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Also, at more pragmatic levels, kitchens are far too small to allow for desired family uses. Instead of being effective and comfortable focal points, the places of interaction, family communication and informal dining rooms, they are too small to fulfil their desired role in an adequate manner. As a result, many families have been left without a functional place for their most important, cohesive activities. We would hypothesise that this design failure has certainly led to undue levels of family stress and added to intra-family alienation and potential discord.

Other design features which have either affected family life or introduced stress are the lack of a formal room for entertaining guests, and the fact that bathrooms and toilets have usually been combined in a single room. The lack of a room solely for entertaining guests (brought about by the standards of the Housing Code) has often led families to create such a space at the cost of crowding, indeed overcrowding, other living areas, while the combination of bathrooms and toilets severely reduces the usability of the room and hinders effective family operation by limiting the room to one of its functions and precluding the other at any one time.

Finally, the matter of the location of dwellings is critical. Not only were people moved out of viable interacting communities and often into social wastelands largely bereft of functional human contacts and basic urban facilities. They were also moved, very often, from residential areas situated near to their places of work, to new areas at far greater distances *and costs* from work areas. The strains which this imposed on family budgets already stretched by frequently higher rents can only be guessed at. We believe, however, that these strains must, in many cases, have had adverse effects on family relationships and patterns of interaction.

## CONCLUSION

The desideratum (if such it is) of free-choice is seldom if ever experienced by most people, Milton Friedman's exhortations and perorations notwithstanding. Nonetheless, for many people, for many families, there *are* choices concerning their homes which approximate the dancer-dance choice: that is to say, there is room for manoeuvring, there is room for the selection of the *most* appropriate, and there is room for extemporization and/or adaptation. Given the intimate relationship which exists between families and homes, we believe that some such fitting of ideals, needs, and practices to physical circumstances is essential. We believe that families will function better, or stand a chance of doing so, if they have control over at least some critical elements of and stages in the provision of housing. In this regard, studying the successful strategies of families which have lived in public housing and, by means of one kind of adaptation or another, have survived or even succeeded, may prove to be a very valuable exercise.

But it remains our contention that, in the case of public housing for Indians in Durban, the minimal-choice-circumstance has been violated so that not even the basic, the least possible, involvement has been allowed for. Inevitably, therefore, families have been subject to, and have experienced, physical, social and emotional strains which they might otherwise have avoided. And even if they have experienced these as a cohesive, loyal group, they have undoubtedly done so at unnecessary and undesirable cost. We would hypothesize, that is to say, that public housing has in the past represented not so much a dance to the tune of the dancer, as a march to the tune of the leader of the band.

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