



The Filipino American Dream

Weaving Cultures and Identity into the Home

Alana Alyssa Ramirez



Aknowledgements

This book is dedicated to my family and friends, but especially for my Lola Anacleta. May she rest in peace.

I would also like to give a special thanks to my parents and brothers for always supporting me, along with my boyfriend Patrick for keeping me sane during this process.

Lastly a big thank you to my wonderful professors: Wladek Fuchs, Virginia Standard, and Claudia Bernasconi along with my external Advisor David Koukal.



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Definition of Terms

Social Cultural/Ethnic Identity:

of, relating to, or involving a combination of social and cultural factors.

Identity: identity is the unique set of characteristics that can be used to identify a person as themselves and no one else

Home (in the Filipino Sense):

home means family

Culture: all the ways of life including arts, beliefs, and institutions of a population that are passed down from generation to generation

Bicultural: the combination of the cultural attitudes and customs of two nations, peoples, or ethnic groups

Filam: Filipino American

Taglish: the use of both Tagalog and English

First Generation: someone who was born in one country and then

immigrated to another

1.5 Generation: someone who was born in a foreign country, but immigrated to another country at a young age

Second Generation: someone who was born and raised in another country other than their parents' country of birth

Bayanihan: refers to the spirit of communal unity, work, and cooperation to achieve a particular goal

Bahay Kubo: traditional Filipino house

Language Background

Tagalog: an Austronesian language spoken in Luzon and neighboring islands and forming the basis of the standardized national language of the Philippines (Filipino). Its vocabulary has been much influenced by Spanish and English, and to some extent by Chinese, Sanskrit, Tamil, and Malay.

Bisaya: an Austronesian language spoken in the southern Philippines.

Vocabulary

Ate: older sister

Kuya: older brother

Lola: grandmother

Lolo: grandfather

Tita: aunt

Tito: uncle

Ninang: godmother

Ninong: godfather

Chismis: gossip

Tsinelas: house slippers, rubber slippers, flip flops

Tabo: a dipper used to scoop up water from a bucket while washing, traditionally made of coconut shell or bamboo

Walis tambo: broom stick

Barkada: word for gang, group of close friends, companions; derived from the Spanish word “barcada” meaning boatload

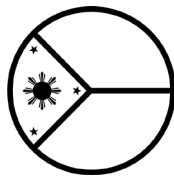
1

Introduction

How does the experience of second generation Filipino American immigrants affect attitudes towards homes?

Do second generation Filipino American immigrants make different use of the microarchitecture of the home than other Americans?

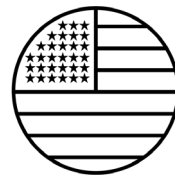
- How are rooms organized
- How are they used



Filipino



Second Generation



American

Through this thesis it mainly explores the experience of second generation Filipinos here in the states and their experience of the home. For Filipinos, home and community are extremely important and are considered to be at the core of Filipino culture and values. They provide a sense of belonging and support that help to shape the Filipino identity and way of life. and through studying the way Filipinos use a home, we can then incorporate some of those

ideas here to create stronger home and community bonds.

And I more specifically wanted to focus on the second generation experience because it is widely different from our parents who had to cross that bridge first, and because as a second generation our experience is more like a melting pot or in between state between of our parents' culture and of our American culture that we grew up in.

Abstract

Introduction: This thesis mainly explores the experience of second generation Filipinos here in the states and their experience of the home. Home and community are extremely important to Filipinos and are considered to be at the core of their culture and values, and through studying the way Filipinos use a home, this can then be incorporated into the typical American home to create stronger home and community bonds.

Background: The Filipino American identity is the cultural identity of individuals of Filipino descent who live in the United States. Filipino American identity is shaped by a unique blend of Filipino cultural traditions and values, as well as American cultural influences. This results in a dynamic and evolving identity that is distinct from both the Philippines and the United States. In the Philippines, multigenerational homes are very common and are considered to be a traditional and important part of Filipino culture. These

homes typically include several generations of family members living together under one roof, such as grandparents, parents, and children. So, moving here to the states, they struggled to fit in twice the people meant to be living in a single American home.

Research Questions: How does the experience of first generation Filipino American immigrants affect attitudes towards homes? Do first generation Filipino American immigrants make different use of the microarchitecture of the home than other Americans: How are rooms organized, how are they used, how homes grow?

Methods: Extensive interviews with second generation Filipino Americans along with interviews from other cultures and generations investigating culture and identity and the home. The use of other case studies about the experience of second generation immigrants and more articles about the history of the home has been used.

Main Results: The experience of second generation Filipino Americans are unique in the way that they are a mix of their culture of origin and the culture here in America. Most second generation immigrants don't have a deep connection to their culture of origin, but also don't feel as welcomed in American culture due to their obvious cultural identity of being from somewhere else. In investigating this, many of the interviews consisted of the participants feeling like they didn't have a home in their culture of origin or in the American culture that they grew up in.

Conclusions: Although most participants struggled with feeling like they had a "home," most of the participants as they grew up found home in other aspects like communities and organizations and eventually felt more assimilated into both their culture of origin and the culture that they grew up in. This led to them appreciating and being proud of their mixed

identities and creating their own definition of home different from their first generation parents and wanting to pass it down to the next generations.

Synopsis: The thesis explores the experience of the home life of the second generation Filipinos in America. For Filipinos, home and community are extremely important and are considered to be at the core of their culture and values. They provide a sense of belonging and support that help to shape the Filipino identity and way of life. Through studying the way Filipinos use the houses to make them their homes, we can incorporate some of those ideas in architectural design to create stronger home and community bonds.

Framework

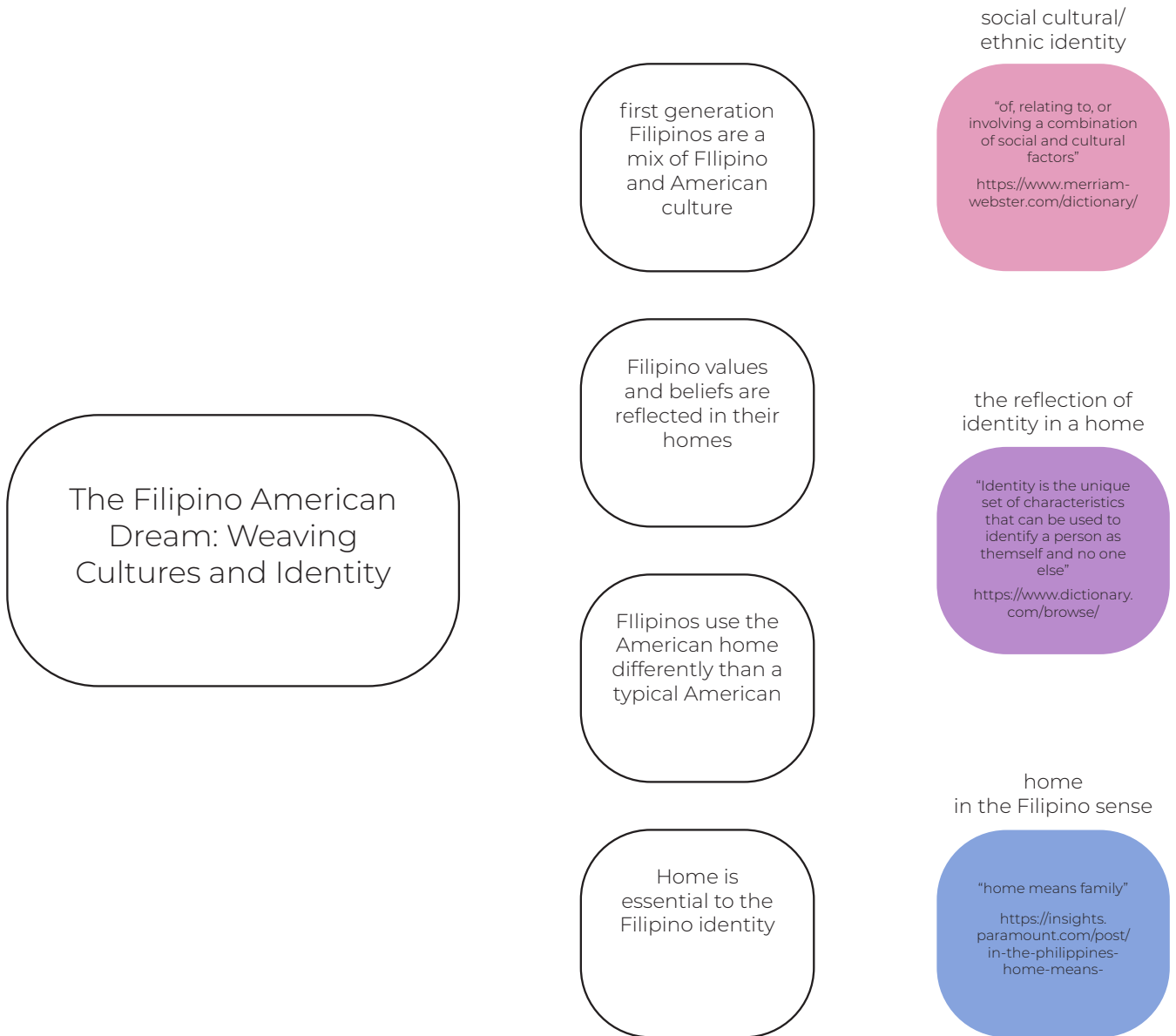


Figure 1.1

characteristics
of Filipino
immigrants and
First Generation

Filipino values
and beliefs

how are rooms
organized

programming in a space
relating to every day life
and special events in the
home

important
spaces in a
Filipino home

important items
in a Filipino
home

how are spaces used
arrangement of
furniture and items in a
room and why

how Filipinos grow
through a home
a family aging through
a home

interviews with
first generation
Filipinos

interviews with
other generation
Filipinos

literature

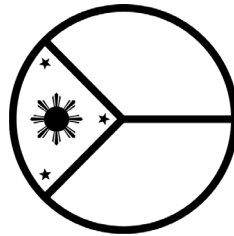
case studies

guidelines for a
home

guidelines for
a community/
neighborhood

2

The Philippines



The Philippines is an archipelagic country located in Southeast Asia, made up of over 7,000 islands.

It is mainly separated into three main groups of islands: Luzon, Visayas, and Mindanao.

And is then separated into 18 main regions where there are over 120 different dialects spoken in the Philippines.

The official languages are Filipino and English, and the majority of the population practices Roman Catholicism.

It is known for its beautiful beaches, diverse culture, and warm and

hospitable people.

The Philippines has a rich history and has been shaped by various influences, including Spanish colonization, American occupation, and indigenous traditions.

The country has a population of over 100 million people and is home to various ethnic groups, including Tagalog, Cebuano, Ilocano, Hiligaynon, and Waray.

The economy of the Philippines is largely based on agriculture, manufacturing, and services, and the country is considered one of the newly industrialized economies in the world.

