Title of Article: Residents’ Transformation of Dwelling Units in Public Housing Estates in Lagos, Nigeria: Implications for Policy and Practice
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Abstract: This study investigated the physical transformations of dwelling units in low-income housing estates in Lagos, Nigeria using the New Lagos Re-housing Estate (Phase 1) in Surulere and Federal Low-income Housing Estate in Ipaja as case studies. It was motivated by the paucity of studies on the pattern of physical transformations of dwelling units in public housing in Nigeria. A cross sectional survey of 614 household heads in these estates was carried out in 2009. It was observed that most of the respondents who were low-income earners expressed dissatisfied with their living, dining and kitchen spaces as well as bedrooms, and thus have transformed these areas of their residences. The levels of transformations were however higher in bedrooms than in other areas and were motivated by the need to create more domestic spaces and for income generation. The study implies that spontaneous transformation activities in social housing schemes can be reduced if adequate attention is given to the design of main activity areas in dwelling units, and by promoting core housing strategy.