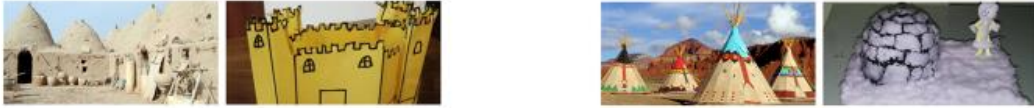


Intercultural Learning in the Italian Classroom: Novice Italian 2

Lab 2

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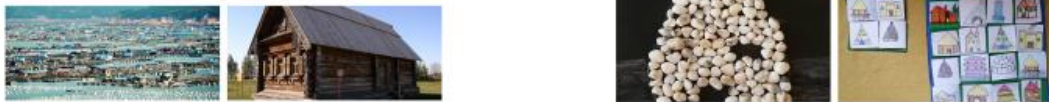
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DISEGNIAMO UNA CASA

DRAW A HOUSE

Laboratorio Interculturale
Italiano 102



<http://www.nonnainfabula.com/wordpress/storia-della-casa-nel-tempo-e-casa-nel-mondo/>

In the Intercultural Lab 2/ Lab Interculturale 2 "Disegniamo una casa - Draw a House," we will engage in multi-step activities that will help us understand and practice the knowledge of cultural worldview frameworks, cultural self-awareness, and intercultural openness by suspending judgment. You are already familiar with the meaning of the term *intercultural openness* - here is an explanation of how we can think about cultural worldview frameworks and cultural self-awareness, according to the AAC&U Intercultural Knowledge and Competence VALUE Rubric:

- *Cultural worldview frameworks can be understood as a sophisticated understanding of the complexity of elements important to members of another culture in relation to its history, values, politics, communication styles, economy, or beliefs and practices.*
- *Cultural self-awareness can be understood as the ability to articulate insights into our own cultural rules and biases (the awareness of how we were shaped by our cultural rules, the ability to recognize and respond to cultural biases, the ability to shift our self-description etc.)*

Note on the modes of delivery:

Synchronous or in-person delivery mode: This Lab IC can be completed synchronously or in-person, in which case all of its parts (except the drawing of the house plan activity and the reflection assignment) can be completed in one 50-minute class period: introduction of the task and the presentation of different products, practices and perspectives related to housing, small-group discussion, and whole-group debrief (use breakout rooms for small group discussions if in synchronous online mode).

Asynchronous delivery mode: This Lab IC can be completed asynchronously, but it requires small group work and meeting with group members outside class time. The duration of the Lab may vary if delivered asynchronously.

As an overview, here is the TO DO LIST:

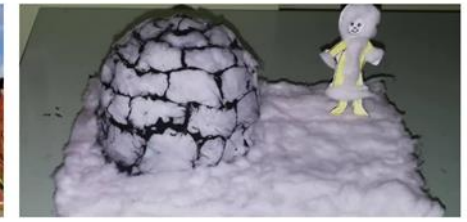
1. View the PowerPoint presentation "Disegniamo una casa - Draw a House" and do the following:
 - A. complete the assignment explained in the Ppt by drawing a house floor plan and labeling it, and
 - B. view the rest of the PowerPoint presentation with information about cultural differences in organizing living space, and take notes about what you have observed, so that you can share the notes

with your group members. Post the drawing (take a picture of it) to the Discussion forum (**individual task, 30 points**)

2. Meet with your assigned group members outside class time. You can use your cell phones (FaceTime, WhatsApp) or video conferencing tools (Zoom, Webex, Skype) for this video conversation with your group members. If you prefer, and if it is possible, you can meet in person (following the safety protocols). View the PowerPoint with Debriefing questions and, as a group, collaborate to answer and post the answers to the debriefing questions. All group members must contribute to the debrief, but only *one* group member should post the collective debrief to the Discussion forum (**group task, 70 points**)
3. After you have completed Lab IC 2, your instructor will post a PowerPoint presentation on "Lab IC 2: Takeaways and Reflection Assignment Explanation." If you have in-person or synchronous classes, you will discuss the ppt in class/Zoom, if you are a distance learner, or you missed class, you should view the ppt on your own (individual)
4. Post the Reflection Assignment by the DUE DATE (**individual, 100 points**)