Three Main Groups of Islands

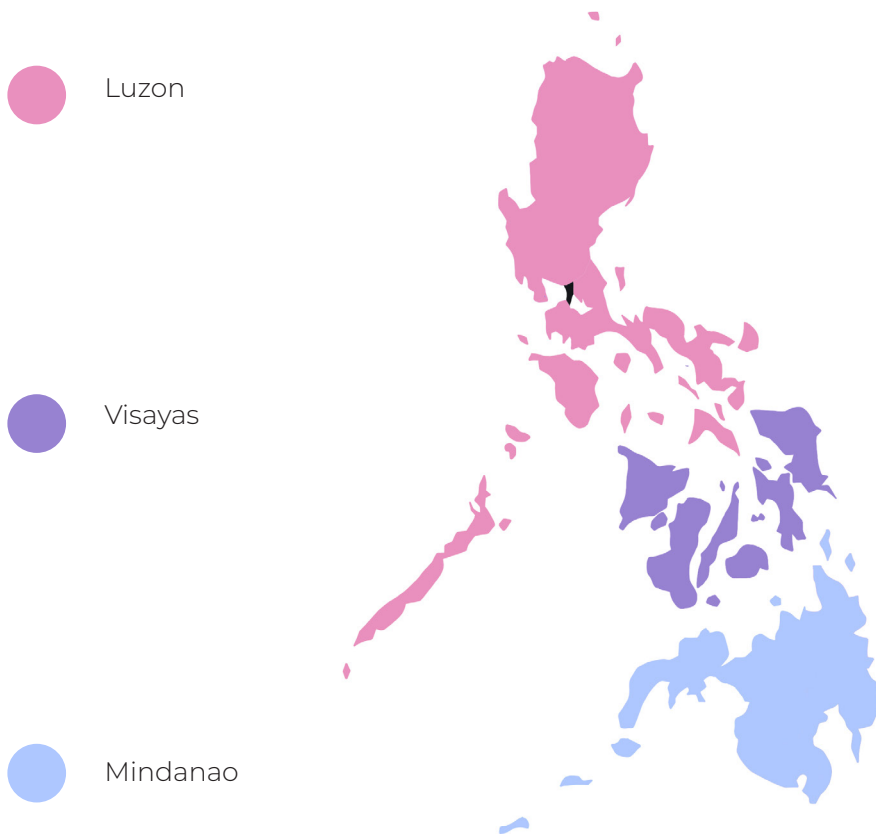


Figure 2.1

Eighteen Regions

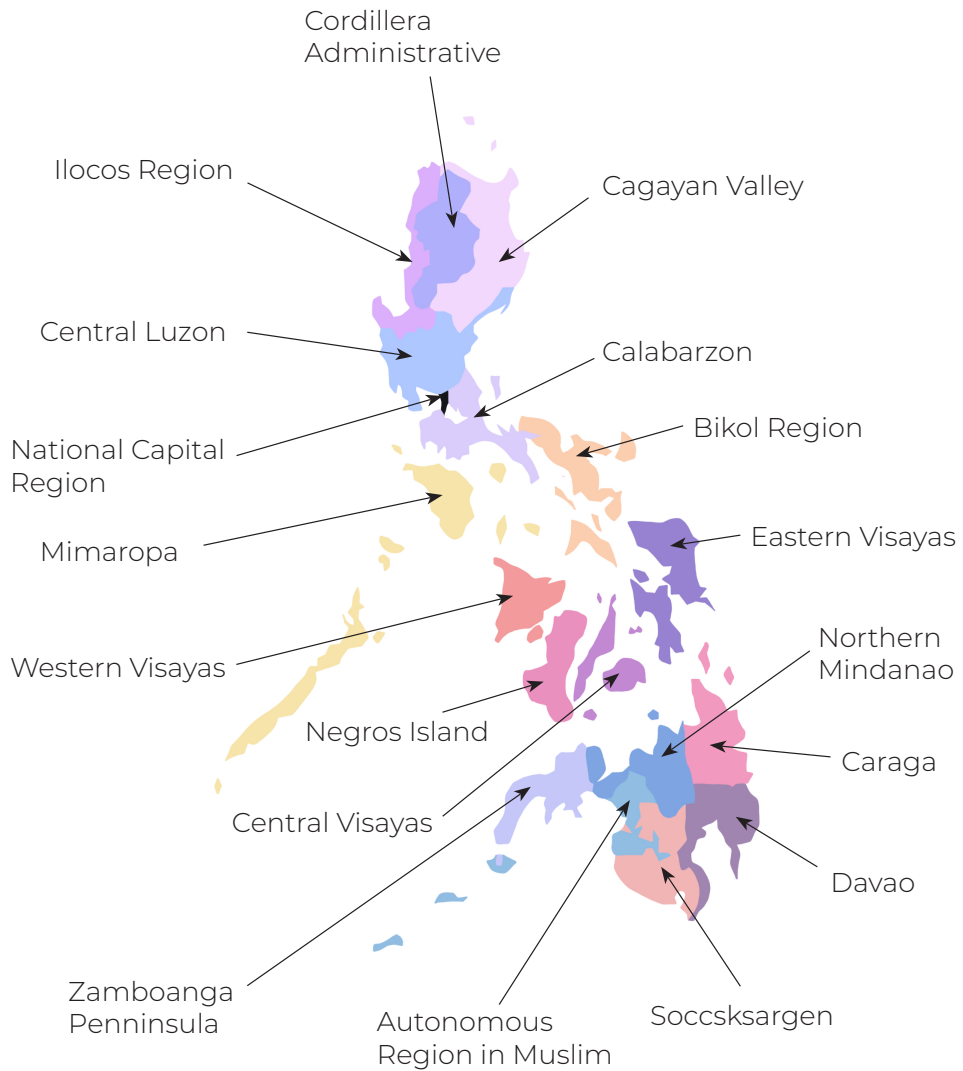




Figure 2.2


Immigration Stories


To gain a better understanding of the second generation Filipino experience, it was important to look into the stories of the first generation immigrants that came over, their parents. This was done through extensive interviews and most of the parents came between the 80s and 90s from the northern and southern regions of the Philippines with most of them seeking work.

And even though most of the parents came from different places in the Philippines, they all gravitated to Filipino communities or organizations and ended up meeting each other in Michigan because of those connections.

- 

Alana Alyssa Tenala Ramirez
Mom: Davao to Michigan in late 80s
Dad: Manila to Ontario in early 70s
- 

Katrina Maulon Arriola
Mom: Manila to Michigan in the 90s
Dad: Cavite to Michigan in the 90s
- 

Juliette Manola Cayao
Mom: Manila to New York in the mid 80s
Dad: Iloilo to New York in the mid 80s
- 

Jeremiah Paul Arcebido Cortez
Mom: Angeles to Michigan in the 90s
Dad: Manila to California in the 90s

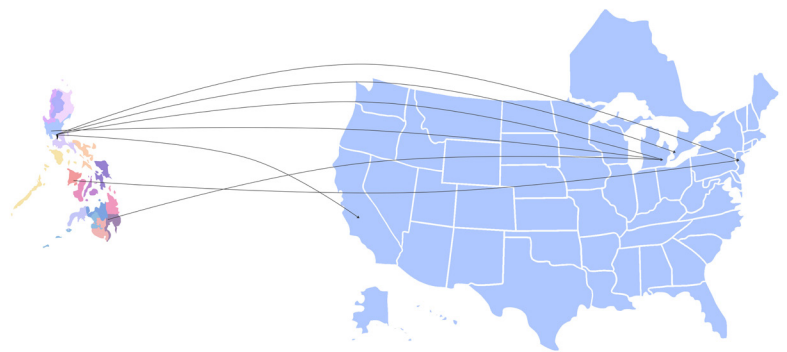
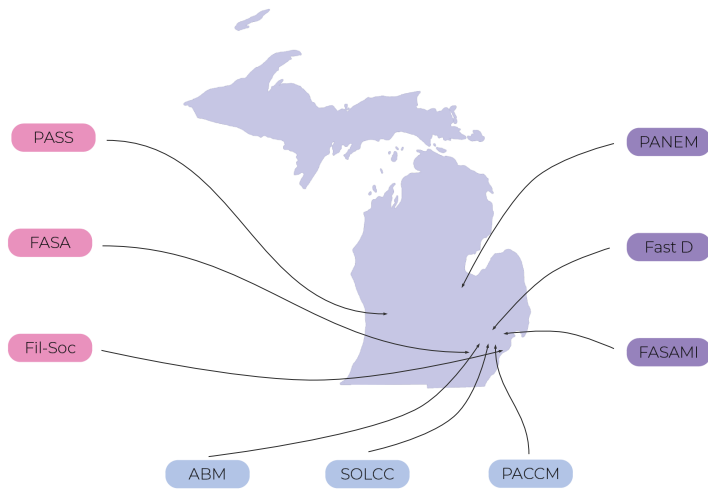


Figure 2.3

Filipino Organizations around Michigan



Filipino University Organizations



Filipino Society
(Fil-Soc)
Wayne State University



Filipino American Student Association
(FASA)
University of Michigan



Filipino American Student Society
(PASS)
Michigan State University

Filipino Sports Organizations



Filipino American Sports Teams of
Detroit
(Fast D)



Filipino American Sports Association of
Michigan
(FASAMI)



Philippines Association of Northeastern
Michigan
(PANEM)

Filipino Organizations/Communities



Philippines American Community Center of Michigan
(PACCM)
Operate, manage and maintain the community center
and the Filipino School and shall promote, advance
and preserve the Filipino culture, traditions, values and
heritage by providing services and programs for the
benefit of the community at large.



Spirit Of Love Covenantal Community
(SOLCC)
Spirit of Love Covenantal Community is a
catholic/charismatic Community



Ang Bisaya of Michigan Foundation
(ABM)
A 501(c)(3) Non-Profit organization dedicated to the
preservation of the Bisaya-Speaking Communities

Figure 2.4

3 Dreaming Culture in the Philippines

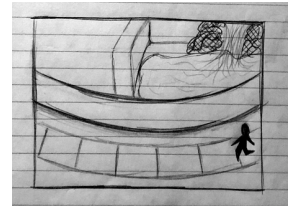
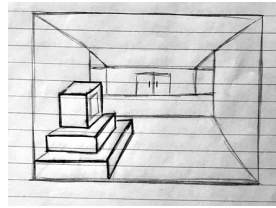
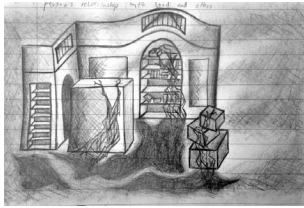


Figure 3.1

Before going into the topic of the Filipino culture and the home, this thesis used to revolve around dreams.

Dreams have always been very important to me as a child, but growing up I realized it wasn't as common as I thought.

On my mom's side of the family it was common to talk about ghost stories and encounters. My great lolo was an aswang slayer, my Lola Anacleta read palms, my Tita Daisy was a clairvoyant, my mom has had many encounters with ghosts, and I believe I have prophetic dreams.

As crazy as it may seem to some people, in the Philippines our

importance to dreams is just a widely accepted phenomenon where we are very open to talking about these things.

So while researching last semester about dreams, it became very difficult because most of the information I could find about dreams was from a western point of view which made me very frustrated.

And although I don't use much of the information I gathered from last semester, I am thankful for it leading me to my new topic of Filipino culture and the home.

In the end, I still got to share a part of myself and my culture.

4

Culture and Identity



The Filipino American identity is the cultural identity of individuals of Filipino descent who live in the United States. Filipino Americans are one of the largest Asian American groups in the country and have a rich history in the United States, with the first recorded arrival of Filipinos in the country dating back to the 1600s. Filipino American identity is shaped by a unique blend of Filipino cultural traditions and values, as well as American cultural influences. This results in a dynamic and evolving identity that is distinct from both the Philippines and the United States. Filipino Americans often celebrate their cultural heritage through

community events, festivals, and traditions such as the celebration of Philippine Independence Day and the observance of traditional Filipino holidays. They also maintain strong connections to their families and communities, both in the Philippines and in the United States. Despite their long history in the country, Filipino Americans have faced discrimination and barriers to full integration into American society. However, they have also made significant contributions to American culture, particularly in the fields of agriculture, music, and the arts, and have been instrumental in shaping the diverse and dynamic cultural fabric of the United States.

Immigrant Identity

Immigrant identity is a complex topic that mainly depends on the individual's experience migrating to a new country and their perspective of self. It is shaped by multiple factors throughout one's life depending on what generation immigrant someone is along with other social factors and context. This paper seeks to explore the immigrant identity through analyzing three different kinds of generations and their experiences.

One of the main factors contributing to immigrant identity is dependent on what generation immigrant an individual is. A first generation immigrant is someone who was born in one country and then immigrated to another. Different from other generations, these individuals face struggles like learning a new language, adapting to different cultures, and also possibly paving the way for their other family members so they can eventually immigrate over too. A 1.5 generation immigrant is someone who was born in a

foreign country, but immigrated to another country at a young age. The people in this generation often share characteristics from both the first and second generation and could have struggles regarding having two different identities from their country of origin and the new country they now live in. And lastly this paper will be addressing the second generation immigrant which is someone who was born and raised in another country other than their parents' country of birth. They are also referred to as the children of immigrants. In this generation, they experience a unique blend of their parents' culture and the culture that they were raised in, but they also have similar struggles to the first and 1.5 generations with navigating through their cultural identities.

Different Generations

One of the main factors contributing to immigrant identity is dependent on what generation immigrant an individual is since their experiences can all vary.



1st Generation

someone who was born in one country and then immigrated to another



1.5 Generation

someone who was born in a foreign country, but immigrated to another country at a young age



2nd Generation

someone who was born and raised in another country other than their parents' country of birth



they can feel a sense of displacement moving into a new country and learning different norms and cultures different from their own



it is conflicting since they were not fully immersed in their parent's culture, but they are also not fully adapted to their new culture along with having difficulties finding a social group that understands their specific experience with immigrating



they can feel confused or torn between what cultural traditions they want to keep or leave as they create a new identity different from their parents

Personal and Social Identity

Personal identity, "...simply defines as the characteristics determining who or what a person or thing is" (Satterfield). It is shaped by a variety of internal and external factors depending on an individual's experience and relationship with others and their environment. Some components making up an individual's personal identity include but are not limited to: race, ethnicity, gender, age, physical attributes, and personality. And with personal identity, it is fluid and always changing and developing over time. And having a strong sense of personal identity is very important for some people since it can provide a sense of belonging and purpose in life. But with personal identity, it can also be the cause of conflict and tension especially when someone is facing discrimination based on their personal identity.

Social identity is, "...a person's sense of who they are based on their group membership(s)" (Mcleod). In this category it divides the world into "them" and "us" putting people

into social groups. Social identity can also influence how people see themselves, how they relate to others, and their attitudes and behaviors. To understand this better, it is similar to the social norms that are placed in America where they often refer to people as black, white, Hispanic, or Asian based on their skin color.

