



House Migrations: Winter, summer, and special holidays. (Drawings by Troy Chattariyangkul.)

rooms is pleasant because I can keep cool while watching TV or even reading a book.

Special holidays are a different story. When all my relatives come over for Thanksgiving, I usually move around the whole entire house, even to the den where I usually don't want to go because it is really cold in there all year round. Usually I really hate it when I have to go in there to get something but I'm forced to.

Adaptive migrations can fill a space at one time and leave it empty at another. The rooms of a house can thus pass in and out of existence, appearing and disappearing, alternately changing their qualities for comfort and choice. To understand their whole meaning we need to live in the house for a while.

TRANSFORMATION

Clothing is our most personal shelter, protecting our bodies from the changes of weather and elements. Like migration, clothing is not usually considered a dwelling adjustment and yet we use it in

response to changes both inside and outside our houses. As the days and seasons pass, so our wardrobe changes, altering our look and perhaps even our frame of mind. These changes correspond with the climate of a particular place. In fact, we may so equate a change of wardrobe with seasons that people who, for whatever reason, do not make the change at the appropriate time are considered out of style, or even strange and outlandish.

Deciduous trees adjust a dwelling to the seasons, needing little attention from us. In winter, the leaves are gone, and a thin network of branches and twigs allows the sun's warming rays to pass. Spring flowers cheer us following a long gray winter and, after the flowers, the fruit provides both color and the promise of harvest. The dense leaves of summer shield houses and yards from the baking-hot rays of the sun. The yellows, reds, and golds of autumn hold forth a promise: falling leaves will once again provide a warm blanket for our gardens and clearance for the sun's light and heat to reach our windows throughout the short winter days. Each season not only adapts the shelter but also changes the proportions of space.

Houses themselves can be adjusted to seasonal change. A house generally has a basic configuration to match climate and culture. Still, for year-round comfort, some changes are essential; modest or dramatic, subtle or obvious, they are always temporary. These are the customarily repeated alterations that we make to steady our dwellings. Such adaptations are usually matched by regular fluctuations of space and living patterns.



Clothing: An expression of seasons and culture; Vienna and Los Angeles.