

Functionality of Housings.

When is housing functioning well?

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Abstract

Function is always meant to serve a special task. If housing has got the task to pose as a humane living space than its functionality has to be defined in this sense as well. So housing is functioning well if it is able to become and to remain a humane habitat in its best sense. But what means ›humane‹ or ›best sense‹ in this case? How could a human habitat be defined in scientific way?

Each habitat could be seen as an so called ecobehavioral system which consists in its core of the living beings inside, the physical spatial components, and the internal as well as external exchange processes. If we want to describe the function of a built spatial structure of a habitat we have to know the priorities of the human being first. Consequently function does not just mean to implement a certain space allocation programme and to protect these rooms against meteorological influences. To a much greater degree function should be related to the human being himself, to his life, health, development and social interactions. This shift of priorities leads to same far-reaching consequences.

In fact it still makes sense to protect some spaces from the weather but what does it mean to protect the mental and physical health, to promote the cognitive, emotional, and social development or to support the interpersonal relationships? Therefore any habitat-related request as well as any basic human need has to be recognised and put into the centre when we are conceiving housings.