Comparing these two identities through the Social Identity Theory of Henry Tajfel 1979, it shows how an individual's social identity or sense of who they are in a group membership, also greatly influences their personal identity influencing intergroup behavior. Through social categorization, it then facilitates an individual's distinct social groups separating them into "we", the in-group, and "they", the out-group. For most first generation immigrants when they move to a new country, it is very common for them to look for an "in-group" like cultural or religious organizations in the area in order to feel comfortable due to its familiarity to their country

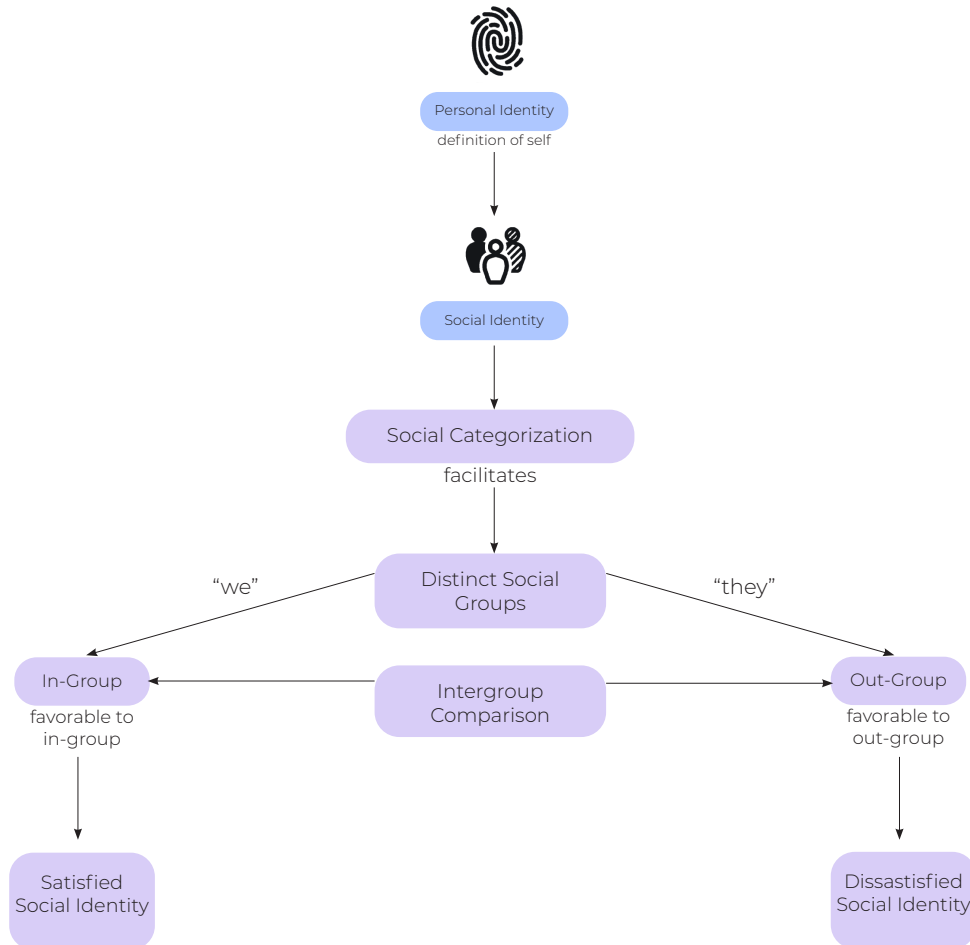


Figure 4.1

of origin. For 1.5 generations, it is harder to find a social group since they have a different experience from the first and second generations. And lastly for second generation immigrants, their main exposure to these cultural social groups would be

through their parents and there is a wide spectrum of mixed cultural blending between their parents' country of origin and the culture that they grew up in. Other factors that influence an individual's identity formation would be their cultural, ethnic, and racial identity.

Cultural, Ethnic, and Racial Identity

Cultural identity, “...are learned behaviors – thoughts, beliefs, values and customs – that you pick up as you grow up and choose to adopt or leave behind as you get older”(Ooi). Some other factors that can influence an individual's cultural identity could be ethnicity, religion, language. But overall, it's the individual's choice as to whether they adopt or leave certain behaviors. Through interviews with different cultures and generations, it is apparent how first generation immigrants usually identify with their culture of origin leading to a stronger cultural identity. But with 1.5 and second generation immigrants, there is usually a mix of blended cultural identities due to their upbringing.

Ethnic identity, “...refers to those you have a common ancestry, language and/or culture”(Ooi). In general, an individual doesn't choose this themselves, it is something that as a collective they give themselves and refer to themselves by or their self identification. And referring back to cultural identity, an individual can have traits from multiple cultures while still having one ethnicity.

Racial identity, "...is a distinction that's placed upon you that you can't change"(Ooi). It is mainly based on an individual's appearance and ethnicity. In general, one's racial identity are just broad categories trying to fit all people into just a few boxes. But since racial identity is more focussed on appearance, it still doesn't tell about what a person is really like. For second generation immigrants it is common that most of them have never visited their parent's country of origin or know much about it in general, so by addressing someone as a certain race without knowing their cultural identity can be very harmful to an individual trying to understand their identity.

Immigrant Identity

Overall, trying to navigate through these different identities as any generation of immigrants is a complex ongoing process with its different struggles for each generation.

For first generation immigrants, they can feel a sense of displacement moving into a new country and learning different norms and cultures different from their own.

For 1.5 generations, it is also conflicting since they were not fully immersed in their parent's culture, but they are also not fully adapted to their new culture along with having difficulties finding a social group that understands their specific experience with immigrating.

And for second generation immigrants, they can feel confused or torn between what cultural traditions they want to keep or leave as they create a new identity different from their parents.

So by understanding more about the immigrant identity, it can then lead to people and communities having more empathy and providing more support as they navigate through this complex process. It can also help these immigrants to integrate better into their new homes and communities, leading them to contribute positively to their new environment.



Personal Identity

"Identity is simply defined as the characteristics determining who or what a person or thing is"

- race
- ethnicity
- gender
- age
- sexual orientation
- physical attributes
- personality
- political affiliations
- religious beliefs
- professional identities



Social Identity

"Social identity is a person's sense of who they are based on their group membership(s)."

- exaggerate the differences between groups and the similarities of things in the same group



Ethnic Identity

"This refers to those you have a common ancestry, language and/or culture. ...distinction here is heritage"

- self-identification
- common ancestry
- common language
- common culture
- as a collective you give yourselves and refer to yourselves by



Cultural Identity

"These are learned behaviours – thoughts, beliefs, values and customs – that you pick up as you grow up and choose to adopt or leave behind as you get older"

- place of birth
- religion
- language
- cuisine
- social behaviors
- art
- literature
- music



Racial Identity

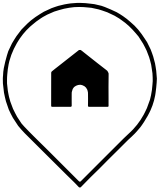
"...race is a distinction that's placed upon you that you can't change"

- social context
- how you are perceived based off your appearance
- to some extent ethnicity

Figure 4.2

Culture and Identity

2nd Generation Filipinos



Younger:

- confusion and lack of representation
- self conscious
- ashamed
- finding comfort and familiarity in other Filipino communities/organizations
- two different lives/worlds they were living

Current:

- comfortable
- empowering
- appreciative of culture
- significant part of their identities

Recent Immigrants of other Cultures



Younger:

- knew they were different
- confusion
- two different lives/worlds they were living
- range of feeling "Americanized" or not American at all

Current:

- blend of identities
- appreciative of culture
- for some, empowering and pride for country of origin

Long-Term Residents in America



Younger:

- little to no connection or interest back to cultural heritage
- for most, cultural heritage did not define their identity

Current:

- for most, cultural heritage still isn't a big part of their lives
- does not define them
- identity from other aspects from their lives like communities and organizations

Most similarities

- confusion with blending of cultures
- comfort with "in-groups"
- culture being an important part of their identities

Least similarities

- cultural heritage has little no influence on their identity
- but did find sense of familiarity in other groups and communities

Comfort with “in-groups”



Figure 4.3

Culture and Identity Interviews

Filipinos - 2nd and 3rd Generations

Culture and Identity	Alana Alyssa Tenala Ramirez 23 years old	Katrina Maulion Arriola 23 years old	Juliette Manola Cayao 23 years old	Jeremiah Paul Arcebido Cortez 24 years old	Joshua Ryan Budiongan 33 years old (3rd Gen)
<p>Where are your parents from in the Philippines?</p> <p>When and where did they immigrate to in America/other?</p>	<p>Mom: Davao to Michigan in late 80s</p> <p>Dad: Manila to Ontario in early 70s</p>	<p>Mom: Manila to Michigan in the 90s</p> <p>Dad: Cavite to Michigan in the 90s</p>	<p>Mom: Manila to New York in the mid 80s</p> <p>Dad: Iloilo to New York in the mid 80s</p>	<p>Mom: Angeles to Michigan in the 90s</p> <p>Dad: Manila to California in the 90s</p>	<p>Grandpa from Surigao grew up here and met grandma in Guam</p> <p>Grandma from the Bisayas</p> <p>Great grandparents moved during us occupation of the philippines, escaped the philippines went to hawaii - eloped</p> <p>San francisco pineapple farmers</p> <p>Grandparents move to San Diego to start a family</p> <p>Navy family - dad and grandpa</p> <p>Josh born in Virginia Beach for 3 years, then moved to carolina for 3 years</p> <p>Michigan 1997 Sister born around that time</p>
<p>Did your parents teach you the native language?</p>	<p>Mom: Mainly Bisaya and Tagalog - english was her first language</p> <p>Dad: Tagalog</p> <p>Confused learning two different dialects</p> <p>Can understand taglish a little</p>	<p>Learned Tagalog, used to speak it in the house</p> <p>Two grandmothers that lived with her spoke mostly tagalog along with her parents</p> <p>Can still speak it a little, but has most of the comprehension and can understand it</p>	<p>Didn't teach her the language growing up</p> <p>Eldest brother was taught tagalog first, but small Filipino population in Michigan so didn't bother teaching Juliette</p> <p>Knows common words and phrases</p>	<p>Learned Tagalog, lost it out of pressure of speaking english in preschool, too scared</p> <p>Can't speak it as good anymore, but can understand it and respond back with english</p>	<p>Mainly bisaya and tagalog</p>

Culture and Identity	Alana Alyssa Tenala Ramirez 23 years old	Katrina Maulion Arriola 23 years old	Juliette Manola Cayao 23 years old	Jeremiah Paul Arcebedo Cortez 24 years old	Joshua Ryan Budiongan 33 years old (3rd Gen)
Was that challenging knowing two languages while going to school?	A little confusing, mixing up Filipino and English words in Kindergarten	Classmates confused with Filipino terminology like Kuya (older brother) and Ate (older sister) Didn't know her name was Katrina in preschool because all of her younger siblings would call her Ate K	Classmates confused with Filipino terminology like Kuya (older brother) and Ate (older sister)	Pressure of speaking English in preschool, too scared to speak Tagalog	N/A
Did you go to a Catholic school? Feelings about being singled out or bullied because of your culture? What were your thoughts on your Filipino American identity at that time?	Yes, not much bullying, but feeling of being singled out, not very diverse Confused, didn't know much about her own culture or why she felt different	Yes, hyper aware of her race in a negative way, self-conscious about beauty standards because not white, not much Asian representation when younger, messes up your concept of self, isolated being in a Catholic school, the only time she felt like a minority was in school	Yes, very polarizing, Catholic school mass different from Filipino mass Filipino mass always had food afterwards, every family would bring different dishes Used to be ashamed of Filipino identity	Yes, middle school used to get called Pei Wei, the gag of Asian jokes Just thought he was another person, but embarrassed to bring people over because the house always smelled like fish	Yes, besides 3rd grade, public high school Yes, all his life. One of the only people of color, stereotyped in all the ways Because of the bullying and moving around a lot, it always felt like he didn't belong in a community, which made him want to white wash himself to fit in. Lasted until adulthood, keep his head down
Did your parents ever put you in Filipino school or other Filipino organizations?	Filipino Sunday school at PACCM, apart of FASAMI and PANEM and Bible Study group called Spirit of Love	FASAMI, PANEM, Bible Study group called Spirit of Love	La Fatima prayer group, PASS, ABM, PACCM, La Pieta Prayer group, Spirit of Love	PASS	Mom is Japanese American, but not moving around too much. Instead of cultural identity, went to cataclysm
How do you feel about your Filipino American identity now?	A lot more comfortable in her identity, happy that there's more representation, accepting and grateful for being Filipino American	Has never felt ashamed of being Filipino American.	Acknowledge the complexity of her Filipino identity, finds it empowering, truly significant to her and how she lives her life	Love it, embrace it, and grateful for values that have been passed down to him along with having other first generation Filipino friends to relate to and share this experience with	DCDC growing his own communities in Detroit, not too late to reconnect

Culture and Identity Interviews

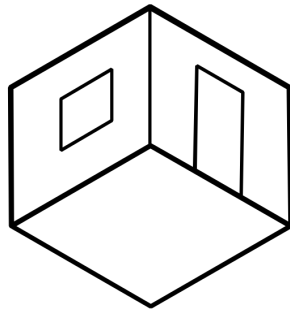
Other Cultures and Generations

Culture and Identity	Patrick Anthony Romano 25 years old (3rd Gen)	Dakota Bridge Campbell 23 years old (7th Gen)	Sumer Hassan Hazime 23 years old (2nd Gen)	Odette Georgees 22 years old (1.5 Gen)	Joshua Kanjirakattu Joy 22 years old (2nd Gen)	Cameron Stewart Lansdale 27 years old (3rd Gen)	John Charles Klopp 22 years old (2nd Gen)	Madison Lee Nelson 22 years old	Claudia Bernasconi 45 years old (1st Gen)
Where are your parents from? When and where did they immigrate to in America/other if applicable?	Initial Immigration: Grandpa on dad's side is Italian Grandma on mom's side is Polish Grandpa on mom's side is Irish Grandma on mom's side is Irish	Initial Immigration: Dad's side of the family 1720s from Scotland Mom's side of the family mid 1730s from Germany Both sides immigrated through New York Always been in Easton PA area	Mom: from Lebanon born in Nigeria, came to Garden City Michigan in late 70s early 80s Dad: from Lebanon, came to Dearborn Michigan in early 90s	Mom: Iraq mosul Dad: Iraq baghdad Both came in 2011 to Hamilton Ontario She came over when she was 11 Born in Iraq in Baghdad, grew up in Syria as a refugee	Mom: from New Delhi 26 years old to Windsor 1994 Dad: from Kochi India 26 years old to Windsor 1994	Mom: Michigan Grandma super religious Dad: Etobicoke, Ontario and then Michigan grandma scottish	Mom: Columbia to Cleveland Ohio in her mid 20s. Early to mid 90s Grandpa on dad's side Polish and German Mid 30s	Grandma: London, Ontario Great Great Grandpa: One from Germany one from Norway Canadian, French, Norwegian, German, Irish	Rome, Italy Immigrated at the end of 2004 West Virginia first, then to Michigan
Did your parents teach you the native language?	N/A	No. Pennsylvania Dutch	Parents tried to teach her Arabic, can read and write	Can speak, write, and understand it Assyrian	No Mom: Hindi Dad: Malualam	N/A	Mom tried, but he was stubborn because they started teaching it too late	Took french in High School	Fluent in Italian, english, french and spanish Mother taught her three languages: french, english and italian Learned when she was a toddler Grandmother was raised in french switzerland Her kids go to french school then US school in the afternoon Necessity that their kids have an Italian identity (and french)
Was that challenging knowing two languages while going to school?	N/A	N/A	Frustrating to not know the language, everyone in their area knew the language	It wasn't a challenge knowing two languages When she came to Hamilton in 2011 only knew assyrian and arabic Was in ESL (English Second Language) Fluent in english in 8th grade	N/A	N/A	A little difficult trying to understand spanish when tia and tios came over	N/A	Cultural shock with accent?
Did you go to a Catholic school? Feelings about being singled out or bullied because of your culture?	Yes, no	Public school, very diverse	Public school, always had representation and community around her so never felt singled out	Yes, grew up in a christian based school even in Syria Called a terrorist, but ironic to her Bullied for physical attributes related back to being middle eastern Self conscious about bringing food from her culture	Public school, very diverse	Lutheran school	Catholic for first half. Lutheran school for second half of school Racism Was called burnt toast and dark horse	Public school her whole life Feelings of being singled out, being in a predominantly black school	Did go to catholic school up to 8th grade Good attitude towards italians Not at work but other areas Didn't sound american

