

GEOGRAPHIES OF THE (GROUP) HOME

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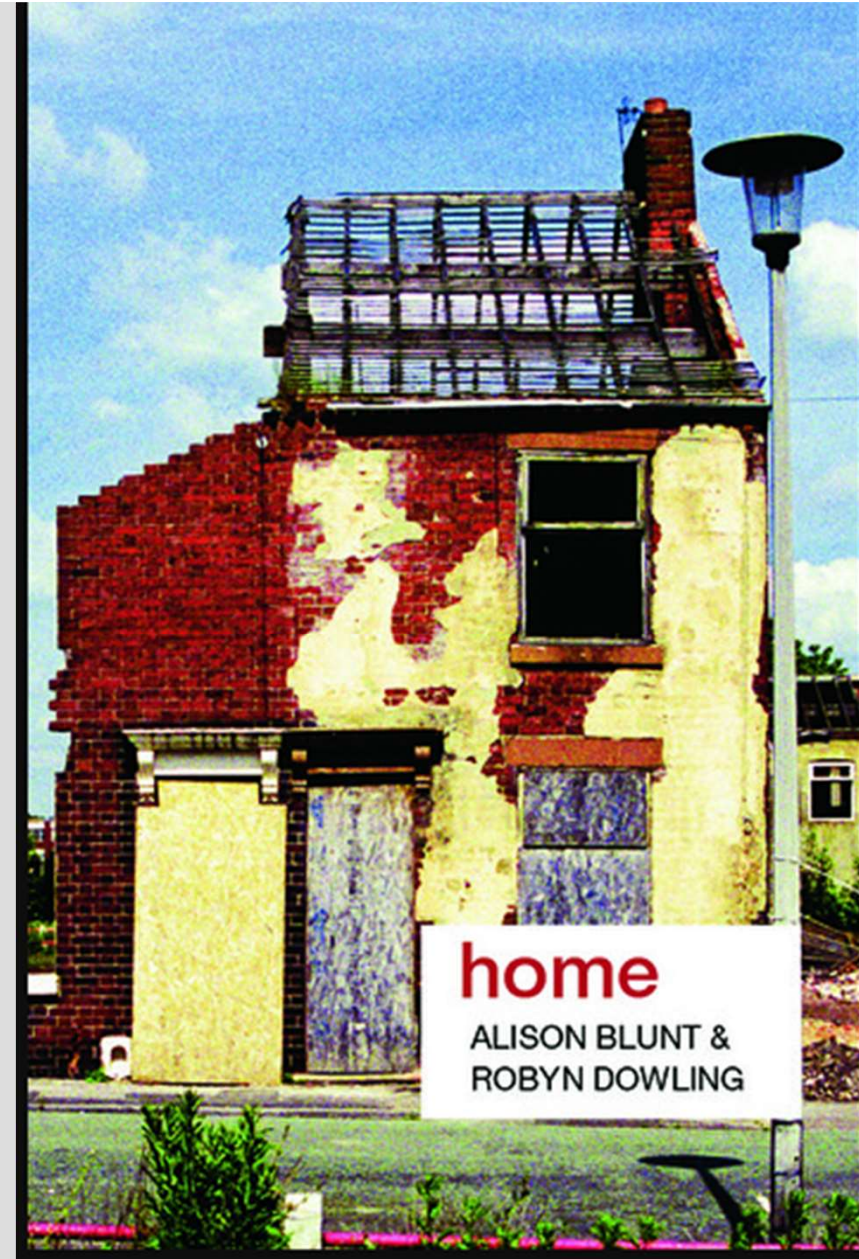


**Feeling
at Home**

Blunt and Dowling 2006

- Home is more than a *place*. It is an idea and an imaginary that is imbued with feelings.
 - Belonging, comfort, safety.
 - Fear, alienation, violence.

Homes have a 'power geometry' whereby people are differently positioned in relation to each other and the spaces within the home.



GROUP HOMES

Tim Clement and Christine Bigby (2010)

