

Pandemic lifestyle:

domestic spaces changes during pandemic in Mexico City

Amalia Acitlali Vázquez Córdova

Keywords: Lockdown, Mexico city, covid-19, lifestyle, apartment

Abstract

From the beginning of the pandemic, spending more hours at home has changed daily life. This research looked for information about how people in Mexico City living in 162 squared meters apartments have modified their domestic spaces.

Introduction

This research is focused on explore how apartments in Mexico City have changed during lockdown. Which rooms have been modified. And also, which objects (gadgets, furniture and ornamentation) have been bought by residents. Living is such a performance that takes to occupy the space, even public or private. During the last year, people have been using their private spaces for activities they usually did outside before the pandemic started. For example, doing exercise, going to work, taking classes and having fun. In this way, this research hypothesis is that people have paid more attention in setting their domestic spaces for comfort.

Likewise, this research was runned in Altillio Housing Unit located in Coyacan, south of Mexico City really nearby UNAM main campus. It is a place with 52 buildings, 20 apartments each. It has at least 1,040 apartments. Due to its location, it is a place where students look for living around UNAM, also professors and university employees. During the pandemic, many students went back home to save money in their parents house.

Moreover, Mexico City is an expensive place to live and receives many young people looking for new job opportunities or quality education. In addition, it is used to live with friends and roommates for economic reasons. Actually, Altillio Housing Unit is a good example of coexistence among young people and retired people, it represents middle class in the city.

Thus, it is a good place for researching changes during a pandemic. Considering a family's economic income and regular physical places that changes in minimum ways. So, domestic groups and ages are the variables.

Objective

To understand domestic space changes because of Covid-19 lockdown in Altillio Housing Unit

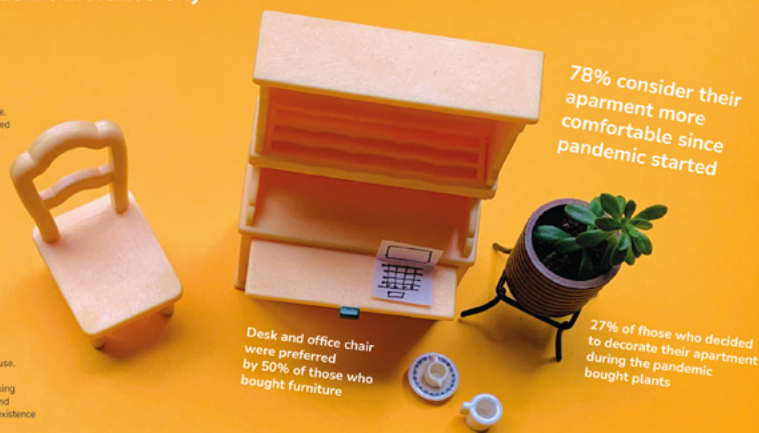
Method

This research was conducted by dividing the population into three groups:

- 1) **People from 18 to 29 years old:** assuming that this group usually lives with roommates, friends or alone.
- 2) **People from 30 to 59 years old:** thinking that this group usually lives with partners and young children.
- 3) **People from plus 60 years old:** who live alone or with their partners in an empty nest.

A survey was applied to neighbors to know more about their experiences during the pandemic and mainly about the modifications they did or did not do to their apartment. For a representative sample, 64 questionnaires were applied. Considering that in the National Housing Inventory population was segmented. Hence this neighborhood is mainly populated by people from 30 to 59 years old.

Survey was conducted during May 2021. It was sendded by Facebook and Whatsapp neighborhood organization groups, where the are main participation from people for selling products, announcing local news or asking for help. Also, it was conducted in hallways and common areas for reaching older ones and people who don't frequent social media.

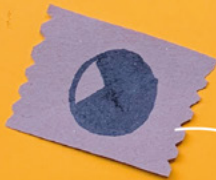


78% consider their apartment more comfortable since pandemic started

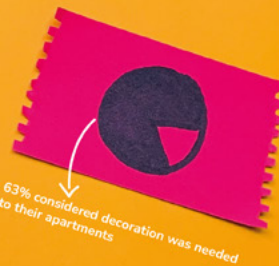
Desk and office chair were preferred by 50% of those who bought furniture

27% of those who decided to decorate their apartment during the pandemic bought plants

32% modified bedrooms for study and work space



64.8% considered they needed new furniture to set their apartments during the pandemic



63% considered decoration was needed to their apartments

20% made changes in their studios

centro.

Results

After a few weeks collecting data, it is capital to mention that non-family homes and family homes were identified. In the Altillio Housing Unit there are 35% of non-family domestic groups living in apartments: living with roommates or alone. Not only young people, but also 60+ people living alone.

People really looked to be more comfortable during their stay at home. Also it is important to say that people actually did changes to their spaces during lockdown and they bought furniture to make their apartments more comfortable. They not only bought new objects, devices or furniture, some of them also said that they cleaned up the apartment for enjoying their places free of useless things. Also, people living in non-family groups bought more devices than family ones.

Participants



Did you buy any digital device during pandemic?



Conclusions

Lockdown was an opportunity for Altillio neighbours to develop their home spaces. Also, there was an effort to make the spaces that were given to rest more productive. House turned into the center of many activities, in order for people to try to feel better even during a pandemic going on.

For more information:
avasquezc@centro.edu.mx