Culture and Identity	Patrick Anthony Romano 25 years old (3rd Gen)	Dakota Bridge Campbell 23 years old (7th Gen)	Sumer Hassan Hazime 23 years old (2nd Gen)	Odette Georgees 22 years old (1.5 Gen)	Joshua Kanjirakattu Joy 22 years old (2nd Gen)	Cameron Stewart Lansdale 27 years old (3rd Gen)	John Charles Klopp 22 years old (2nd Gen)	Madison Lee Nelson 22 years old	Claudia Bernasconi 45 years old (1st Gen)
What were your thoughts on your identity at that time?	Didn't really have an identity, no desire to learn more about cultural heritage	Didn't feel very connected to cultural heritage	Grade school, never really considered herself 'American'	Knew she was different Thought she couldn't make friends, hard to connect to people because of the language barrier Difficult to compare intelligence and academic success compared to her peers because of the language barrier	Very diverse, no problems with identity	Really shy, his culture didn't define him	Definitely felt more americanized because of neighborhood and school Cultural identity in the family sometimes felt like two parallel worlds	Kind of confused, very diverse grade school But then middle school feelings of being out of place and bullied for being one of the only white people there Hard to make friends and feel included and welcomed	Identify as a young woman, strong family connection No social media
Were you a part of any organizations?	Boy scouts, diabetic summer camp	Boy scouts Animal welfare society Technology student association (TSA)	Mosque, religious events	Ancient Church of the East - youth group Took Assyrian night classes - qualified for HS credits	Went to Jewish camp A part of Windsor Malayalee Association	Sports, and boy scouts	Boy Scouts, Columbian Ohio Foundation, Mi Pueblo Cultural Camp, soccer team	Youth group, travel soccer team	Stayed away from Italian groups, never had time Know a lot of international people Up to date on what's happening with Italians
How do you feel about your identity now?	Cultural heritage isn't really a part of his identity, identity more so stems from being in Michigan and his community here Maybe going back to Italy to see family	Never was interested in his roots until later in life	Americanized Lebanese person	Very proud of her identity Really wants to emphasize that she's rare and proud that she still practices her culture. THEY ARE NOT EXTINCT Diaspora as an Assyrian, there's a big spread and networking	N/A	Happy with who he is	Took a lot of effort to realize he just needed to have an open mind to be a part of groups or meeting new people, moving to college was a big step, people are very accepting	Feel good, welcomes, included, and has a great group of friends	Dynamic process So many different identities, definitely as Italian and Roman Lots of regional differences in Italy Don't identify as Italian American

5

The Home



After learning about Culture and Identity through my research and interviews, the next step was to look deeper into the Home.

Throughout this chapter there were two main questions that needed to be addressed:

1. How does the experience of first generation Filipino American immigrants affect attitudes towards homes?

and

2. Do first generation Filipino American immigrants make different use of the microarchitecture of the home than other Americans?

How are rooms organized

How are they used

How homes grow

Home Sizes

	Europe	Latin America	Asia	Africa	Oceania	Other North America		United States	Philippines
Avg. Household Size	2.5	3.6	3.3	3.0	2.9	2.1		2.5	4.1
Avg. Family Size	3.1	4.0	3.8	3.7	3.2	2.9		3.13	4.6

Figure 5.1

I first started to look at the average home and family sizes in America, the Philippines, and other continents.

The United States average household size was 2.5 with their average family size being 3.13, while the Filipinos average household size was 4.1 with their average family size being 4.6.

In the Philippines, multigenerational homes are very common and are considered to be

a traditional and important part of Filipino culture. These homes typically include several generations of family members living together under one roof, such as grandparents, parents, and children. So, moving here to the states with their family, they were trying to fit in twice the people meant to be living in a single house.

Ramirez Family Tree



Figure 5.2

In this figure, I thought it would be helpful to show a diagram of my family tree on my dad’s side to help get a better idea about how big Filipino families can get and how connected they stay with each other.

All of this information was taken from my Tito Mike’s excel sheet and he makes updates to it regularly and even informs the family about new kids being born, or new engagements happening within the family.

This diagram starts off with my Great Lola Rita who had 13 kids. My Lolo was number 6 out of 13. Then moving onto the 3rd generation, my dad Luis was number 10 out of the 46 grand children. And then it goes to me in the 4th generation, I am number 19 out of 68 great grand children in counting bringing us to a total of 127 people just in that small section of my dad’s side of the family.

Filipino Values and Beliefs

Filipino values and beliefs are shaped by a rich and diverse cultural heritage, including indigenous beliefs, Spanish colonialism, and American influence. Some of the main values and beliefs of Filipinos include:

Family: Family is considered the most important aspect of Filipino life, and close family ties are highly valued. Older family members are respected and obedience to parents is expected.

Respect for authority: Respect for authority, including parents, elders, and government officials, is a fundamental aspect of Filipino culture.

Hospitality: Filipinos are known for their hospitality, and guests are treated with warmth and generosity.

Spirituality: Many Filipinos are religious and place great importance on spiritual beliefs, with Catholicism being the dominant

religion.

Hard work: Hard work is valued in Filipino culture and is seen as an essential component of success.

Resilience: Filipinos are known for their resilience and ability to overcome adversity through determination and resourcefulness.

Humor: Humor is an important aspect of Filipino culture and is used as a way to diffuse tension and build relationships.

Bayanihan: The concept of Bayanihan refers to the communal spirit of Filipinos, where individuals work together to achieve a common goal.

These values and beliefs are deeply ingrained in Filipino culture and shape the attitudes, behaviors, and interactions of Filipinos both in the Philippines and abroad.

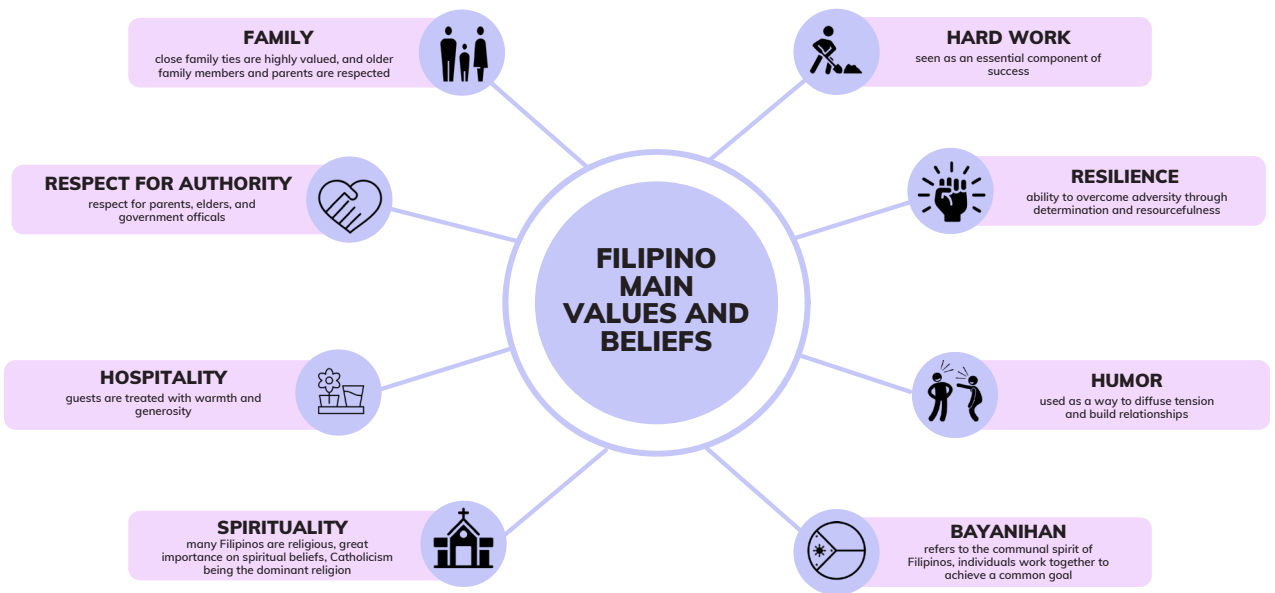


Figure 5.3

Spaces in the Home

After doing intensive interviews with my second generation Filipino friends, we came up with a list of spaces that we thought we used differently in the home and tied them back to the Filipino Main Values and Beliefs.

For the spaces of the home they mainly tied back to family and hospitality.

With the spaces, it was mainly about the warmth of a home and

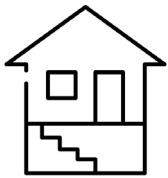
welcoming everyone as if they were all family whether they were blood related or not.

That affinity to wanting to be closer and naturally being open and hospitable to everyone was the main factor in distinguishing a house from a home and a community from a family.



Spaces in the Home

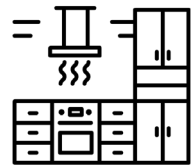
Basement



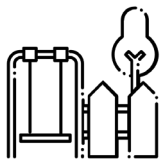
Family Room



Kitchen



Backyard



Living Room



Garage



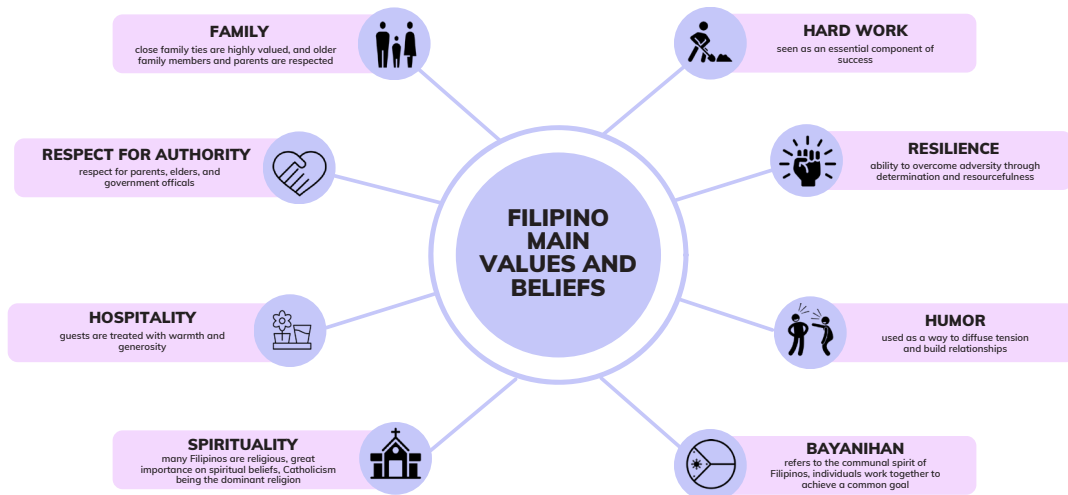
Items in the Home

For the items in the home they mainly tied back to the value of spirituality and resilience.

It was interesting to see how the items were mainly related to customs or traditions, versus how the spaces were mainly about the warmth of a home and welcoming everyone as if they were all family whether they were blood related or not.

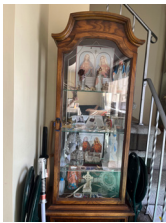
Asking these questions about what things my friends thought were “Filipino” in their home was very interesting and nostalgic to talk about.

And after interviewing other cultures and generations, it was interesting to see how many things the Filipino culture had in common with other cultures leading to new bonds.



Items in the Home

Altar



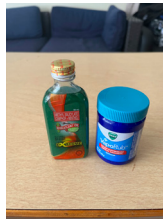
Tsinelas



Tabo



Vix



Collection of Plastic Bags



Walis Tambo



Cookie Tin (sewing kit)



Dried Palm Leaves



Last Supper Painting



Figure 5.4

Home in Michigan

For this section, it was important to really understand how a Filipino American family uses their home.

In Figure 5.5 it's a floor plan of my home explaining where all the spaces are and when or who uses those spaces. And the spaces that are more greyed out than the others are spaces that are not normally used or taken advantage of.

While creating this diagram it was interesting to see how a lot of our schedules would collide as we meet up in the more social spaces of our house throughout the day. For example, a lot of my family would meet up in the kitchen or living room once we all got home from school or work. And while my Lola was still here, there would usually be someone around that area to take care of her.

