

Homework

This project, *Homework*, is about the value of domestic life. Domesticity can be seen as an invitation. It gives us a chance to express ourselves at home, away from the public eye. But it can also feel like a trap - a spiral of unfinished chores. On balance, most of us feel a bit of both. We're keen to find satisfaction at home. Yet we're also aware of domesticity's tentacle-like hold.

For this project I am talking to lots of people about their experience of housekeeping, cooking, gardening - and generally spending time at home. I'm starting from the assumption that we don't know that much about this part of our lives, simply because we don't get around to discussing it very often.

The questions below are a guide. Really they are prompts to find out how you feel about doing the things that keep your home life afloat. There can be no right or wrong answers - just your answers. Please don't think that you'll have nothing interesting to say!

Best wishes,

Helen

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Homework

1. How important is your home to your sense of who you are?

Do you feel it's expressive of who you are?

2. How do you feel about housekeeping?

Are there domestic tasks that you enjoy or feel you are good at?

How did you learn about housekeeping?

What kind of relationship did your parents have to running your childhood home?

3. What kind of relationship do you have to your home?

Do you enjoy being on your own at home?

Do you like decorating/renovating?

Are there objects and spaces which are particularly important to you?

How do you feel about household mess?

Do you put down roots easily? Or do you find moving difficult?

4. How do you organise your home life?

Do you have a routine for looking after your home?

Do you work from home? Does this work for you?

Would you, other considerations aside, like to have a cleaner?

Are you conscious of your environmental footprint?

5. Do you enjoy the time you spend in the kitchen?

What was the first dish that you learned to cook?

What is the meal that you loved/hated most as a child?

Would you say you're a good cook?

Do you enjoy entertaining?

What is your comfort food?

How important are special occasions for you?

Do you eat well when you're busy?

6. Living arrangements

Has your attitude to home changed much since having children/living with someone/living alone?

If you are sharing your home, do you and your partner have different tastes?

Do you share housekeeping tasks?

Do you mind when your children make a mess?

And, if you live alone, how is that for you?

7. Creativity

What ways do you find to be creative at home?

If you have one, is your garden important to you?

8. Rest

How do you unwind at home?

When - and where - do you feel most yourself when you are at home?