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CRADLE FOR CHANGE: FINDING THE SPACE BETWEEN HOME AND HOMELESSNESS



Through interstitial spaces, meditative thought is encouraged, and living in the moment is achieved.

This thesis explores the betterment of the lives and the physical, mental, and social well-being of the homeless by exploring the changing paradigm of the homeless shelter, particularly within the San Francisco area. It does this through the examination of what it means to dwell, rather than just providing shelter.

Martin Heidegger suggests that in current society, we may have shelter, but we do not have dwelling. “Yet as soon as man gives thought to his homelessness, it is a misery no longer.” Following Heidegger, Flusser states that only through engagement within a culture of the region can one truly be at home within it. Without participation, one does not truly know what it is to dwell.

In this manner, the goal of the design is to engage the homeless physically, mentally, and socially. The site of the project is located within San Francisco, near the heart of the highest observed homeless population. It will evoke interaction by exploring the integration of both nomadic and sedentary lifestyles that promote reorientation in a way which current modern “dwellings” cannot by creating a participatory ritual for experiencing culture in San Francisco.