On the next page in Figure 5.6 these are diagrams explaining the use of space in my other Filipino friends' houses.

The red circles are area of high activity within the family. Similar to my family, most of the activity happens in the kitchen and living room or family room areas. Something that was uncommon from my household was that they normally used their basements when friends came over whereas my basement used to be used, but now it is mainly for storage or extra things we don't know what to do with.

Overall, doing these diagrams was an interesting study to see how different families interact with each other inside the home and how that can influence people's attitudes or even how spaces are perceived in them.

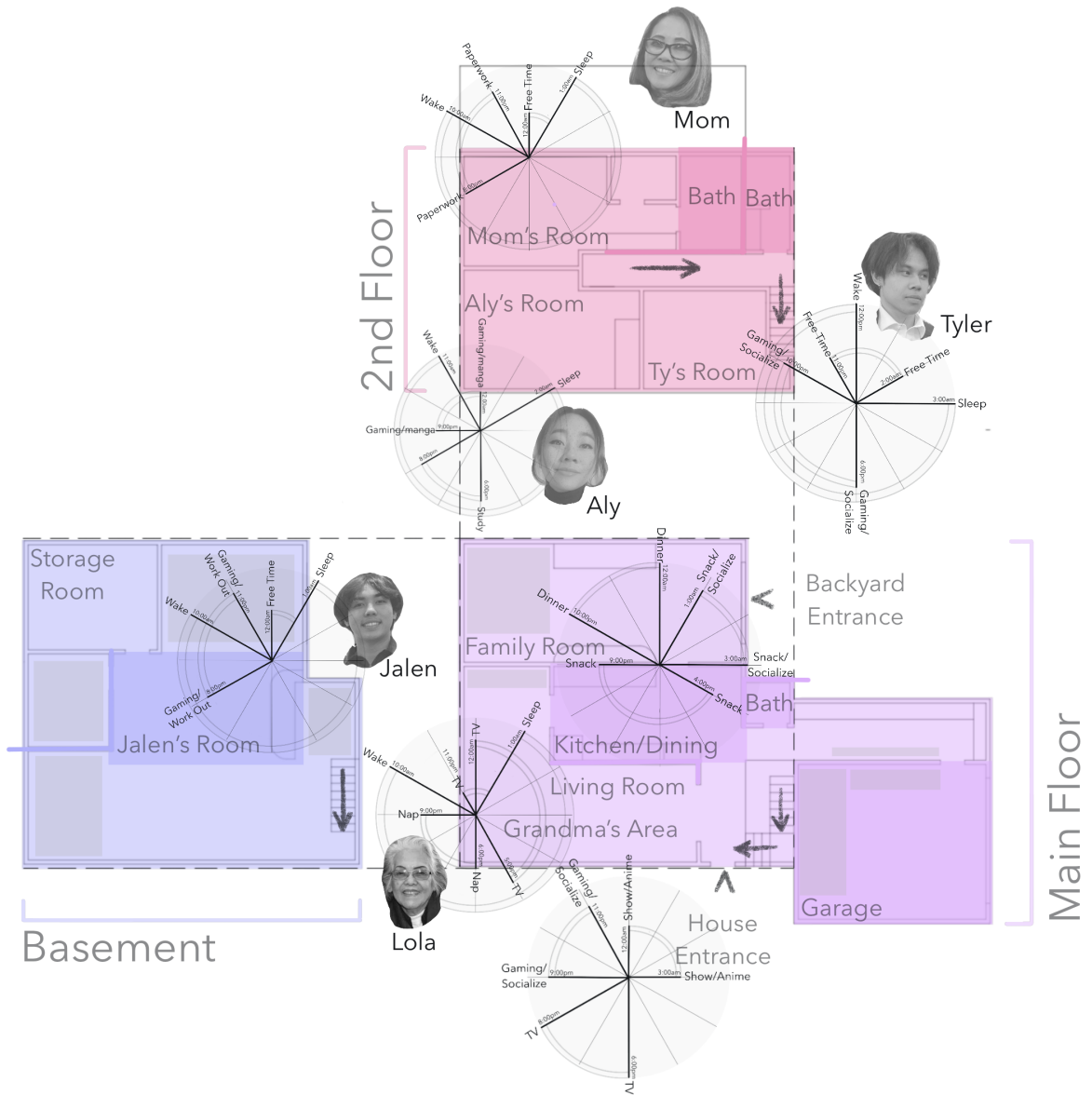


Figure 5.5

Home in Michigan

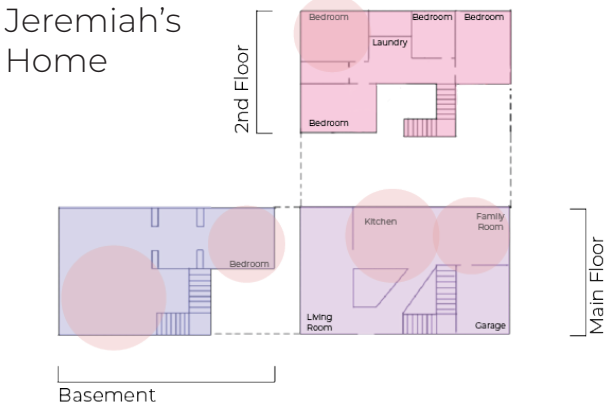
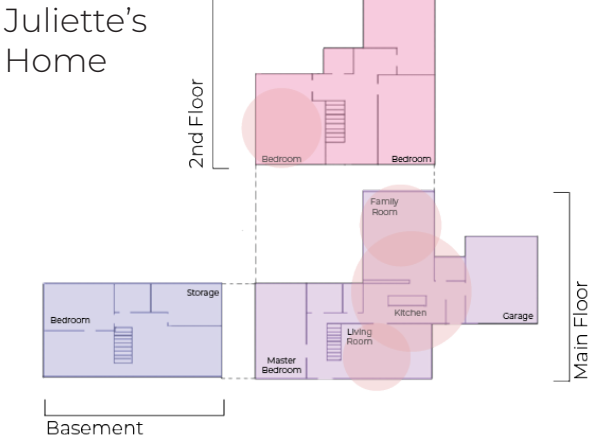
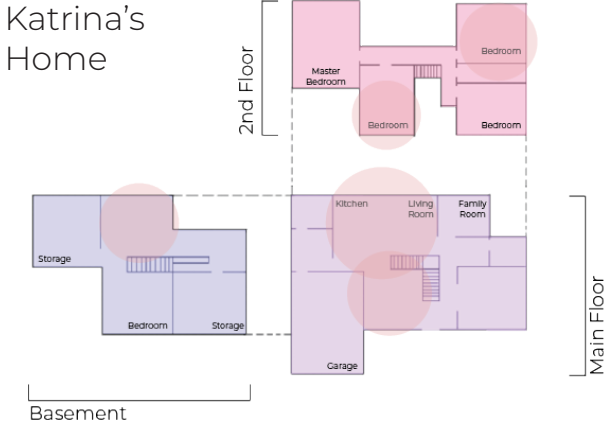
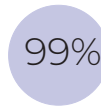


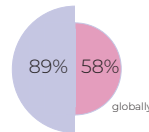
Figure 5.6

Home is central to Filipino Identity



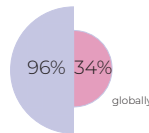
agree that home is an essential part of who they are

For Filipinos, home is about spending time with loved ones above all else



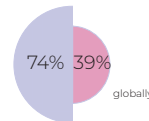
ranked "quality time with family and loved ones" as the most important factor in feeling at home

Memories are central to their experience of home



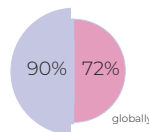
agree that home is a place of memories

At home, Filipinos can be themselves and feel like they belong



feeling like they belong

Filipinos' sense of home expands beyond their dwelling



community where they reside is as important as the home in which they live

Growing Through a Home

To understand how Filipino families can grow into a home, I sketched out these diagrams of different rooms and how they have changed over the years and why.

In regards to bedrooms, most of the changes I have observed from my own house and other immigrant families was that they would usually put all the kids in one room. And as the kids grew up they would either move to their own room or share a room with a sibling of the same gender.

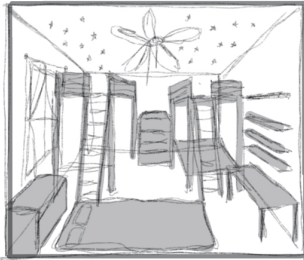
For the families who were long term residents in America, they hardly if ever switched rooms with their siblings. Most of them would have their own bedroom from when they were a baby to when they would move out of the house. Or on the rare occasion, they would move into the basement at some point to get more privacy and space.

Learning about these differences was one of the main reasons why this topic sparked my interest.

While talking about my own experience of home, I would notice how American families would view it differently from Filipino or other immigrant families.

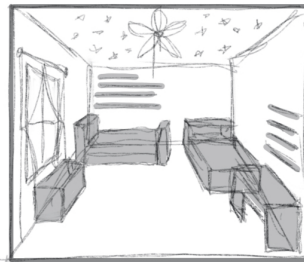
For immigrants it was common to make the best out of what they had and to view the home as a box that they could manipulate and change to suit their own needs, culture, and identity.

Bedroom 1



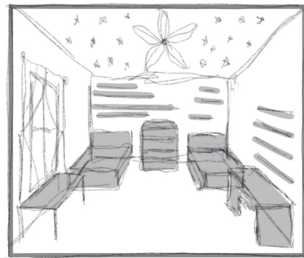
2009

- all three kids were in this bedroom at this time
- all family and friends would sleep on the floor in this room when visiting
- parents had master bedroom
- Lola had bedroom 2



2012

- little brother and Aly were in this room, while older brother moved to the basement
- all the other rooms stayed the same



2014

- both brothers were in this room at this time
- Aly was in bedroom 2 at this time
- parents had the master bedroom
- Lola was in the basement

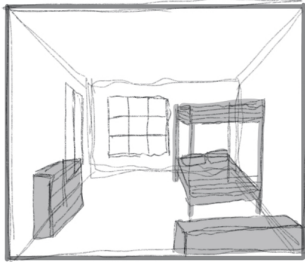


2018 to present

- Aly is in this bedroom
- parents had the master bedroom
- older brother is in bedroom 2
- little brother is in basement
- Lola on the main floor
- used for family and guests when they sleep over

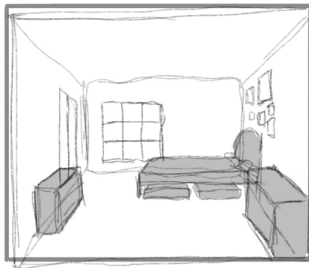
Figure 5.7

Bedroom 2



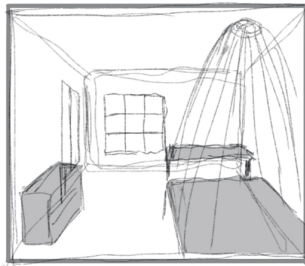
2004

- Aly and her Lola were in this room
- parents had master bedroom
- older brother had bedroom 1
- little brother was in parent's bedroom



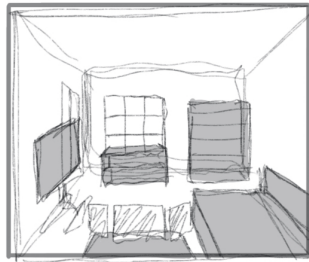
2014

- Aly was in this bedroom
- parents had master bedroom
- brothers were switching back and forth between the basement and bedroom 1
- all family and friends would sleep in this room when visiting



2016

- Aly was still in this room
- same situation as bedroom 2B

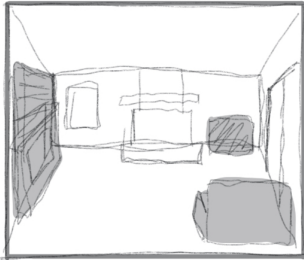


2018 to present

- Older brother in this room instead of in the basement
- mom in master bedroom
- little brother in the basement
- Aly in bedroom 1

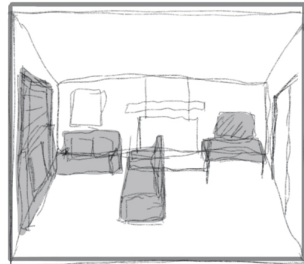
Figure 5.8

Family Room



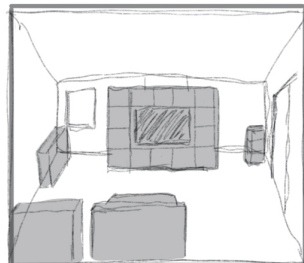
2004

- mostly used as a play room for the kids
- when family came over the kids would always be in this area
- also used a lot for connection to kitchen and backyard



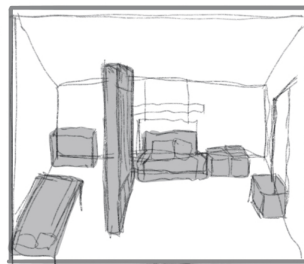
2009

- still mainly used as a play room for the kids
- also used as the computer room for kids' homework



2017

- space less used at this time
- family usually in the kitchen or living room
- karaoke in this room
- mainly used for storage



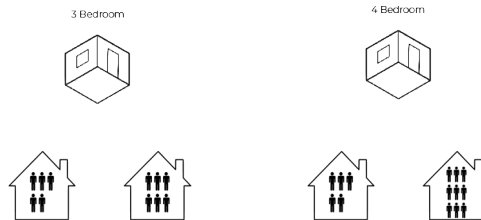
2020

- Lola took over half of this room when she couldn't get up and down the stairs anymore
- space barely used
- family usually in the kitchen or living room

Figure 5.9

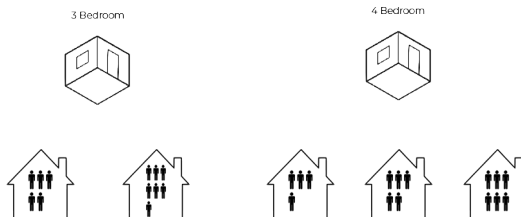
Bedrooms

2nd Generation Filipinos



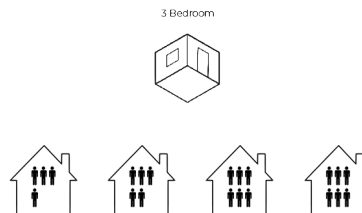
- multigenerational
- most have moved once at a young age because of their family needing more space for more kids
- most have shared bedrooms with siblings at a young age but then switched or changed bedrooms due to kids growing up

Recent Immigrants of other Cultures



- wide range of how many times they moved, most have moved multiple times
- common to share rooms with siblings of same sex for multiple years

Long-Term Residents in America



- mix of moving and staying in the same house since they were born
- most have shared rooms with siblings at one point or still do

These graphs represent the data that immigrant families are trying to fit double the amount of people meant to be in a single family home.

