

Shelter is a universal basic need for all families, yet the means of supplying this need are as diverse as the environments in which people live. Rather than construct a universal building code, the authors believe that it is more productive to study the meaning of the existing forms of shelter to the everyday life of families. This paper focuses on the assessment of a traditional Kenyan family using the floor plan as a tool to understand the significance of shelter to the wellbeing of family members. The paper concludes with the implications for reflective practice on the meaning and uses of space in family housing.