

the office is a clear example of the arena at work in such a setting. The relationship between location and status is often clearly expressed. The higher floor levels of hotels often house the more expensive rooms, and the penthouse suite is of course right on the very top. The so-called executive floor in office blocks is rarely low down in the building. Seats near to or immediately opposite the person chairing a meeting are often highly prized. I remember causing chaos by failing to respect this in a meeting I chaired a few years ago. This meeting was the first of a sequence I was chairing, and involved senior members from all parts of my university. We were to hold these meetings in the most important room on our campus where the main University Council meets. Since this room is so symbolically important it has one very special chair with a higher back, arms and the university crest, in which the chairperson normally sits. After discussing the agenda with an assistant, I arrived just in time for the meeting to find most people were already seated at the table. However I did not, as they had obviously expected, sit in this special chair, which they had left empty for me, but rather in the chair I normally used in the centre of an adjacent side of the table. I noticed that some people immediately changed their seats. Later in the meeting, one senior member of the University complained that I was not giving him enough opportunity to speak. He was sitting immediately opposite the special chair!

The family territory

We occupy territory in many quite different ways, and traditionally none has been more important than the family. However, the family, once such a conventional and ubiquitous building block of society, does seem to be breaking down in the West. In spite of this, the family home represents one of our most enduring territorial phenomena. The typical two parents and their children may not be as universal as they once seemed, but the home with its house and garden remain powerful symbols of our aspiration. 'A home of your own' is still the ambition of most. The family represented security and stability and through the marital contract provided for this stability throughout the children's extended years of dependency.

The nature and organization of the family and how it organizes its generations have a direct bearing on the structure of spaces provided in the family home. Many species of animals are also organized on a pair-bond basis, and Robert Ardrey describes in detail the life and family of the North American beaver to illustrate the principle (Ardrey 1967). The beaver family founds a dam, which includes the family home in its heartland. The size and structure of the territory it defends, however, provides for the parents, the immediately newborn and the yearlings of the previous year. Older offspring leave the home to find their own mates and form their own territories, so spatially the organization