IMPORTANT NOTE ON GRADING LAB ICC 2:

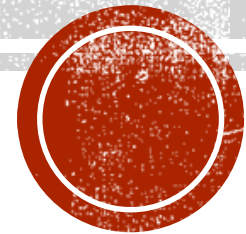
Lab ICC 2 is an experiential activity, which means that in order to get the maximum learning benefit from it, you must go through the entire experience, following every step. Because it is your individual learning experience that counts rather than the mastery of some external knowledge, this Lab ICC 2 is graded for **COMPLETION** only. This means that in order to receive full credit for this Lab, you must complete ALL the required steps in the order in which they are presented. Each step is worth a discrete number of points (see below). Please make sure you read the instructions carefully, so you do not skip any steps of the learning process. If you are confused, if you have any questions, or if you wonder why you did not get full credit upon the completion of this Lab, please contact your instructor for further clarification.



DISEGNIAMO UNA CASA

DRAW A HOUSE

Laboratorio Interculturale
Italiano 102



DISEGNIAMO UNA CASA: ISTRUZIONI

1. With a piece of paper and any writing utensil, draw a floor plan of a house – it can be your own house (not a dorm room or student housing) or a house typical for your culture
2. Your floor plan should be as detailed as possible and include the following:
 - a. Entrances
 - b. Furniture
 - c. Labels on rooms with particular functions and a brief explanation of what people do in them.
3. Post your drawing to the Discussion forum under Topic 1 after you view the rest of this PowerPoint presentation

Since we covered the vocabulary related to housing in class, you can use Italian to label the floor plans, and a mix of Italian and English for the brief explanations.



IMPARIAMO: SULLE DIFFERENZE CULTURALI NELLE ABITAZIONI

LET'S LEARN: ON CULTURAL DIFFERENCES IN HOUSING

The purpose of this Lab IC is to help us:

- Recognize and understand cultural differences in the organization of space by comparing and contrasting features of houses around the world (with a special focus on Italy)
- Understand how and why we organize the space around us according to cultural values
- Start thinking about when and how to adapt to different spaces
- Remember! Take notes as you go through the slides – what is similar, different, new, surprising etc.



ATTENZIONE!

In this type of cultural comparison, it is important not to stereotype or exoticize other cultures. All cultures, like your own, are very complex and multi-layered, and contain many internal differences, even contradictions. The information presented here highlights what is typical or what is a general tendency of a certain culture, but it certainly does not tell the whole story about a certain culture.

