WHAT DOES THIS MEAN?

Although many of the key findings are summarized in the Executive Summary, some overall conclusions can be drawn from them which are important to the design and planning professions.

One of the most salient issues which occurs when discussing neighborhood amenities, ideal home preferences and the meaning of home is the importance of making home a place of prospect in contrast to its intensification as a refuge. Prospect refers to having an extension, a grand view, an overview of the landscape, while refuge refers to having a safe place to hide, a place from which one can see without being seen (Kaplan, 1986). Although homeworkers express the need for a place to work separate from the "public" and "living" areas of the home, especially when there are children in the household, they particularly express the need for ensuring that the home itself does not turn into a cage or prison. The community and landscape context of the home becomes more salient, more meaningful, more desirable. Since one of the most commonly expressed concerns of working at home from homeworkers is the feeling of social isolation, and people will make adjustments to combat these feelings, the built and natural landscape surrounding the home should be particularly pleasant, to provide needed "escape" from the home/workspace.

Although separation of the workspace from other "public" areas of the home is desirable, extreme separation, such as a detached unit on the lot, is not. Many of these people choose to work at home, and when asked if they would want a separate structure to work in, they say that would be defeating some of the reasons for working at home. They do not want to slosh in the rain to an office in the back yard. At night they do not want to feel separated from the household while they are working. They do not want to worry about security for two structures. And they do not want to travel any measurable distance from their workspace to go to the kitchen for a snack or to talk to their children.

Housing designers need to consider spatial layout, but also conditions such as temperature, lighting, and electrical current. Heating only one room in the house during the day when no one else is around is less expensive than having to heat the whole house and more comfortable than leaving the place cold and wearing three sweaters. Lighting is a special concern for those working on VDT screens. Since people enjoy natural light and views, appropriate window coverings and window placement need to respond to glare problems.
Professional homework is **not an answer to childcare** and the homeworkers in this sample do not attempt to combine work and childcare. In fact they deliberately attempt to separate them, both physically and temporally. But the inadequacy of childcare for the working population as a whole results in friends and neighbors hoping to use homeworkers as temporary babysitters. Certainly both temporary and regular childcare services are needed for the working population.

Finally the **changed meaning** of home needs to be understood by architects and psychologists. The home may change from a refuge to a prison if community "escapes" are not provided. It may now represent not only the family but also one's professional identification. The extent to which it does not represent the latter but only the former can be disconcerting to some people. Architects need to consider how to make the home a more professional place, and planners need to consider how to make it less isolating, while still accommodating the basic notions of refuge and domestic identification.

**WHAT ARE THE NEXT QUESTIONS?**

This report represents both an exploratory quest for the salient concerns of the socio-spatial aspects of working at home and the initial analysis of data from this exploratory research. There are many research questions which this study raises, some of which can be examined from the information at hand, some of which require new investigations.

Of the former, many of the physical aspects of the home are still being analyzed: the location of the workspace in the home relevant to other rooms and functions; the path from the front (formal) entry to the office; the further refinement of the exclusive/shared classification not only by the sharing of functions but also the sharing or exclusive use of doors and other connectors. These are being analyzed in conjunction with reported role overlaps, conflicts and distractions as well as with the changed meanings of home.

Further work of this data involves developing a more structured taxonomy of the changed feelings of home. The data presented here represents only a few of the comments. Other categories have emerged. The next step is to develop those categories further and to differentiate them by gender, household composition, work characteristics and home qualities.

This study is an exploration not only of professional homework but also of alternative work and domestic settings. The home is only one of a number of possible remote work sites. Daycare centers located in businesses and office buildings, mixed-use buildings, and neighborhood work centers are other work setting alternatives being experimented with.
today. The neighborhood work center, popular in Scandinavian countries, is more than a "back office." It is an electronically-equipped office which leases space to tenants of various types and sizes and may accommodate multiple employers. It is situated within a neighborhood, presumably one where the workers reside. The State of California has made a proposal of a similar work center for state employees which is under consideration by the state legislature (JALA Associates, 1985).

This report is about social change, and how the built landscape can accommodate that change. The demographic and employment trends cited in Chapter 2 are demanding environmental accommodation. Professional homework is only one of several options people are now exploring.