M45	HOME AND SOCIAL IDENTITY IN TWENTIETH-CENTURY EUROPEAN CITIES
Organisers:	Bruno Bonomo (Sapienza Università di Roma)
	Simon Gunn (University of Leicester, UK)
Period:	Modern/Contemporary
Date:	Friday, 31 August 2012
Time:	09:00-12:30
Room:	429

Description

In much recent writing on the city – and not just that by historians – social identities are assumed to have been formed in the public spaces of the city, such as the workplace, street, club, debating chamber or dance hall. Despite the acknowledged centrality of the family to social formation, little attention has been paid to the home as a site of social identification and cultural self-expression, especially in the modern city of the twentieth century. Yet popular social identities themselves frequently referenced the home and/or residential location (slum-dwellers, suburbanites, banlieusards, borgatari, pariolini). In this session we invite contributions that explore the diverse forms of 'home' in different urban settings. We want to ask, in what forms did the home (meaning not only the dwelling where individuals and families lived, but also its location and surroundings) express and/or shape the residents' social identity?

Themes examined might include:
• interior decor and home possessions, and their cultural meanings;
• building typologies (villas, terraces, semi-detached houses, blocks of flats, high-rises, etc.);
• place of residence (exclusive, respectable or disreputable neighbourhoods; residential complexes and gated communities; social housing projects; etc.).

Within these themes we envisage papers addressing topics such as:
• domestic status symbols and home decoration;
• living in middle-class or bourgeois homes and neighbourhoods as an element of distinction;
• the social stigma attached to living in disreputable areas (slums, banlieues, borgate, social housing projects);
• residential segregation (e.g. suburbanisation) and its social or political implications.

The purpose of the session is to facilitate a comparative analysis of the relationships between home, urban space and social identity in European countries during the twentieth century. In so doing we hope to foster an interdisciplinary approach to urban history: contributions are welcome from researchers in social history, architectural history, design history, consumption studies, material culture, cultural geography, etc.

Scientific Programme

1479 **LOW-RISE CITY ALMERE AND THE QUEST FOR AN URBAN IDENTITY**
Petra Brouwer (University Of Amsterdam, Art History, The Netherlands)

1456 **THE PILASTRO VILLAGE. IDENTITY CONFLICTS IN A PUBLIC HOUSING SUBURB OF BOLOGNA (1960-1980)**
Giovanni Cristina (Università di Catania, Italy)

1388 **PUBLIC HOUSING FOR THE MIDDLE CLASS: SHAPING HOMES FOR THE CIVIL SERVANTS IN POSTWAR ITALY**
Gaia Caramellino (Politecnico Di Torino, Dipradi, Turin, Italy)

981 **A FLAT FOR RENT: WOMEN'S ROLE AND THE URBAN MIDDLE CLASS HOME IN THE EARLY 20th CENTURY ITALY**
Francesca Filippi (Politecnico di Torino, Progettazione Architettonica e Disegno Industriale, Torino, Italy)

810 **'FROM THE HOUSEWIFE'S POINT OF VIEW': ACTIVE CITIZENSHIP, FEMININE IDENTITY AND THE GENDERED DOMESTIC INTERIOR IN POST-FIRST WORLD WAR BRITAIN**
Krista Cowman (Lincoln School of Humanities, Lincoln, U.K.)

694 **COMING UP FOR AIR: THE URBAN HOME AND NOVEL IN INTERWAR LONDON (STORM JAMESON, GEORGE ORWELL, JEAN RHYS, VIRGINIA WOOLF)**
Chiara Briganti (Arcadia University, College of Global Studies, London, U.K.); *Kathy Mezei* (Simon Fraser University, Vancouver, Canada)

619 **HOME-CENTEREDNESS IN POST-WAR OSLO AND EDINBURGH: HOME AND THE HIERARCHIES OF SOCIO-CULTURAL IDENTITY**
Laura Falender (University of Oslo, Department of History, Oslo, Norway)