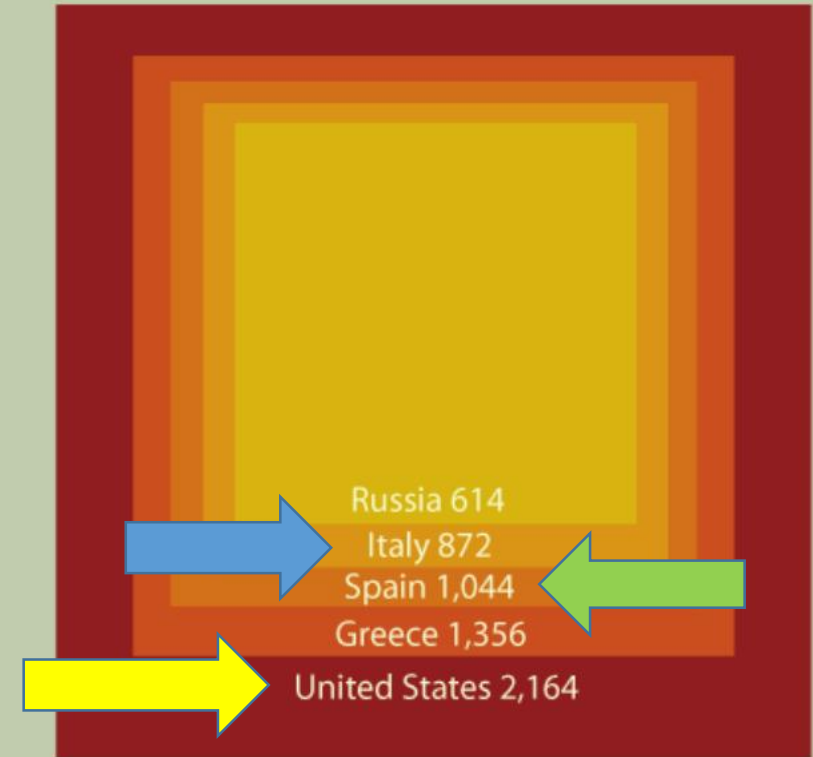
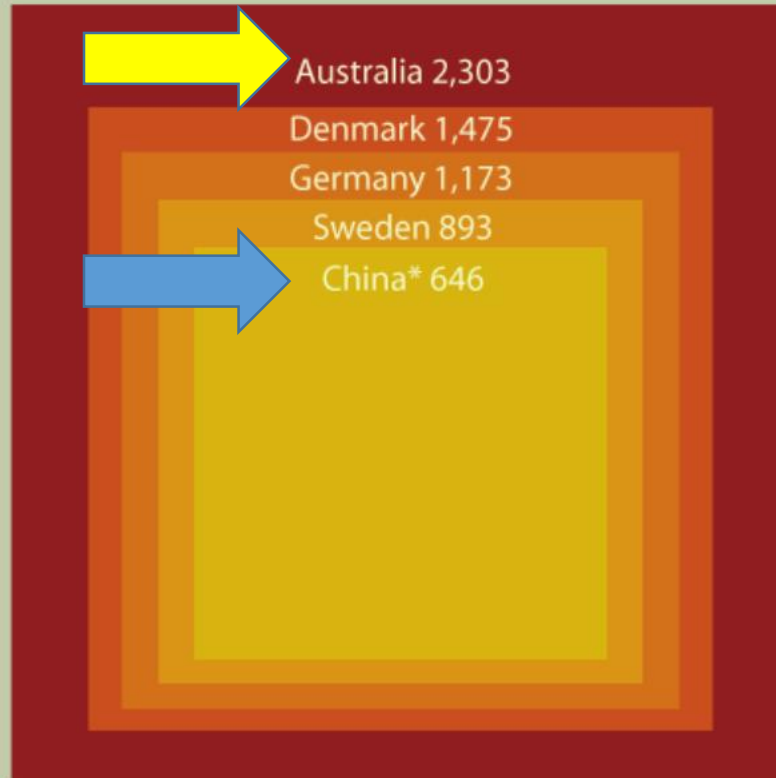
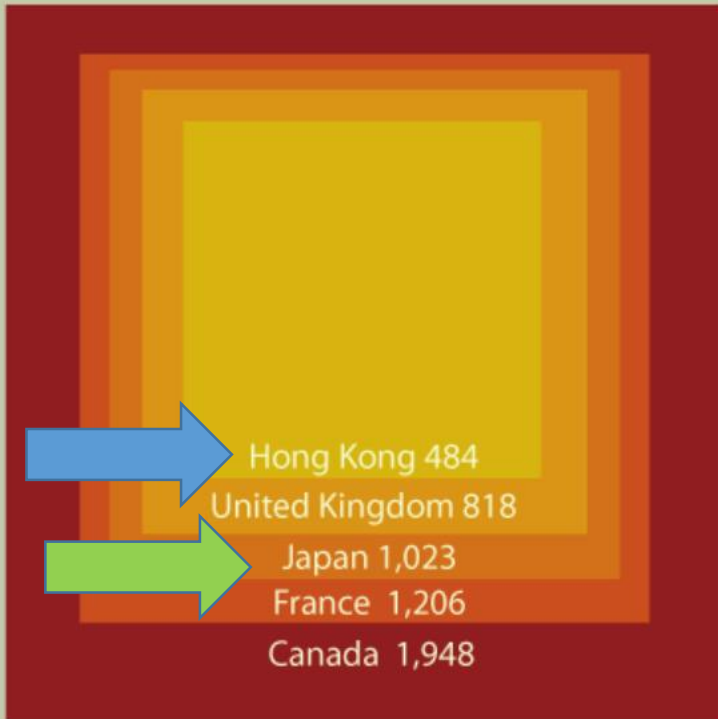


HOW BIG IS A HOUSE?

