

## **Workshop ‘Researching Houses and their Environments’**

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### **Intersecting extensive research with in-deep approaches: methods, limits and potentialities**

#### **Abstract**

The article I propose for this workshop derives from my presentation at the 24th ENHR conference as well as from the comments made in the room on that occasion. Therefore, it's a reflexion about the users' experiences in residential buildings and about the way by which we, architects, can learn from the assessment and interpretation of those experiences in the context of architectural research.

I will be interested in discussing one particular question raised in the conference: the capacity of generating accumulated knowledge, repeatedly denounced as one of the weaknesses of the qualitative approach.

How can we, in the context of qualitative methodologies, overcome the delimitations of each case study? How can we compare and accumulate collected and interpreted data? How can we design a research both vertically (in-deep) and horizontally (extensive)? How can we make the results visible, reportable and applicable?

I propose to do so relying on previous research experiences, especially those carried out within my doctoral thesis, and by intersecting them with new methodological questions arising from the research work I have now in progress. These questions concern, as said, the articulation between the qualitative methods used in the assessment of the inhabitants' experiences (speech and data) and in the analysis (graphic and photographic) of the inhabited spaces, and the methods that allow me to work on a broader terrain in order to identify patterns and regularities, in order to validate the diversity encountered and, mostly, in order to build up an accumulated knowledge that can feed the conception and the design of architectural residential spaces with concrete information and data.

Alternatively to the quantitative methods (questionnaires, statistics, etc.) I wish to discuss the potentialities of two (new to me) digital instruments: a database and a timeline. Integrated in an architectural research, i.e., incorporating both graphic and written information, I'm expecting these instruments to be more than a complement to the ethno-architectural approach I've been working on. I believe they are able to enhance and clarify the qualitative research work and that they can be, as well, an interesting output as a sharing platform of the project.