

spondents were about twenty years older, their children had left home and some received government pensions.

This paper presents an abridged version of the findings from this case study according to the following criteria: the classification of domestic space, the use of domestic space, social customs of cooking and eating, and roles routines and rituals. Then, by way of conclusion, some guidelines for architectural design will be presented.

### 1. The Classification of Domestic Space

In each case study some information about the ways in which the respondents and their families classified and used space in and about the house has been volunteered. Furthermore, it has been possible to describe the meanings of these spaces and their facilities following the interviews with the residents and an analysis of the layout of furniture.

It is appropriate to recall that *all* of the houses in the Australian and English case studies were attached or semi-detached; that all the Australian houses were single-storeyed, and that all the English houses were two-storeyed.

In both historical studies it has been noted that the parlour (or front room) was an important space in the nineteenth century houses for low-income families. Furthermore, as the parlour is still evident in some English houses today, it is suggested that its meaning is not vestigial. The Australian study has indicated that there has been no widespread evidence of the parlour since the Second World War. Both the historical and ethnographical studies have indicated that the parlour was differentiated from the living room (or sitting room) by a number of physical characteristics and by its use. Firstly, the parlour was commonly placed adjacent to the front door, but separated from the front entrance and circulation space (which were contained in a passage).

Although the parlour faced onto the street, dense opaque curtains were usually drawn. This room was not a showcase to the outside world. However, internally, it provided a storehouse of personal possessions: photographs of family and kin, heirlooms, and presents were displayed. The parlour contained the best furniture and carpets, and possessions with a greater significance than those used in everyday life. It did not usually include the radio or television. Secondly, the parlour was not used each day. The door was usually shut, often locked. This room was reserved for those occasions which included ritual behaviour, such as anniversaries and birthdays, or when the vicar made a house visit. The only food that was usually eaten in the parlour was an afternoon or high tea.

In those houses which had no parlour the living room could not provide a complete substitute. The living room did not provide a space separated from the daily activities of the family, but served as their focus. It was not unusual to eat in the living room, and cooking was done on an open range. However, it was not uncommon for a piece of furniture (perhaps in one corner of the room) to contain the heirlooms which would normally have been included in a par-