AVERAGE HOME SIZES AROUND THE WORLD

How big is a house?

Average new home size around the globe in ft²



Note: data for 2009 builds, * China figures urban only

Sources: CommSec, RBA, UN, US Census
shrinkthatfootprint.com

WHAT IS A TYPICAL HOUSE FLOOR PLAN? FLOOR PLAN FROM JAPAN



Average home sizes:

Hong Kong – 484 ft²

Italy – 871 ft²

Japan – 1023 ft²

Spain – 1044 ft²

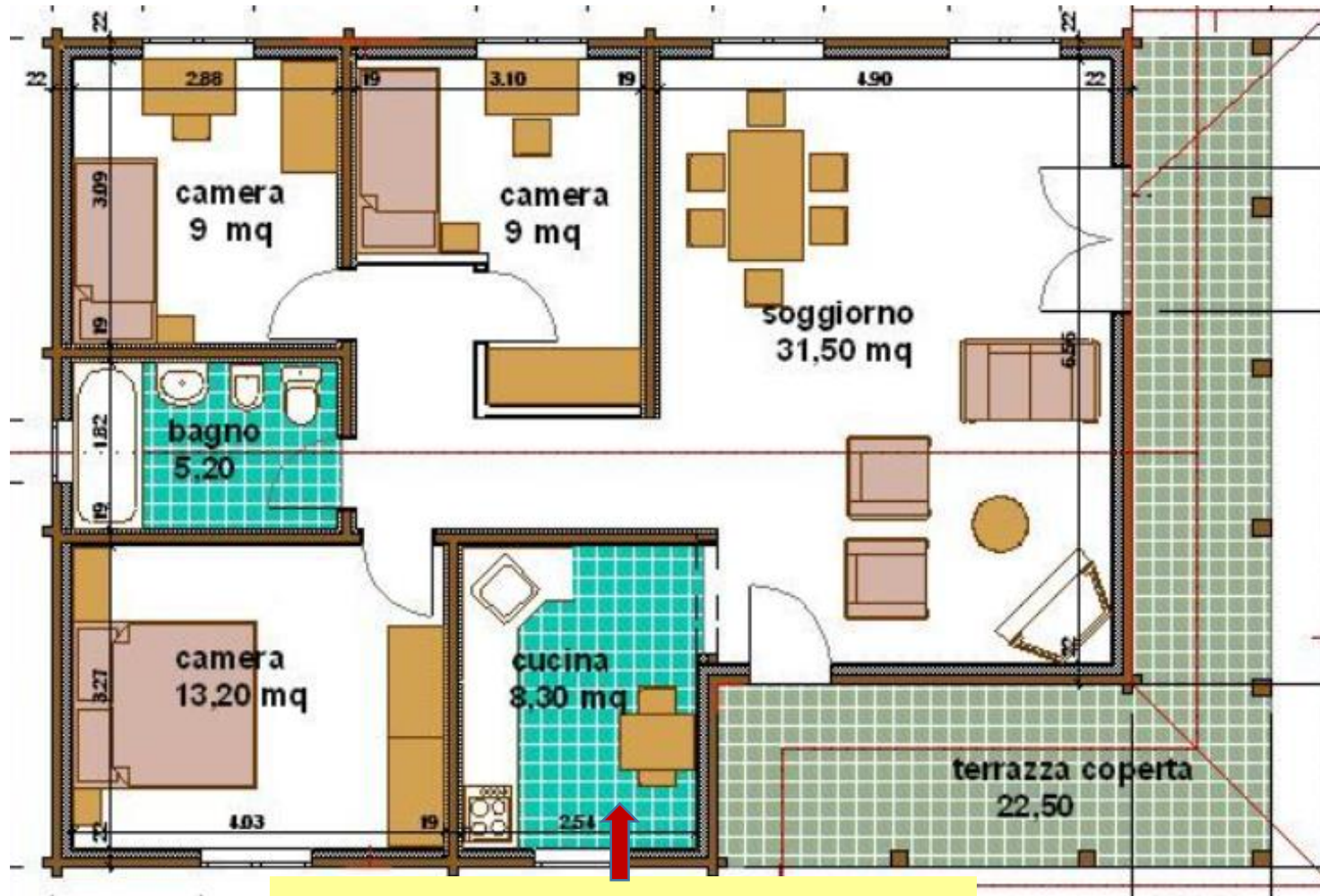
US – 2164 ft²

Australia – 2303 ft²

<http://shrinkthatfootprint.com/how-big-is-a-house>

How does this compare to
the floor plan you drew?

WHAT IS A TYPICAL HOUSE FLOOR PLAN? FLOOR PLAN FROM ITALY



La cucina abitabile = smaller kitchen + dining table and chairs

Average home sizes:

Hong Kong – 484 ft²

Italy – 871 ft²

Japan – 1023 ft²

Spain – 1044 ft²

US – 2164 ft²

Australia – 2303 ft²

<http://shrinkthatfootprint.com/how-big-is-a-house>

How does this compare to the floor plan you drew?

HOUSES AROUND THE WORLD

Tipi's NORTH AMERICA

<https://www.ableskills.co.uk/infographics/world-houses/>



Canada



Mexico



United States

Were originally built so that the **Native Americans could move** their home to different locations, as they believed living in a fixed home resembled living in a cage. They were also designed to **withstand strong winds**.

igloos ARCTIC



Greenland



Canada (Arctic)

Are built to **block out the cold arctic winds** as they stay insulated from body/ lamp heat, making it significantly warmer inside the igloo compared to outside.

HOUSES AROUND THE WORLD



Cameroon

Were traditionally built **using the earth** due to the fact that building tools and cement hadn't been invented. Today they're considered out-dated and very **few people** still live in them.



Japan

The rooms within a Traditional Japanese House are partitioned by sliding doors made of **wood and paper**. This makes them portable and easily removed so **the layout of the house can change**.


HOUSES AROUND THE WORLD



 Indonesia

Are built with a sharply projected **triangular roof** to provide shade and ventilation, protecting inhabitants from **the heat and rain**. This also provides more space as Toba Batak Houses were traditionally **built for communal use**.



