer this feeling from the house to furnishings or other objects in it. We have all taken along objects, a favorite picture, vase or clock to make a strange house or room seem "like home."

Economic

Housing must also fulfill an economic need. The expenses of a home—purchase price and maintenance—must fit within our economic means if we are to fully enjoy and benefit from the home. Housing that meets this economic need makes a family more secure by reducing financial frustration.



Family Life Cycle

The housing needs of a family change from one stage of the family life cycle to another. In some cases, a family may be able to move to a different home to meet changing needs. However, most families have to make adjustments within existing facilities to meet their needs as the family changes. The family life cycle goes through six stages which may trigger changes in housing needs.

The first stage would be the "Newlyweds." Newlyweds may be living in a small apartment, an older home, a mobile home or a small home built for their needs. Most newlyweds find that their housing budget is rather small. Their space needs are not too great at this time and they may have more imagination than money to invest in housing. Inexpensive finishes, furnishings and limited storage and activity space may characterize their housing. The newlyweds may be willing to "make do" by looking ahead to the future.

The arrival of children brings the second stage—the “Beginning Family”—which is quite different from the earlier newlywed days. This family needs additional space for toys, baby cribs, high-chairs and a space for children to play. The mother needs easy-to-clean surfaces, more convenience features and additional storage space. Needs often expand more rapidly than the budget so the family learns to be inventive. Homemade storage, careful scheduling, shared facilities, and doubling up in rooms help them through this stage.

The third stage of the family life cycle may be called the “Growing Family.” During this period, the children are in school and involved in many activities. Club meetings, messy hobbies, parties and bulky equipment make demands upon the family housing. The family probably needs more space during this time than at any other time. Play areas, both indoors and outdoors, become very important. A study or other area where adults can retreat from the noise of younger family members may also be important. Children may find that they want rooms of their own in which they can express their individuality. When space needs put a strain on a house a family may consider it a good time to build on to their home or move to a bigger one.

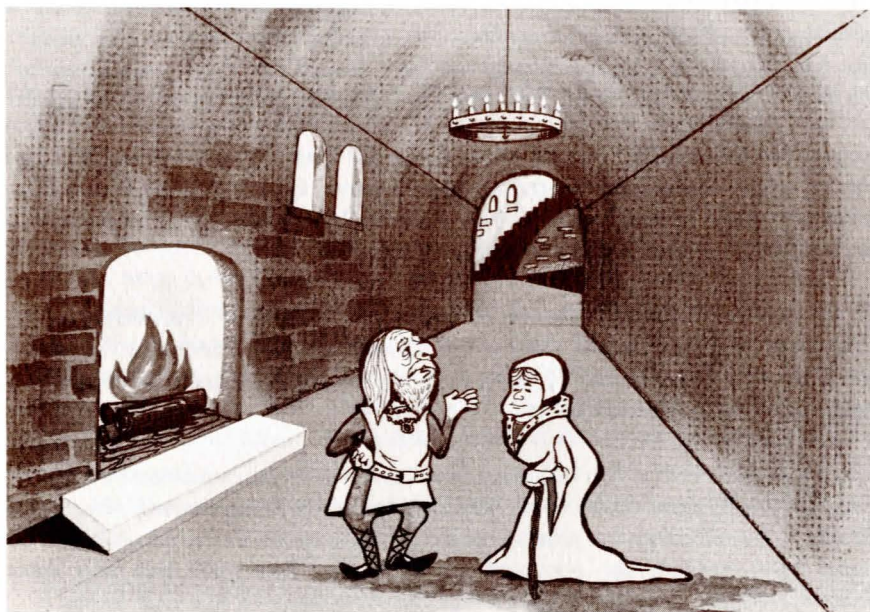
The fourth stage of the family life cycle can be called the “Launching Family.” The children are now involved in many activities outside the home. During this stage of the family life, some of the children may be living at home while others are away at schools or jobs. The family needs more space for formal entertaining than ever before and perhaps more privacy for individual family members.





The "Empty Nest Family" experiences a drastic change in housing needs. Children may have their own homes but return for frequent visits with their parents. The family is now just two people and needs less room for day-to-day living. More room is now needed for social and community activities. People approaching late middle age have less energy for homemaking tasks and yard work. They need additional convenience equipment. Husband and wife with grown children make choices based upon what they need and want rather than upon what the children need.

The "Retired Family" has still different needs. A family at this stage may consist of one or two members. There is no longer a daily need for the many rooms that the family previously occupied. Many couples remain in their homes where they have plenty of space for grandchildren, other visitors and for the possessions they have collected over the years. Other retirees move into smaller homes or apartments which require less care than the previous "home place." Additional safety features in the home may be desired for the special considerations of an older person.



Values and housing...



It would seem that if people have more or less the same basic housing needs and if nearly everyone's life follows the same cycle that housing around the world would be quite similar. Yet we know this is not true. We have castles, caves and igloos, single homes, apartments and mobile homes. Why is that so? Technology, economics, and climate certainly play a part. Much of the answer, however, lies in what people consider to be important to them.

It's a matter of values. Housing is good only so long as it provides for the important needs of people. How well a house meets these needs can be judged only by the person or family living in it. Values are deep-seated beliefs, things that matter most to a person.

Several basic values which influence housing decisions are explained below. You may have additional values which influenced your housing decisions. Most likely it will be a combination of several values. Consider which of the values explained here have meaning for you and your family. This may give you some understanding of why a particular kind of housing seems to suit your family.

