

Part V: A Short History of Home

As we see in Part I (*Mud*), Part II (*Concrete*) and Part III (*Glass*), a common element that links the history of the highrise is the idea that these structures provide homes for millions of people across the world. **Home** explores these ideas through interactive media. The experience of the highrise as home is formative, powerful, and visually arresting. The highrise is a place where families, friends and other individuals gather. In fact, the notion of home holds an important symbolic place as well, particularly in the context of growing divisions between the wealthiest and the poorest members of a society. Increasingly, we are seeing disenfranchised individuals and groups, and homelessness is becoming a significant urban reality. The concept of home not only denotes a physical place for some; it also suggests belonging and community. Underlying these elements is the larger concern of global sustainability.

Home: Study and Discussion Questions

- Why do you think **Home** was constructed without dialogue, and with only one audio track?
- If you were going to make a video montage of your home, what images would you include?
- Define what home means to you. List some things that are essential for you to feel at home. What is important to you about these things?
- Who are the people associated with your home?
- Discuss a moment or period of time when you came to understand the significance of home.
- What are some of your concerns about your future homes?
- What do you imagine your home will be like 20, 30 or 40 years from now?
- How do you think your grandparents feel about home? What does it mean for them? How about your parents?
- Describe your neighborhood. What is your sense of place? Where do you think it comes from?
- Discuss the opposite of home. What are the implications here? What does it mean to be homeless? What is the solution?

Additional Reading and Resource Materials for Home

- [5 Days for the Homeless](#) – an initiative designed to support youth at risk. Includes social networking and lists of participating schools. Encourages participation. Canadian.
- [Canadian Perspectives on Homelessness](#) – a CBC story presenting a study on the dire statistics on the increasing numbers of homeless people.
- [Senses of Place: Urban Narratives as Public Secrets](#) – a short article that explores the experience of place in urban studies.
- Barak, Gregg. *Gimme Shelter: A Social History of Homelessness in Contemporary America*. New York: Praeger, 1991. Print.
- O'Reilly-Fleming. *Down and Out in Canada: Homeless Canadians*. Toronto: Canadian Scholar's Press, 1993.
- Seiden, Henry M. "On the Longing for Home." *Psychoanalytic Psychology* 26.2 (2009): 191-205. *PsycARTICLES*. Web. 22 Oct. 2013. Print.

Creating Home: Possible Student Activities

- Research housing issues in your area.
- Write a letter to a city councillor to address a housing need in your area.
- Visit your city's central office, City Hall. How does it work?
- Find out how your community is managed. Who is in charge of what? What are some of the most important issues in your city or town? What are locals doing to help?
- Research public-housing initiatives in your neighbourhood, city, province, or even nation.