 Global

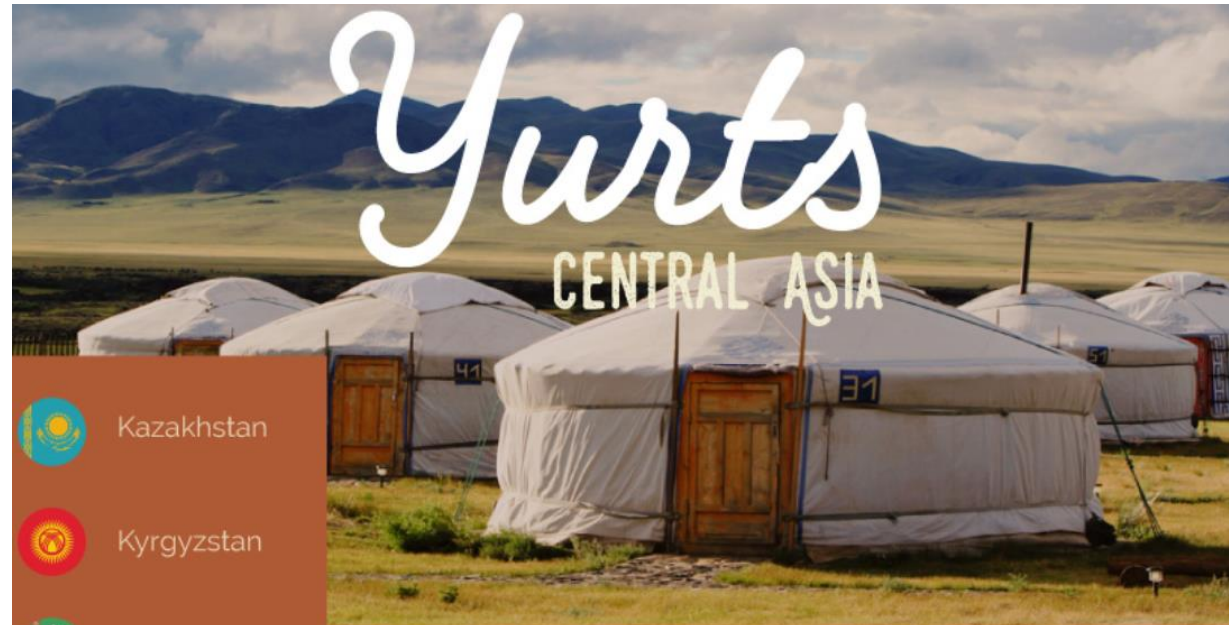
Are built to **prevent flooding** from damaging homes and livelihoods. It's also necessary to build houses on stilts in order to **keep out the vermin**, which spread disease.

HOUSES AROUND THE WORLD



China

Were traditionally built in a circle formation to form a **defensive village with one entrance**. Tulou houses were also built **around a central shrine**.



-  Kazakhstan
-  Kyrgyzstan
-  Turkmenistan
-  Uzbekistan

Were traditionally built because they could be taken down and **re-built in different locations**. They're designed to provide protection against **high winds and cold weather** due to their felt exterior.

HOUSES IN MONGOLIA

Roughly half of Mongolia's population lives in flats in the capital city of Ulaanbaatar.

Many of the rest live on the steppes in traditional nomadic (mobile) gers or yurts.

Photos from www.booking.com, <http://discovermongolia.mn>, and www.bordersofadventure.com



HOUSES IN ITALY

LO SAPEVI CHE ... DID YOU KNOW THAT...

More than half (50%) of all **Italians** live in **apartment blocks**, with over 25 percent of Italians living in large condominium buildings featuring ten or more apartments, and a further 27 percent in smaller blocks

Although the trends are changing, many people in **Italy** still live in **multi-generational homes** – grandparents, parents, and adult unmarried children, for example.

According to Eurostat, **Italy** has the problem with **overcrowding**, with almost 30% of all families in overcrowded living conditions.

Meanwhile, 15% of the Italian population were found to live in homes **deemed larger than necessary**.

More than 70% of population in the **USA** live in **single family homes**. 17% live in an apartment or condo. 80% of Americans prefer single-family ownership



Builder Magazine: www.builderonline.com

Idealista [La difficile quarantena italiana: qui le case più piccole tra i grandi Paesi europei — idealista/news](#)

The Local [Are Italian homes really some of the smallest in Europe? - The Local](#)

HOUSES IN ITALY

LO SAPEVI CHE ... DID YOU KNOW THAT...

Many **Italian homes** are **older** homes: about 4 million homes are more than 100 years old. Most Italian homes were built in the 1960s, during the economic boom.



As of September 2020, approximately 27 million homes in the **United States** were between **11 and 20 years old**. This was the most common age bracket for American homes



HOUSES IN ITALY

LO SAPEVI CHE ... DID YOU KNOW THAT...

Most **Italian** homes are **built** in stone, brick, and concrete. The roofs are often covered in roof tiles.

Other commonly used materials are stucco, marble, and tile.

Many Italian homes tend to be energy-efficient because of the building materials used.

Many Italian homes have balconies or terraces.

