

# **The car use as an extension of the house/ house and the conflict at the transit. Your car – your home.**

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Calling attention into focus on the conflicts at the transit, this study has the objective of discussing its reasons. By searching the area it was concluded that the car is used as driver's home extension.

This brings results that influence the drivers' conduct. It was clear the relations that exist between the home functions in the life's man and the car ones, while the home extension, falling into a problem: acting in public space with the references and values of private space. It discusses the home meaning connected with security and surviving. It also shows that "crashing in the car" configures like "attacking the house" and, so, attacking the man. At this meaning, threatens the security, threatening the life, the man surviving.

## **1. Conflicts at the transit and drivers types:**

Year facts show a large consequence number of conflicts at the transit. Many of them go to physical aggressions and others end in dead. Daily, the public knows about these conflicts by the communication ways.

The own drivers that are involved, or have been involved in fight, many times have a common life, without something from their way of being gives us some sign that they will be protagonists of these situations. At this way, it's possible to summarize in three basic types<sup>1</sup>, the drivers behavior:

- a) The careful one: those are the drivers that in life respect laws, rules, the space that belongs to others, these ones respect the transit too;
- b) The owners' world: fighters, agitated, "complaining", intolerable, just as the others drivers didn't know anything, and everything should be around them.
- c) Overcast behavior: people who seem adequate at work or family. At the transit they change themselves because they cannot get a position by them, they need make themselves strong through something. So, at that moment, these persons feel themselves plenty of power and look for their own affirmation. This need - own affirmation – appears, in many situations, to compensate an insecurity or an inferiority feeling.

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<sup>1</sup> Vença o medo de dirigir- como superar-se e conduzir o volante da própria vida (in English we could translate this name as: " Win your fear of driving – how to overcome yourself and conduct the steeringwheel of your life".

Our studies have shown others denoting facts: men are more practical and daring at transit. Women are more cautious and they are afraid of crushing somebody, in case of an accident.

However, investigating the styles of behavior or try to understand the characteristics of them, allows just the revealment of one part the things that occur inside the complex net into a city. This is made by a constant moving in a public space, where drivers, bikers, motorcyclist, "papers-searching", and walkers, from different races, belief, vocation, predisposition, tastes, desires, dreams, instruction levels, motivation, in short, for where the human being circulates. This movement is regulated by a proper law whose principal objective is the right guarantee and the security of each one.

At these spaces are kept the conflicts whose complexity is the same to the complexity from man and woman nature. At this way, this is the question: Why are there conflicts in the transit?

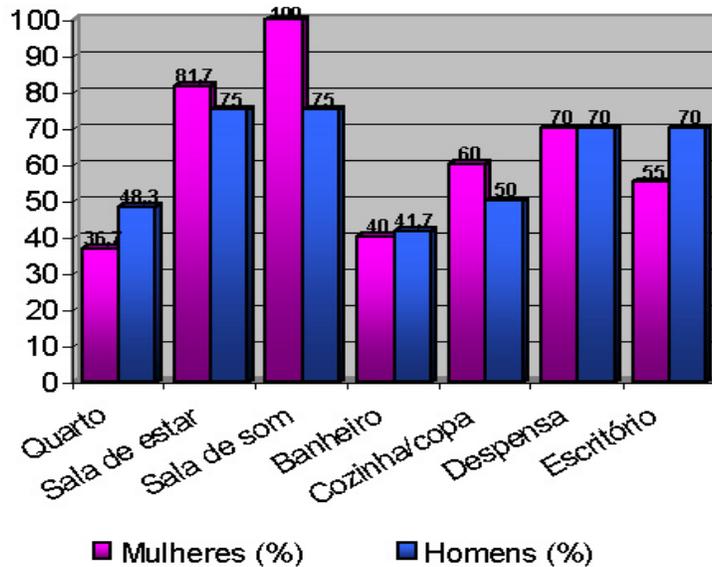
It looks that a possible reason for this fate is fastened to the use of the car as an extension from the driver's home, how we show now, bringing important consequences at the configuration of these conflicts.

## **2. The car meaning for its users:**

It was done a study with cars users, 50% men, and 50% women, in order to investigate what was the meaning that they give to the car in the relationship with this object and what cultural values intervene this one.

Between the conclusions it was possible to notice that drivers establish a parallel with the car and the house parts ( bedroom, living-room, kitchen, bathroom...).