By comparing the number of people in a family to how many bedrooms are available, it gives the audience a better understanding of why these families would use the home differently.

Through the interviews with other cultures and generations it was obvious to see that there is a multitude of different ways a family can use a house and how each

family faces different challenges that lead to these spatial changes.

There wasn't a definite outcome from these interviews, but a lot of the situations across all immigrant families showed similar challenges like being multigenerational or just having more siblings/children than the average American family.

Similarities

- most have shared rooms with siblings or still do
- a few boys from each category have eventually moved to the basement

Differences

- 2nd Gen Filipino homes are multigenerational
- more common for 2nd Gen Filipinos to switch bedrooms multiple times as they grow up
- everyone from each category has vastly different moving experiences

Use of Rooms

2nd Generation Filipinos



- most hang out in their rooms or basement
- family will hang out in kitchen or living room
- for parties, will use front yard, backyard, and whole main floor, buffet style for food
- for parties, bedrooms usually off limits unless it's friends
- strict on sleepovers
- sleepover with friends, usually in their bedroom, living room, or basement
- family sleeping over, elders will take kids' bedroom and kids will all sleep in living room or basement

Similarities

- most people will spend their time in their bedrooms for privacy, or in the living room and kitchen to be social
- for parties, everyone mainly uses the same spaces and rearrange it depending on their culture/activities
- sleep overs with friends are mostly either in their bedrooms or living rooms

Recent Immigrants of other Cultures



- mostly hang out in bedroom, living room, or kitchen
- family will hang out in living room or kitchen
- for parties, main floor is usually used and rearranged depending on their culture, buffet style for food
- strict on sleepovers with friends
- family sleeping over is common for some
- most will have their family sleep on the floor with mattresses
- some will give away their rooms to elders

Differences

- for immigrants it is more common to have family sleep over and to be stricter on friends sleeping over
- immigrants more commonly give up their rooms for their elders

Long-Term Residents in America



- most hang out in family room or living room
- family will hang out in family room, living room, basement, or outside
- for parties, will use backyard and main floor mostly
- friends mainly sleepover in the living room or basement
- family will rarely sleep over, but if they do mostly on the floor with mattresses, in spare bedroom, or on couches

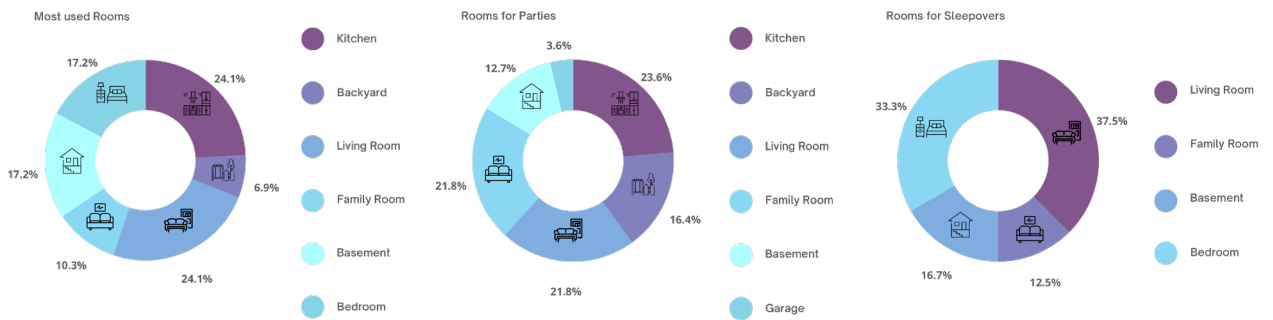


Figure 5.10

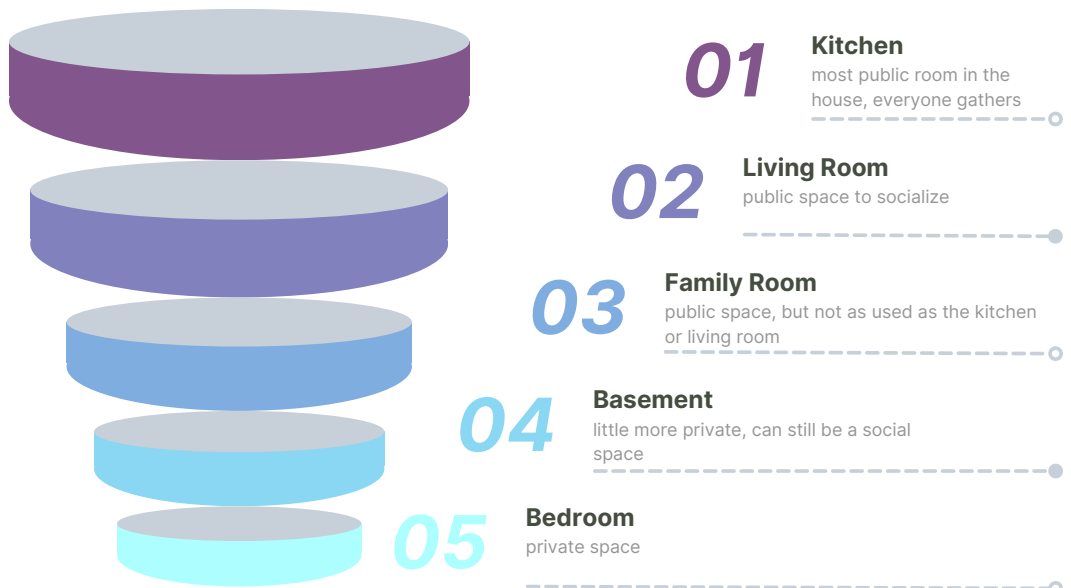


Figure 5.11

Outside the Home

2nd Generation Filipinos



Front yard:

- gardening
- extra space for parties

Backyard:

- gardening
- hosting parties
- play place for kids

Recent Immigrants of other Cultures



Front yard:

- barely used
- some gardens

Backyard:

- used a lot for parties
- play place for kids
- mainly used in the summer

Long-Term Residents in America



Front yard:

- barely used
- some gardens

Backyard:

- hardly used by most
- play place for kids

Findings

- most people use the front yard and backyards very similarly
- backyards used for kids and parties
- backyards tend to be less used as the kids grow up
- not much use of porches or connections to neighbors with homes being more far apart

Home in the Philippines

My first time ever going to the Philippines was in 2008. It was for my mom's high school reunion, and coincidentally most of my friend's first time going back to the Philippines was for one of their parents' reunions.

The first thing I noticed when we landed in the capitol Manila was how brutally hot it felt when the plane landed. From a person who saw snow before her flight took off, it was shocking to say the least.

The roads were busy and packed and it felt like there was always something going on or happening. It felt like there was no space or time to be alone.

But when we went to my mother's hometown in Davao, it gave off a more warm and calm atmosphere.

My mother's house had concrete walls surrounding it along with a gate that had barbed wire at the top. There was plants and greenery everywhere and although it was

so foreign to me, it also felt very familiar.

Everyone there treated me so kindly as if they had known me my whole life. I never felt unwelcomed.

The home there was mainly an open floor plan, there was no dryer so we always hung our clothes up, there was one room that had air conditioning that we all hogged, and everyone would usually spend their leisure time sitting out on their porches or just walking around outside.

It was amazing how everyone knew each other and how they all interacted so casually. It really made me think about why I don't know any of my neighbors here in America and why it doesn't entice me to go on a walk in my neighborhood here versus in the Philippines.

Those were the questions that confused me.

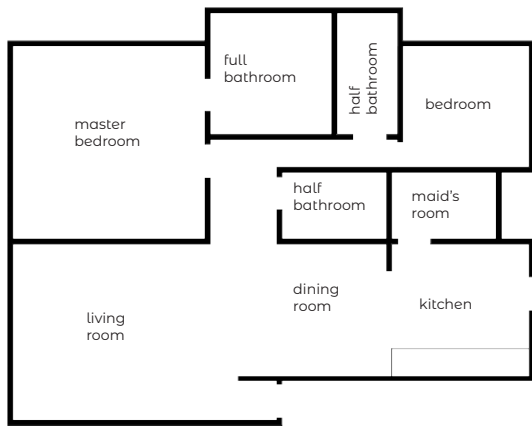


Figure 5.12

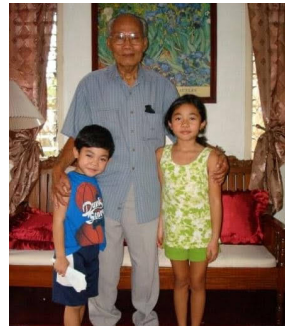
Gate



Front Door



Living Room



Kitchen

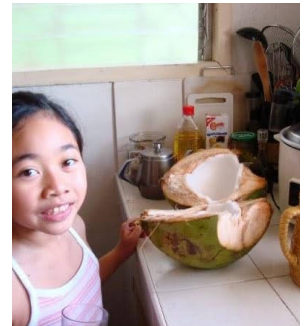
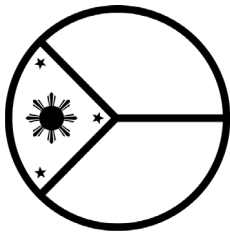


Figure 5.13

Comparing Cultures

Homes in the Philippines



- concrete walls
- gates/barbed wire
- one air conditioned room
- live in maid
- homey and classic feeling
- mainly open floor plan
- use of front porches
- houses are very close together
- relatives live very close to each other
- no basements
- houses are more longitude compared to latitude in America
- steel and tin roofs
- "dirty" kitchen (outside kitchen)

Home in other Countries



India:

- cook outside sometimes
- more nature
- rely on neighbors a lot
- maid and driver
- no washing machine
- pinkish orange colors for houses
- lots of land behind house

Syria:

- mostly apartments
- more connections to neighbors

Colombia:

- house up in the mountains in informal settlement
- one of the only homes with a gate

Italy:

- rainforest concrete
- walls thick, more sturdy
- ceiling is higher
- more history and character in the homes
- family lives nearby

Home in America



- more luxury in building materials and construction methods
- homes are farther apart
- usually have basements
- big backyards
- little to no connections with neighbors
- have to drive everywhere
- common to have two floors or more
- more square footage in homes

Findings

- homes in other countries have a stronger **connection to neighbors and communities** possibly due to the homes being closer together and how family members usually all live very close to each other
- homes in America tend to be more private and farther apart leading to less interactions
- due to having **smaller homes in other countries**, this could contribute to their resourcefulness when moving to America like rearranging rooms and spaces to their needs
- with homes being **bigger and more expensive in America**, it also makes sense why so many 2nd generation Filipino households are **multigenerational**
- with immigrants usually having bigger families and relying more on cultural organizations or groups when they first immigrate, it also explains why they host so many parties with friends and families and are used to hosting and being hospitable

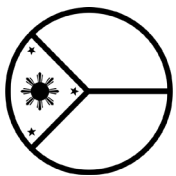


Figure 5.14

Home Interviews

Filipinos - 2nd and 3rd Generations

Home	Alana Alyssa Tenala Ramirez 23 years old	Katrina Maulion Arriola 23 years old	Juliette Manola Cayao 23 years old	Jeremiah Paul Arcebido Cortez 24 years old	Joshua Ryan Budiongan 33 years old (3rd Gen)
Who lives in your house with you?	6 people Parents, grandma, 2 brothers Dad recently moved out	9 people Parents, 6 siblings Sister moved out 2 grandmothers used to live with her	5 people Parents, sister, brother Sister moved out Brother and step sister and their two kids live with them now	5 people Parents, 2 brothers Grandparents recently moved out	Just gf and kid Family home in bloomfield small little ranch with basement, 3 bedrooms, magnolia tree Parents still live there Just mom and dad and dog there now Changed rooms to office A lot more calm Growing up it was chaotic, food and activities Lived there from 99 to 2011 12 years
How many floors and how many rooms?	2 story, 3 bedrooms, and a basement	2 story, 4 bedrooms, plus 2 extra bedrooms in basement	2 story, 4 bedroom, and a basement Old family home that her dad constructed was 3 story and had an extra guest bedroom	2 story, 3 bedroom, and a basement	
Have you ever moved before?	Yes, once after she was born	Yes, moved after the family grew	Yes, moved in 2008 and again during her senior year in high school	Yes, moved when he was 1, and moved again once his younger brother was born	Moved 4 times with family Then thesis year apartment then house Total of 8 times