Il pavimento in....

legno



mattonelle



HOUSES IN ITALY: OTHER CHARACTERISTICS

- Smaller-sized kitchens and kitchen utensils (**but** “cucina abitabile” - separate from dining room & with tables and chairs)
- No garbage disposal
- More hallways, less open concept areas (**but** newer homes are different)
- Washer is kept in the bathroom or in the kitchen
- No dryers (air-dried clothes, **but** more dryers introduced recently)
- Wall of closets (armoires) rather than walk-in closets
- Window shutters but no window screens (**but** newer homes are installing screens)
- Central heating system; no air conditioning (**but** a rapidly changing situation)
- And yes, the bidet in the bathroom!



HOUSES IN ITALY

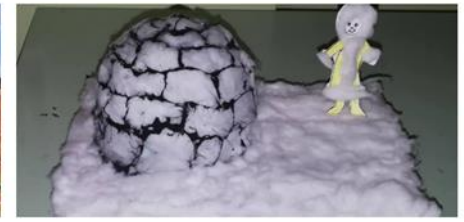


A dining table is often the center of Italian home life.



WHAT'S NEXT?

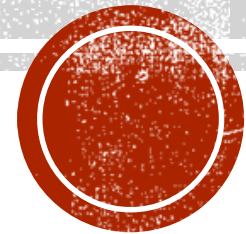
- Post your floor design to the Discussion forum under Topic 1
- Keep the notes you took on the information learned from this presentation so you can share it with your group members during debrief
- Grazie e in bocca al lupo!



DISEGNIAMO UNA CASA *DRAW A HOUSE*

PARTÉ 2: DEBRIEF

Laboratorio Interculturale
Italiano 102



SPIEGAZIONE DEL COMPITO

EXPLANATION OF TASK

The purpose of this Lab IC is to help us:

- Recognize and understand cultural differences in the organization of space by comparing and contrasting features of houses around the world (with a special focus on Italy)
- Understand how and why we organize the space around us according to cultural values
- Start thinking about when and how to adapt to different spaces

For this group portion of the Lab IC 2, you will need to have available:

- Your drawings of the floor plans
- The notes you took on the PowerPoint “Disegniamo una casa – Draw a House”
- The PowerPoint “Disegniamo una casa – Draw a House” itself, so you can review the information if needed



DEBRIEF PARTE 1

As a group, work on answering these debrief questions. **Every group member should contribute equally to the discussion.** Make sure you compile your answers into a meaningful paragraph that reflects everyone's answers:

- What are the **similarities** that you saw between your group members' drawings of the floor plans?
- What **similarities** did you notice between your drawings and the floor plans and houses from the PowerPoint "Disegniamo una casa – Draw a House"?
- Did you notice any **differences** between your group members' drawings? What are they?
- Did you notice any **differences** between your drawings and the images from the PowerPoint "Disegniamo una casa – Draw a House"?



DEBRIEF PARTE 2

As a group, work on answering these debrief questions. **Every group member should contribute equally to the discussion.** Make sure you compile your answers into a meaningful paragraph that reflects everyone's answers:

- What sorts of conclusions can we draw about behaviors/norms/values in our culture that influence how we shape the space/environments around us?
 - What does that say about our values as a society?
 - Do we value aesthetic appearance or the functionality, privacy and individual identity or commonality, openness or closedness, personal comfort or environmental awareness, etc.?
- What about the impact of availability of space—what influences do you see of population density in the drawings? What about the impact of social class?
- How do changing values and practices in society affect the styles of houses over time (what used to be popular in the past and why, and how has it changed and why; or you can think about it this way: if you are renovating an older home, what would you like to change)?

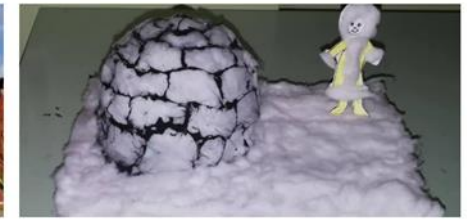


WHAT'S NEXT?

- After you compile your answers to all the debrief questions, **one** student volunteer should post them to the Discussion forum under Topic 2.

- Grazie e in bocca al lupo!