Asked about other functions that the persons give to the car, more than a transport way, their answers point out to it as it was a house of its user. From the searched ones, 42,5% say that when they travel (long trajectory) they stop during the trip to sleep in the car, they rest in it when it is parked, what gives us the conclusion that the car is used as a bedroom. About a living-room, 78,3% say that they like talking with the family and/or friends while they are going somewhere by car, they think it's romantic to go with the boy/girlfriend and they like to offer a lift. At the same way, the use as sound-room appears in 87,5% of the persons asked about; they affirm that they like having their favorite songs in the car.



bedroom/ living-room/sound-room/bathroom/kitchen/deposit/office

As a bathroom, 40,8% say that before they go out of the car, they use the mirror to see the appearance, they have comb/brush in it , just in case they need them; they change clothes from children inside the car, mainly babies.

As kitchen – 55% say that they have snacks inside the car. And the carrier case must have a size that allows to put supermarket purchase to 70% of the interviewed ones, what permits to make a relation with this part to a food deposit.

As an office, 62% say that they take notes when parked.

The car as the proper house, for 70% is important to keep it clean, they have special bags for trash, they use good smells inside it, and wash it all; 80% worry about comfort; 95% consider their car a safe place, and 49,1% identify themselves with the car and they don't like when somebody makes any alteration in it. They even say that the car has their "own" face, they chose its plaque and they consider the car as their second house.

At the moment that the driver considers the car as his house, it's proper to ask about the house meaning at the persons' lives in our society.

### 3. The house meaning in life of drivers and people.

#### 3.4 The house, protection space.

House means protection. Being at home, by cultural model, is the same as being in security. This is so sure that, at war periods, it's use the "retreat" when each one of the persons must enter to the security of his/her house. In cities of big violence (robbery, assassination, assault) the idea of "retreat" is cogitated, suggesting that people inside their houses will be more protected.

House, at this case, is associated with protection, physical protection.

And there is another protection face, not visible, but confirmed, at the psychological level from the person that involves knowledge and tender aspects. About these, once more appears the art expressing important elements of the human being showed in the song "... secret is just four walls"... or, the secrets are safe, inside home.Thus, at the same way, at home we keep and discuss ideas that we don't want to divulge; because inside the house it's safe.

#### 3.4 The house, privacy space :

The inside surroundings that the human being feels, need to be preserved, is the guarantee of affirmation and confirmation of its individuality, where he undresses physical and psychologically, given, to himself, the right of being what he is. Inside his house, he doesn't feel constantly evaluated by the cultural levels established by the society. This fact is also explored by the cinema on the scenes were a character gets near to spy/watch by the loophole from doors or curtains, to see what is happening inside, with the livers (mainly in comedies).

Anyway, home is private, where the human being gives himself the right of being just as he is and not being as the levels that the society imposes him to be. So, it is common the expression: "I am in my house..." There the person wants to be "free". There the important are the rules of that house and at some points, they cannot coincide with the rules from other houses and the society as a whole.

#### 3.4 The house, a meeting point:

One of the most signifying spaces for people meetings is at home. They choose this space for it, do this according to personal criterion which lead to a selection. As they are personal criterions, these vary.

Meetings inside the houses are allowed, selected and welcome. This is a cultural accepted form that express itself, inclusive, by daily expressions for those that arrive in a house without an invitation, using words equals to: "Hello, may I come in?"

There is, at the society, a respect for this space while it represents a meeting point, because it isn't a point for any meeting, but a special point where just people who were invited are supposed to go in. So, invading this space is illegal, because the law ( Penal Brazilian Code; article 150) establishes that it is inviolable.

More then a meeting point, at home there is comfort, aesthetics, organization for that the chosen meetings happen at the best possible form, being them of any kind, because it's

possible many types of meetings: family or friends commemorations, business ones, love meetings and to study too.

According with each style, they happen in the living-room, at the kitchen, bedroom or at the office, it depends from the intimacy grade that there is between the participants.

The common point at this situations is that at home , meetings happen, but with a previous selection of the owner.

### **3.4 The house as a conflictive space:**

Although it is a protection, it is a protection, private and living place, home is a conflict space too.

At the moment that the inside-conflicts are solved, reflected about and are in the perception, the human being begins to notice his actions at the conflict, out of it and before it. This "noticing" is a way for proper knowledge and the cultural factors knowledge from conditional behavior.

