Title of Article: Morphological Analysis Of Rooming House Typology In Nigeria
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Abstract: Housing is of vital importance to the social welfare and wholesome development of man. Consequently, many national governments and international agencies have accorded it considerable attention. Houses serve different domestic functions ranging from living to cooking and entertaining guests. The rooming house, popularly called the face-me-I-face-you house, is the most common house-type in Nigeria, accommodating majority of urban households. Very little study has been carried out on morphology of this house type in the country. This paper attempts to fill this gap in literature by examining the spatial distribution pattern in rooming houses and how it impacts on use of space for domestic activities, user satisfaction and quality of life of residents. Data were collected in the Alimosho area of Lagos through interviews of purposefully selected residents of the face-me-I-face-you house type and plan analysis supported by walkthroughs and observations. Findings indicate that the design and multi-family structure of this house type makes it difficult for self-expression and adequate territorial control by residents, engenders lack of privacy, high degree of conflict and dissatisfaction amongst residents. The paper examines implications of the findings for both architects and housing policy makers and offers relevant recommendations.