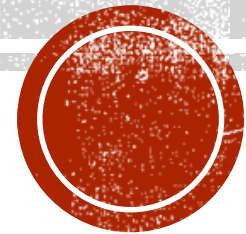
DISEGNIAMO UNA CASA

DRAW A HOUSE

TAKEAWAYS

Laboratorio Interculturale

Italiano 102



CONCLUSIONI TAKEAWAYS

- Different cultures organize living space in different ways
- Our cultural values, norms, and behaviors influence how we organize the space around us
- Some important factors that can influence the way we organize the space around us are:
 - ✓ Availability of space and population density
 - ✓ Environmental circumstances and climate
 - ✓ Availability of building materials
 - ✓ Wealth and social status
 - ✓ The concept and the value ascribed to: beauty/aesthetics, functionality, individualism, privacy, commonality, environmental consciousness, religious and spiritual beliefs and practices
- Changing values and practices in a society affect the way we organize the space around us
- It is possible to adapt to different spaces
- Additional insights:



REFLECTION ASSIGNMENT

- **Goals:** This assignment is intended to help you process what you have learned in Intercultural Lab 2, to give you an opportunity to deepen your reflection on what you've learned, and to help you increase your knowledge of cultural worldview frameworks, your cultural self-awareness and openness.
- ✓ **Cultural worldview frameworks** can be understood as a sophisticated understanding of the complexity of elements important to members of another culture in relation to its history, values, politics, communication styles, economy, or beliefs and practices.
- ✓ **Cultural self-awareness** can be understood as the ability to articulate insights into our own cultural rules and biases (the awareness of how we were shaped by our cultural rules, the ability to recognize and respond to cultural biases, the ability to shift our self-description etc.).
- ✓ **Intercultural openness** is the willingness to initiate interactions with culturally different others and the ability to suspend judgment in such interactions

(adapted from AAC&U Intercultural Knowledge and Competence VALUE Rubric).



REFLECTION ASSIGNMENT

- **Instructions:** Complete the Reflection Assignment and post it to Brightspace by the **DUE DATE**
- **Grading:** There is no right or wrong answer in this type of assignment. Credit for this assignment will be awarded according to the following criteria: Completion (thoroughness of your answers) and Effort (your effort and complexity of thought you put into this reflection).
- **Tips:** Aim to be detailed, thorough, honest, and insightful in your answers. Write in complete sentences. Aim to have at least 100 words for each question. **You can write in English, Italian, or in a mix of both languages.**



REFLECTION ASSIGNMENT

Reflection questions:

- What is it like to enter a person's home that is arranged differently to what we're used to? How do you adapt and figure out what is expected of you? What do you anticipate as being the biggest challenges to adapting and how would you deal with those challenges? (If you have a personal intercultural experience on this topic, feel free to add it here after you answer the initial questions, or analyze your experience by using the above questions)
- If you were hosting an Italian student on a Study Abroad program in your home, what could you do to make them feel welcome and to help them understand/adapt to the behaviors, norms, and values of your culture that influence how your home space is organized? (If you have a personal intercultural experience on this topic, with anyone who is culturally different from you, feel free to add it here after you answer the initial questions, or analyze your experience by using the above questions)
- What are your overall takeaways from the Lab Interculturale 2 on the cultural differences in the organization of space? In other words, what have you learned? How is that connected to cultural worldview frameworks, cultural self-awareness, and intercultural openness (*you can find the explanation of these terms at the top of the page*)? What would you like to learn more about that is connected to this topic? (*optional question*)



SOURCES:

- This Lab was adapted from “Draw a House” activity created by Dr. Kris Acheson-Clair, CILMAR, based on the following: Hall, E.T. (1966). *The hidden dimension*. Anchor Books.
- The original activity can be found here:
<https://hubicl.org/toolbox/tools/672/objectives>
- Adapted and expanded by Dr. Tatjana Babic Williams (in collaboration with Dr. Brett Bogart, Giuseppina Grande, and Dr. Annalisa Mosca), Italian program at Purdue
- All references included on the slides