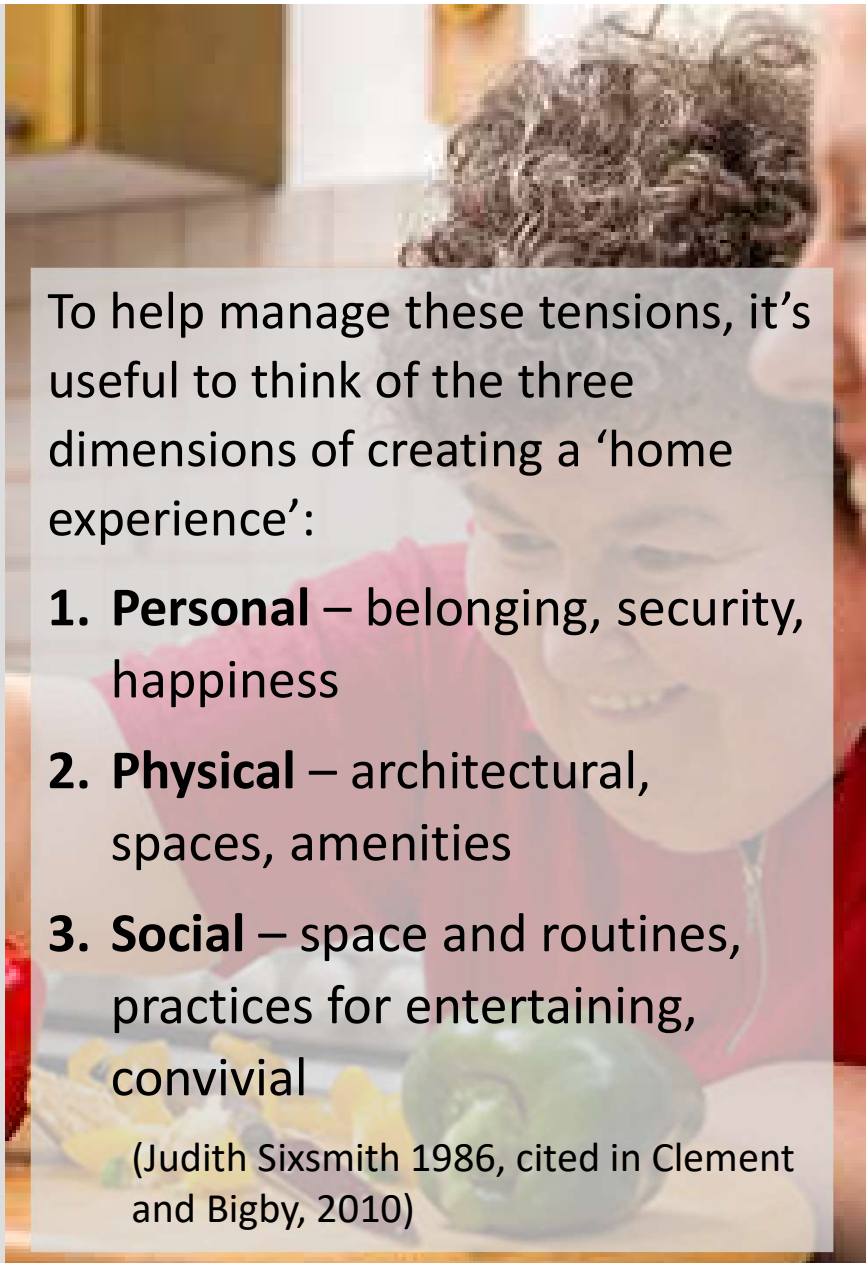
The group home looks no different to other houses in the street.

But the group home is a 'workplace' (highly gendered) with its own workplace culture and regulations.

Group homes are often not seen as the best model of support. Yet, they can still produce good outcomes, and remain as a central form of support for people with a profound and multiple learning disability (PMLD).

Group Homes have three tensions to manage:

- Between professional and personal boundaries
- Between group and individual demands.
- Between a 'hotel model' and 'facilitative model'.



To help manage these tensions, it's useful to think of the three dimensions of creating a 'home experience':

- 1. Personal** – belonging, security, happiness
- 2. Physical** – architectural, spaces, amenities
- 3. Social** – space and routines, practices for entertaining, convivial

(Judith Sixsmith 1986, cited in Clement and Bigby, 2010)

Iris Marion Young (1997: 161)
identifies four 'normative values of
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minimally accessible to all people:

Safety

Individuation

Privacy

Preservation



Iris Marion Young (1997: 161) identifies four 'normative values of home' that should be thought of as minimally accessible to all people:

Safety

- Openness to risk

Individuation

- Openness to relationships

Privacy

- Openness to community

Preservation

- Openness to change

Alison Wear (2008)



- Relational geographies of home require attention to what we call **home-making practices**.
- Home does not simply exist, but is *made*.
- Home-making is a series of ‘**continuous processes** rather than isolated actions’ of creating experiences of dwelling and belonging (Easthope, 2004).
- Home making is also about everyday **routines**.



Victoria Murry (2018) *The Moving Landscapes of Learning Disability*.

- Lack of control over the home can lead to resentment (despite trinkets and photographs of family members)
- Negative feelings about the home space can be difficult to manage, since many people with learning disabilities do not have the language to express concerns nor to resolve conflict.
- Providing support to enable residents to have their voices heard about their home is one of the most crucial aspects of enabling them to feel at home.



“no one is allowed in the shed but me”