Home	Alana Alyssa Tenala Ramirez 23 years old	Katrina Maulion Arriola 23 years old	Juliette Manola Cayao 23 years old	Jeremiah Paul Arcebedo Cortez 24 years old	Joshua Ryan Budiongan 33 years old (3rd Gen)
How many times has your house been rearranged and why?	<p>Switched around bedrooms a lot due to kids growing up and needing more space</p> <p>Grandma getting older and not being able to go up the stairs</p> <p>Family room and Living room furniture has been changed and rearranged</p> <p>Both brothers switched their bedrooms to the basement at one point</p> <p>Grandma's room used to be in the family room</p>	<p>Younger kids would have to share rooms</p> <p>Used to share room with younger sister</p> <p>Brother would share rooms</p> <p>Youngest would sleep with their parents until they're 7 or 8 years old</p> <p>Craft room converted to playroom</p> <p>Depends on how old you are and whether or not you get your own space</p> <p>Family room now exercise room</p>	<p>Never had to switch rooms in her house because her dad constructed her family home with her family in mind</p> <p>Older sibling takes superiority in the biggest space of the home - like the basement</p> <p>Always needed a guest room</p>	<p>All the brothers were in the same room</p> <p>Did not rearrange rooms a lot</p> <p>Last rearrangement was when he took his grandpa's room</p>	<p>Big remodel, 5 little remodels, shared bedroom with brother until college, then moved into the basement</p>
What's the place you hang out most in your home?	<p>Kitchen and Living room for social interaction, bedroom when she wants her own space</p>	<p>Her room, privacy</p> <p>Kitchen</p>	<p>Her room, privacy</p> <p>Kitchen and Living room</p>	<p>When he was younger, basement because it has all the consoles</p>	<p>Basement or outside</p> <p>Family would be in kitchen</p>
How do you use your front yard and backyard?	<p>Front yard: gardening or more space for parties and basketball</p> <p>Backyard: garden, hosting parties</p>	<p>Front: not really used unless it's for parties and socializing</p> <p>Backyard: not really used unless it's for parties and socializing</p>	<p>Front: gardening</p> <p>Backyard: used for hosting parties and socializing</p> <p>Now it's used as a play space for her nephews</p>	<p>Front: Vietnamese neighbors always have their garage open for karaoke</p> <p>Backyard: play space when he was a kid, patio in the back for parties and socializing</p>	<p>Front yard:</p> <p>Backyard: white picket fence</p> <p>Played all around both yards, driveway for basketball and street hockey</p> <p>2 trees in front one in back</p> <p>Now one in front one in back</p> <p>So much space in the yards</p>

Home	Alana Alyssa Tenala Ramirez 23 years old	Katrina Maulion Arriola 23 years old	Juliette Manola Cayao 23 years old	Jeremiah Paul Arcebido Cortez 24 years old	Joshua Ryan Budiongan 33 years old (3rd Gen)
What does your home look like when you host parties?	Whole house is utilized, except bedrooms are off limits unless there's chismis (gossip) with friends	Front yard and backyard are utilized along with the whole first floor and kitchen area, kids usually outside or in the basement	Front yard and backyard are utilized along with the whole first floor and kitchen area	Front yard and backyard are utilized along with the whole first floor and kitchen area, kids usually in the basement	Family house: Only a few parties, siblings in basement, adults upstairs Current House: Good party house, nice side yard, bonfire, bbq, eating snacks in kitchen, very open welcoming space
What does your home look like when you have friends or family sleeping over?	Aunts and Uncles usually take her bedroom All the kids and cousins sleep in the basement or Living room Friends sleep in her room or in the Living room	Had the most sleepovers with friends compared to her siblings, either in her bedroom or the basement Strict on having friends sleeping over	Parents friends would always get the guest bedroom With sleepovers with friends usually in her bedroom or the guest bedroom Strict on having friends sleeping over	No guest bedroom, family and friends would stay in the basement	Felt warmer, gravitate to kitchen, lots of cousins Grandparents would visit once a year When he visited san diego it always felt fresh to be welcomed "in-group" Family visiting felt like an oasis Sleep with friends in basement, bedroom too small, sleeping bag, not much sleeping, activities Grandparents would take his parents room, or his room
What are some things in your home that you think are "Filipino?"	Tabo Banig (mat) Vix Tsinelas (house slippers) Collection of plastic bags Wooden spoon and fork wall décor Walis ting ting (broom) Painting of the last supper Dried palm leaves Altar Holy water fountain Angel instead of star on christmas tree	Tabo Banig (mat) Vix Tsinelas (house slippers) Collection of plastic bags Wooden spoon and fork wall décor Walis ting ting (broom) Painting of the last supper Dried palm leaves Altar Holy water fountain Angel instead of star on christmas tree	Tabo Banig (mat) Vix Tsinelas (house slippers) Collection of plastic bags Wooden spoon and fork wall décor Walis ting ting (broom) Painting of the last supper Dried palm leaves Altar	Tabo Banig (mat) Vix Tsinelas (house slippers) Collection of plastic bags Wooden spoon and fork wall décor Walis ting ting (broom) Painting of the last supper Dried palm leaves Altar	More the way he uses spaces than with the items, gathering in the kitchen, too much food going around, a lot of conversations, big board game card game family, running score card of spades,

Home	Alana Alyssa Tenala Ramirez 23 years old	Katrina Maulion Arriola 23 years old	Juliette Manola Cayao 23 years old	Jeremiah Paul Arcebido Cortez 24 years old	Joshua Ryan Budiongan 33 years old (3rd Gen)
Have you ever gone back to visit the Philippines?	Once in 2008 for a month, there for high school reunion	Once in 2009 there for mom's high school reunion	First time when she was 2, grandpa was dying 2nd time in 2014 for a family reunion in 2014 for a month 3rd time in 2016 for cousins wedding	3 times Last time he went was in 2008	Once this year in January, plans to go back next summer 2024 Dad hasn't been back since he was 11 Grandma and them lived there for a year when grandpa was out on duty Traveled with godparents There for two and a half weeks
What was your experience like going back?	Really fun, big mall, aunt had her own personal driver, went around Christmas time so it was really pretty	Amazing, a lot of freedom for kids to run around, multi purpose malls, everything is in the same area	Shopping there was fun and all the different markets and fake brands,	Multi purpose malls, everything is in the same area	Incredible, loves traveling, overwhelmed with the experience got to meet granduncle, lives in the generational home that great grandparents built When grandparents came back to philippines had a lot of us money and had a sari sari store A lot of history in the home, polished floors with coconut husks, really powerful experience Even strangers and communicating with them, very accepting and welcoming, filipino community Flew into Manila and then Cebu Borracai

Home	Alana Alyssa Tenala Ramirez 23 years old	Katrina Maulion Arriola 23 years old	Juliette Manola Cayao 23 years old	Jeremiah Paul Arcebido Cortez 24 years old	Joshua Ryan Budiongan 33 years old (3rd Gen)
<p>What's your home like in the Philippines?</p>	<p>Stayed with her aunt in the city multiple stories</p> <p>Stayed at her mom's family home in Davao 1 story, open floor plan Air conditioned in one room</p> <p>Concrete walls and gates with barbed wires on top</p> <p>Houses very close to together</p> <p>Everyone would hang out on their porches</p> <p>Live in maid very common for middle class</p>	<p>Stayed with her uncle</p> <p>Whole slept on a mattress in one room</p> <p>Stayed with her aunt on her dad's side and with her ninang, had her own room in this house</p> <p>Stayed at her other lola's house</p> <p>Live in maid very common for middle class</p>	<p>Lot's of relatives in the Philippines, each of her siblings would stay with their favorite relatives</p> <p>All of the houses were very close by</p> <p>Air conditioned in one room</p> <p>Live in maid very common for middle class</p>	<p>Stay with grandparents on dad's side</p> <p>Concrete walls and gates</p> <p>Homey and classic feeling</p>	<p>Greatgrandparents built it in Surigao</p> <p>Enter through garage on street, garage is a tunnel that you park in</p> <p>Open air courtyard with tropical trees</p> <p>Hut thats covered for rain season</p> <p>Two staircases</p> <p>Dirty kitchen, water pump, gorgeous tiles, coconut husk to polish, iron wood floors</p> <p>Surigao is a small city, fishing town, but has a lot of world history, pivotal background in WWII Surigao Strait</p> <p>House was built in the 20s, survived countless typhoons</p>

Home	Alana Alyssa Tenala Ramirez 23 years old	Katrina Maulion Arriola 23 years old	Juliette Manola Cayao 23 years old	Jeremiah Paul Arcebido Cortez 24 years old	Joshua Ryan Budiongan 33 years old (3rd Gen)
How is your home there different from your home in America?	<p>1 floor in Filipino house, 2 floors and a basement here in America</p> <p>Open floor plans in the Philippines</p> <p>No basements in the Philippines</p> <p>Lolo's house had cardboard floors and a tin roof</p>	<p>No basements in the Philippines</p> <p>Steel roofs and tin roofs</p> <p>All the properties are gated</p> <p>Take space in American house for granted, not utilized properly here</p>	<p>No basements in the Philippines</p> <p>Square footage, American houses are very latitude and Filipino houses are longitude</p>	<p>No basements in the Philippines</p> <p>All properties are gated</p>	<p>Generational home, it's just enough, the things they need work and it feels lived in and part of a family that has held onto each other for 4 generations, roots are established and thriving</p> <p>Experience in america is uprooting again and again, family house is rooted, but has gone through different lifestyle changes</p> <p>American way is more and more, but in philippines this is enough, provide and care for each other</p> <p>Out of experience, its a product of our built environment, detroit creates distance with people, need own house own car go to work and come home</p> <p>But more smaller scale everyone is in each others business for the better, stronger connection, we support each other</p> <p>In America you could hate your neighbor and never talk to them</p> <p>Physical distance causes personal relationship distance</p> <p>Uncle has a giant house, friends with a lot of people. Very hospitable and resourceful</p>

Home Interviews

Other Cultures Generations

Home	Patrick Anthony Romano 25 years old (3rd Gen)	Dakota Bridge Campbell 23 years old (7th Gen)	Sumer Hassan Hazime 23 years old (2nd Gen)	Odette Georgees 22 years old (1.5 Gen)	Joshua Kanjirakattu Joy 22 years old (1st Gen)	Cameron Stewart Lansdale 27 years old (3rd Gen)	John Charles Klopp 22 years old (2nd Gen)	Madison Lee Nelson 22 years old	Claudia Bernasconi 45 years old (1st Gen)
Who lives in your house with you?	6 people Parents, 2 sisters, 2 brothers, sometimes his uncle pat	4 people Parents and sister	7 people Parents, 2 sisters, 2 brothers	5 people Parents, 1 sister, 1 brother	4 people Parents, and sister	6 people Parents, 2 brother, a sister	5 people Parents, 2 sisters	5 people Parents, 1 sister, 1 brother	6 people 4 kids and husband
How many floors and how many rooms?	Basement, main floor, second floor, always 3 bedrooms	2 story, 3 bedrooms and a basement	Tri Level house, 3 bedrooms	Single family detached, 3 bedrooms, 2 floors, basement.	1st house, 2 floors, 3 rooms 2nd house, split level ranch 4 rooms 3rd house, 2 story, 3 bedrooms but the 4th bedroom was an office 4th house, 2 story, 4 bedrooms Basement in all of them	Main floor and basement, 3 rooms, and an extra room in basement	2 story, with a basement fully furnished, 4 bedrooms	1st house was a ranch with a fully furnished basement, 3 bedrooms 2nd house: Main floor, second floor, basement, 3 bedrooms	Split level 1956 house Open floor plan large windows Two levels and one level nested in the middle 4 bedrooms
Have you ever moved before?	Moved three times in a 20 year span Bamblet Edgeworth Vinsetta	Moved at 2 months old	Moved to current house after Sumer was born	Left Iraq in 2001 when she was 1 Lived in Syria as a refugee from 2001-2011 Moved twice in Syria, both rentals In Canada, moved twice both rentals Went from townhouse to single family detached	Moved four times 1st house in Canada too small 3 years 2nd house in Canada for opportunity 8 years 3rd house moved to U.S. for middle school 4 years 4th time moved for bigger house 8 years, built this house	No	No	She 14, moved from Redford to Livonia Moved because of schools Needed bigger house after brother was born	11 times just counting the ones in the states Primary home in Rome
How many times has your house been rearranged and why?	Siblings switched rooms based on family growing Took out a wall for more open floor plan	Same rooms his whole life, parents use the spare bedroom	Switched rooms once between the girls and the parents Maybe moved around couches or TV	Two bedrooms earranged bedrooms First house in Canada: Her and sister shared a room, brother was in basement, parents had own room Second house in Canada: she has own room, sister has own room, parents have own room, brother basement	Never switched bedrooms, when it was built had the family in mind Every season they rearrange the living room for christmas tree In the summer and spring time they like their living room open	Him and his brother in a room Girl got her own room Then he moved to the basement Basement has changed a bit	One time when he was really young, switching from the nursery to his own room Same thing happened to his sisters when they grew up out of the nursery.	Yes, the first house parents shared a room and her and her sister had her own rooms, then when her brother was born her and her sister had to share a room 2nd house: her and her sister still share a room, but more space in this house Redoing basement of right now	For home in states: Minor rearrangements, switching kids rooms relating to kids age and gender Redid kitchen Been in this house for 8 years Home in Rome: 26 years a flat, first floor of multi family housing Old floor plan, study room, living room used to be only two bedrooms, her bedroom built in pergola Rearranged multiple times Grandparents on the flat above