At this form, there is a question: If the house is a space with many faces, with behavior model, cultural, and sometimes private, what will be the human behavior in the public space, when it doesn't notice that he is in public, acting as he was at his private space, the house or his home?

## **4. Car meaning as extension house x meaning of a house:**

These details were taken from observations on the drivers diary and from their talking about their cars. They are points about an observed empiric reality. Nevertheless, after a scientific investigation, that, what was a supposition became a confirmed fact at the search universe: drivers use their cars with other functions beyond transport way. At this case, these functions, for being the same ones as the ones of a house make sure the affirmation that drivers use the car as their house. They give it this function. Take care of it as it was their own house.

The house, for the man, as we saw at the text, means protection. These elements are reinforced during the life by different factors, as the mother who feeds, gives love, takes care of all the ones who live at home. At this way, any aggression to the house becomes an aggression to the proper man who defends it, just as he defends his own life.

The home idea goes with the security idea and this with the life, or surviving. Thus, it's impossible to understand why a stone shot at the window can start a fight, because the owner who had his window broken, feels himself attained, mainly if he doesn't "notice" the values that are at this "game", started by a shot stone.

If the man considers the car as an extension of his house, he is going to have, in relation to it, the same feelings. And, if he isn't conscious that in a space that it is public he is having feelings related to his private space, he can enter into conflicts situations. For example, his tolerance level against accidental knock up, caused by another driver on his car will be low, this will tend to cover the menace fact to his insecurity, because the car is like his house, it represents the security, the surviving, it needs to be defended.

With this, the human being puts himself into the car, considering it as a private space, giving himself the right of being and acting as he is and acts in his own house. Nevertheless, at public life there are other drivers, users of the same public space, where the behavior rules aren't exactly the same as the ones of a private space, could so, being varied. Acting inside the car with his personal values transported from the "inside-home" to a public space, the man can contribute for the emergent or aggravation of conflicts in the transit. In what level does it occur? It does at the moment that his action of "being at home" or "feeling at home"(unless he is in the car, on the street) becomes inadequate, using aggressive words, attacking with nasty words, provoked gesture, threatening and invading the others drivers' space, that are here too, probably with the same behavior (this is, if not give a new meaning the reality of the house, the car, and the transit).

At the same form, emerges the situation – house as companionship and conflict space at the same time. Living together inside a house isn't always easy, calm, harmonic. There happens conflicts that are solved having as helpers the tender laces that usually are around of the inhabitants. Many times in the "house-car" exist a group crossing one of this conflictive moments, but cruising with other groups, and that perhaps they are living and feeding in their cars the private conflicts, but at the public space. The no perception of this situation ends as an originator of conflicts in the transit.

## 5. Conclusion:

It was possible to notice that many conflicts in the transit come from the way as the reality means to the drivers.

If the car is driven and used as the driver's home, he will tend to put on his actions in public with particular values, considered personal ones, from his restrict surroundings. His evaluations about transit situations will tend to miss the objectivity, what can make conflicts bigger, that if objectively seen, would be solved with peacefulness, allowing to the users taking their activities into a smaller space of time.

In a last vision, the conducts around the conflicts point to a personal security and surviving situation, because one of the biggest worry with the items that are around the car, in the search made with drivers, are relative to security and comfort .

Thus, it establishes a link: home/ security/ surviving x car/ security/ surviving. At this link, the conflict appears when the security is threatened.

a) This study consulted 300 persons in informal conversation and applied search, and it count even with observation on the transit for one year. It had a national repercussion though good newspapers and magazines in Brazil, as Folha de São Paulo and "Isto É".

b) After that this previous article turned to a book whose name is "Síndrome do Caracol – seu carro / sua casa sobre rodas".

In English this title could be " The Snail Sickness - your car/your home on the tyres".  
Juruá Publisher

[www.jurua.com.br](http://www.jurua.com.br)

**It will be published on February 06.**

c) If you want to know more details about being afraid of driving, there is the book:  
" Vença o medo de dirigir – como superar-se e conduzir o volante da própria vida".

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d) It had a national repercussion through well conceived newspapers and magazines in Brazil, between them Folha de São Paulo and Isto É.

e) Go to [www.cpemedos.psc.br](http://www.cpemedos.psc.br) and confirm it.