FAMILY UNITY

Valuing family unity emphasizes satisfying the family unit ahead of others. Housing chosen according to this value would provide places for the family to gather as a unit. Family rooms, large kitchens and rooms for grandparents are often important features.

ECONOMY

People who value economy will place importance on an economical way of living and thrift in use of things as well as finances. For these persons, efficiency and function will be of prime importance. Elaborate housing is not desired and furnishings will be carefully chosen. Special activity areas within the home—such as a sewing room, recreation room, or second bath—are not considered important in relation to their cost.

AESTHETIC

This value is held by people who look for simplicity, orderliness, harmony and beauty in the design of a home, often at some expense. A house chosen according to this value will allow the occupants to express their individuality and taste. This may result in a unique home that fulfills the needs of only those occupants.

MENTAL HEALTH

People who primarily seek peace of mind will want housing to allow for personal privacy, peace, quiet and retreat from the outside world. Convenience and ease of home maintenance which reduce tension and anxiety are important to them.

PRESTIGE

Social approval is important to people who hold this value. Having an elegant home in the best neighborhood may be critical to them. Swimming pools, patios and even large yards may serve recreation needs or may simply be a sign of the family's financial successes. Sometimes following housing fads or putting up the latest exterior accessory satisfies this need. The symbols of success and status differ from one area and one culture to another. For example, in some communities purchasing an older home and maintaining its period charm is a prestigious move. In other communities, status is attributed to those who build new homes.

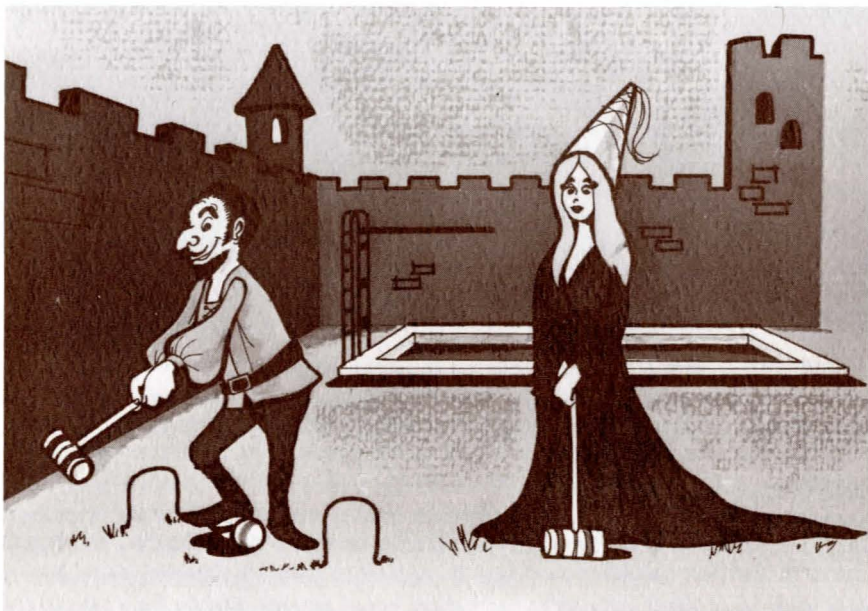
PRIVACY

Housing that provides acoustical as well as visual privacy from within the house and from the outside will be important to people valuing privacy. The open

house plan with few doors and many open spaces would probably not appeal to people valuing privacy. Outdoor recreational areas might be more comfortable when they are fenced or shielded by trees or shrubs. Individual rooms for children may become important.

LEISURE

Families that value leisure will want to provide space for leisure activities in and around the home. Convenience equipment, easy-care surfaces and a minimum of maintenance is important to allow for more leisure time. A convenient floor plan and labor saving devices and appliances would also be welcomed. Quiet areas for reading or listening to music as well as areas for more active pastimes would be desired.



EQUALITY

To the family who values equality, the children's needs are considered equal to those of the parents. Areas for the children to entertain within the home would be as important as areas for parents. The house designed by this family would give major consideration to the rights and privileges of everyone.

SECURITY

This value carries with it a necessity for "putting down roots" and belonging to an area. Home ownership as a means of providing security is very important to some people. They are proud of a home that helps to establish a feeling of security. Sharing in the planning and care of the home is another way to security. People like old and familiar surroundings, and when moving from one area to another build homes very much like the ones they left behind.

FREEDOM

People who value freedom want to make their own decisions and choices. These people may be nonconformists and may resist restrictions and may want to be free of responsibilities toward possessions. They will consider it important that the housing "works for them" instead of them having to make adjustments to fit their housing. People who hold this value will therefore consider ease of maintenance, flexibility and convenience to be of prime importance.

CONVENIENCE

Valuing convenience means looking for ease in working in and caring for the home. This family would like efficient kitchens, activity areas, proper ventilation and heating and convenience appliances in the home. A location convenient to shopping, schools and other community facilities is also important.



COMFORT

The family who values comfort will desire housing that is easy to live in. Beauty and other values may take second place in importance. Comfortable furniture, rest areas and a "cozy" feeling help satisfy this value.

HEALTH AND SAFETY

Families who hold this value will judge housing according to its effect upon their physical well being. Fresh air, activity areas, sunshine, efficient work areas and safe homes are important to these families.

These are a few of the values that commonly influence housing choices and desires. There are many others that could be listed. No one value dictates any of our choices. Most of our decisions are based upon a meshing together of all of the values that we hold.

Castle, cave or igloo? Families have lived in each. Which would you select? Choices tomorrow may vary from those of today. Choices of your neighbors, people in other parts of the world, or even those of your children will probably differ from your own. Whatever your choice, it should be in keeping with your special housing needs and express the values you hold.