Home	Patrick Anthony Romano 25 years old (3rd Gen)	Dakota Bridge Campbell 23 years old (7th Gen)	Sumer Hassan Hazime 23 years old (2nd Gen)	Odette Georgees 22 years old (1.5 Gen)	Joshua Kanjirakattu Joy 22 years old (1st Gen)	Cameron Stewart Lansdale 27 years old (3rd Gen)	John Charles Klopp 22 years old (2nd Gen)	Madison Lee Nelson 22 years old	Claudia Bernasconi 45 years old (1st Gen)
<p>What's the place you hang out most in your home?</p> <p>What's the place your family hangs out the most in your home?</p>	<p>Younger siblings mainly use the basement area for games and movies</p> <p>Whole family uses family room and computer</p> <p>Basement is usually where the kids hang out</p> <p>Kitchen</p>	<p>Hangs out mostly in family room or outside of the house</p>	<p>Spend family time in basement</p>	<p>She mostly hangs out in her bedroom or living room</p> <p>Family usually hangs out in the living room or dining room</p>	<p>His room</p> <p>His family is usually in the kitchen</p> <p>Everyone's schedule is usually hectic so not much family time or socializing in other spaces</p>	<p>Usually in the basement, family mainly in the Living room</p>	<p>He usually hangs out the most in the Living Room/kitchen space</p> <p>If friends come over usually in the basement</p> <p>Family usually hangs out in the Living room/Kitchen space or outside in the patio deck space</p>	<p>Usually hangs out in the Living room</p> <p>Family usually hangs out in the Living room or outside in the summer</p>	<p>She hangs out in the kitchen the most, works, cooks, kids do hw, here. Open kitchen, can see everything</p> <p>Everyone has different spots in the home, but mainly the kitchen</p> <p>Kids like to hide around and read books behind couches</p> <p>Both teenagers in their room or kitchen</p> <p>Lower family room, boys play a lot</p> <p>Living room used a lot, husband reads there</p> <p>All come together in the kitchen</p>
<p>How do you use your front yard and backyard?</p>	<p>Front yard: gardening, flag pole, family sits at front porch for relaxing</p> <p>Backyard: Edgeworth, play space Vinsetta, for animals, play space for kids, bee hives</p>	<p>Front yard and Backyard are barely used, wood work in front yard, puts car in garage.</p>	<p>Front yard: aesthetic</p> <p>Backyard: gazebo, gathering space, grad party, eat outside in the summer</p>	<p>Front yard: don't use it, pretty big but bad design for use, tiny porch</p> <p>Backyard: only used for summer barbeques and for dogs use</p>	<p>Front yard: reading or working outside on the porch</p> <p>Backyard: firepit, hot tub, bbq, sofa, way more space to play games and entertain, backyard used almost every day in the summer</p>	<p>Front yard: would occasionally play in the front</p> <p>Backyard: playing sports in the backyard, used a lot by the kids</p>	<p>Front yard: used more during his childhood, dad teaching him how to throw a football</p> <p>Backyard: social space, hosting parties, each member of the family had their own garden designated to them</p>	<p>1st House Front yard: would not play in front yard</p> <p>Backyard: play set, pet rabbits, vegetable garden</p> <p>2nd House Front yard: basketball hoop in the driveway</p> <p>Backyard: soccer net and tetherball, play yard games if there's parties, vegetable garden</p>	<p>Front yard: Can't have fences, everything is very open. Only use it when planting</p> <p>Backyard: Patio, fire pit, table, used when it's warm, build stuff for the kids, made an igloo, hammocks, read outside, bbq, making pizza</p> <p>Butts against other backyards</p>
<p>What does your home look like when you host parties?</p>	<p>Use the main floor, living room, kitchen, backyard, front yard</p>	<p>Uses garage, front yard, connected through living room</p>	<p>Uses all the spaces except for the bedrooms</p>	<p>Uses kitchen, sets up tables and dining rooms to be like a buffet, more chairs and spaces set up inside</p>	<p>Backyard is setup with chairs, tables, and torches</p> <p>Doggy doors in formal living and formal dining area are taken down for parties</p> <p>Formal dining and formal living room are utilized</p> <p>Rooms are open except for master bedroom during parties</p> <p>Adults downstairs, kids in his bedroom</p>	<p>Birthdays parties mainly outside in the backyard, eat in the kitchen</p>	<p>Dinner is a buffet room</p> <p>Furniture spaces are rearranged so it's all facing inward and to make more space for the Columbian side of the family to dance</p> <p>Most parties inside except for during the summer time</p>	<p>1st house: Outside or in the basement</p> <p>2nd house: Typically uses kitchen, dining room, or deck outside in the backyard when it's nice</p> <p>Whole dining set for the backyard</p> <p>Kids usually in the "toy room" (front room)</p>	<p>Really liked to hang paper decorations, father used them in college, Did that up till 3 or 4 years ago</p> <p>20-25 people, sit down to eat at the tables</p> <p>Husband likes to play and sing along with kids</p> <p>First upstairs then downstairs</p> <p>Pottuck</p> <p>Sometimes rearrange furniture</p> <p>Plays piano</p> <p>Music a priority to her and her children</p>

Home	Patrick Anthony Romano 25 years old (3rd Gen)	Dakota Bridge Campbell 23 years old (7th Gen)	Sumer Hassan Hazime 23 years old (2nd Gen)	Odette Georgees 22 years old (1.5 Gen)	Joshua Kanjirakattu Joy 22 years old (1st Gen)	Cameron Stewart Lansdale 27 years old (3rd Gen)	John Charles Klopp 22 years old (2nd Gen)	Madison Lee Nelson 22 years old	Claudia Bernasconi 45 years old (1st Gen)
What does your home look like when you have friends or family sleeping over?	Living room on the floor.	Relatives take spare bedroom or couches	Never allowed to sleep over at other's houses only cousins Would sleep on the floor all together Dad would build a bed for when grandma came over plus rails on the stairs	Mattresses on the floor for family Friends will share bed with her Sometimes when she goes over to cousins she will get the bed as a guests	For family, regular living room will have four air mattresses on the floor Kids on air mattresses and uncles and aunts will be in either his bedroom or his sister's bedroom Grandparents in master bedroom Friends will sleep in guest bedroom	Pullout couches, air mattresses or in the basement Family very rarely sleepover	Basement was go to for friends Family would very rarely stay over unless they were watching them. Then they would be in their parents bedroom	1st house: Kids in the basement or if guests had to stay over would be on pull out couch If friends would over they would go down there 2nd house: Sleepovers with friends in the living room If family came over, brother would go to Living room and guests would stay in there	6 people 4 rooms, creative with sleeping arrangements Give her parents her bedroom and her and her husband will sleep in living room Rearrange the kids when more people are sleeping over
What are some items in your home that you think are specific to your culture? Or spaces if applicable	Religious items, last supper,	General religious traditions and cuisine, pickle on a tree	Off limits room for adults Sunroom Front porch – mainly for socializing Basement and garage connection Fridge in garage Garage food in there lol Huge print above the fireplace Tv and chandelier in garage Gardens are important	Rosaries Assyrian flags General religious items House slippers (chical-ae) Collection of plastic bags Last supper painting Use basement for food storage	Religious items Elephants for safety and security, given as housewarming gifts Mini houseboats (from dad's culture) Little tin bought in 1998, has all of their Indian spices in it. Air fryers	Religious items	Aguardiente (alcohol) Colombian food	Religious items, faith encouragement throughout the house Pickle on a tree, manger	A lot of pictures of places from Italy, family photos, large images of Italy important - all pictures of them traveling or in Italy Drawings from kids everywhere Paintings from her mom Important things that speak about her family Books from Italy Objects made of olive wood Barks from tree (specific for her family) Large world map Coffee essential Kitchen relevant culturally Lot of things family orientated, artwork important to them
Have you ever gone back to where your family is from?	Wants to visit Italy Hasnt visited Poland or Ireland	No	No	No, but wants to go back to Iraq mainly but also Syria	Yes, has been back 5 times to India Lots of family in Dubai too	Visited Canada	Yes, 4 times, 2009, 2012, 2016, 2022	No	Goes back two months every year with the kids and family
What was your experience like going back?	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	Got sick, not used to the water there Very beautiful in the south, the north not so much Very dirty, tons of people Sees elderly family there Went back for reunion or for family	Nice to see family	1st time was a real eye opener to realize where his mom came from, Spent the most time there, a month 2nd time, went for a wedding, 3rd time, week long visit Felt like an outsider, but okay because his mom was there especially during the last time he went. Intense experience going because going into unfamiliar areas	N/A	Some strong connections with places relating back to when she was younger Feels smaller than what she remembers because she was a child Very attached to house over there, parents very artsy Very nostalgic and attached to childhood memories

Home	Patrick Anthony Romano 25 years old (3rd Gen)	Dakota Bridge Campbell 23 years old (7th Gen)	Sumer Hassan Hazime 23 years old (2nd Gen)	Odette Giorgees 22 years old (1.5 Gen)	Joshua Kanjirakattu Joy 22 years old (1st Gen)	Cameron Stewart Lansdale 27 years old (3rd Gen)	John Charles Klopp 22 years old (2nd Gen)	Madison Lee Nelson 22 years old	Claudia Bernasconi 45 years old (1st Gen)
What's your home like there?	N/A	N/A	N/A	<p>Home in Syria was a lot more integrated with the community</p> <p>Mostly apartments</p> <p>First floor for some apartments were commercial</p> <p>Second home in Syria Second floor apartment</p> <p>Balcony adjacent to living room</p> <p>(reference image for home)</p>	<p>Usually stay at family home</p> <p>Had to sell house granpica built, but bought his grandma a much nicer house</p> <p>Maid and driver, maid sleeps at house a lot of the time (common if you have money)</p> <p>A lot of families dont even have a washing machine</p> <p>Pinkish orange color for the house, 4 levels, guest house, fenced in lot of land, long driveway, site is quite hilly, one level is walk-out basement, also balcony terrace.</p> <p>Roof is occupiable so they dry their laundry there</p> <p>Has washing machine but no dryer</p>	N/A	<p>Never really stayed where his mom grew up</p> <p>Always stayed at a hotel or a family friends place</p> <p>Mom's house is up in the mountains, near what they would call the informal settlement barrio area, one of the only homes with a gate, land that his mom's house is on, also homes three different homes on the land</p> <p>In Mom's house, 5 bedrooms but it housed 10 different people</p> <p>How his mom lived in the house: 3 brothers together, 3 sisters in another room, and another set of 2 sisters in a room and then his mom's parents</p> <p>Hectic, everyone had their own duty or chore for the house, Mom would help her dad a lot with the flower shop</p>	N/A	(look back at other answer)
How is your home there different from your home in America?	N/A	N/A	N/A	<p>Adjacent to everyone in Syria</p> <p>Actually talked to neighbors in Syria</p> <p>During Christmas in Syria everyone's doors were always open</p>	<p>Cleaner here in America</p> <p>More nature in India</p> <p>The way they cook in India is different, sometimes outside</p> <p>A lot of the land has vegetables on it</p> <p>In India they rely on their neighbors a lot more, friendly with neighbors</p> <p>Vendors in the street</p> <p>Best food in Dubai</p> <p>No fast food in India, none of them eat beef, hindu dominated country</p> <p>Cows are treated like royalty, no none touches, irritates or bothers them</p>	N/A	<p>The luxury of building materials and construction methods found here in America versus in other third world countries</p> <p>Quality of life is better here in America</p> <p>Hard to travel to places in Colombia, it takes a lot of time</p>	N/A	<p>A lot of things that are different</p> <p>Home there is rainforest, concrete, thick walls, everything feels more sturdy</p> <p>Always cold here</p> <p>Ceiling is higher in Italy</p> <p>More history and character in that house in Italy</p> <p>Parents were in that house for 50 years even though it has changed a lot</p> <p>Big bookshelf showing its years there</p> <p>Here everything is somewhat nearer</p> <p>90% of furniture here is ikea - standard</p> <p>Don't have time or energy to invest in more durable furniture</p> <p>House here is about this family</p> <p>House there is about her childhood</p> <p>Definitely feels like a child in her rome house</p> <p>Here she started from scratch</p>

6

Reflection & Conclusion

Some limitations to my study would be not understanding and exploring more of the different kinds of first generation Americans here. Another limitation would be how there is no typical baseline to compare the experience of home with and no right way to use a home, but using the other studies about the history of the home, that could serve as the baseline for this analysis.

The experience of second generation Filipino Americans are unique in the way that they are a mix of their culture of origin and the culture here in America. Most second generation immigrants don't have a deep connection to their culture of origin, but also don't feel as welcomed in American culture due to their obvious cultural identity of being from somewhere else. In investigating this, many of the interviews consisted of the participants feeling like they didn't have a home in their culture of origin or in the American culture that they grew up in.

Although most participants struggled with feeling like they had a "home," most of the participants as they grew up found home in other aspects like communities and organizations and eventually felt more assimilated into both their culture of origin and the culture that they grew up in. This led to them appreciating and being proud of their mixed identities and creating their own definition of home different from their

first generation parents and wanting to pass it down to the next generations.

The experience of second generation Filipino Americans can provide insights into how different cultures approach the concept of home and community. By studying the way that these families interact and live together, we can gain a greater understanding of the importance of family, community, and cultural values in shaping our homes and neighborhoods.

Furthermore, looking at the experiences of second generation immigrants from other cultures in the metro Detroit area and beyond can provide additional perspectives and insights into how to design more inclusive and adaptable housing options that meet the needs of diverse populations.

Overall, studying the second generation Filipino American experience can provide valuable insights into how to design better housing and build stronger communities, while also promoting greater understanding and appreciation of cultural diversity.

Appendix

Pictures from my visit to the Philippines in 2008.





Appendix

Pictures of my Family Home in Davao, Philippines in January 2023.





Appendix

Pictures from my mom's visit to the Philippines January 2023.





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Thank you :)