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There's No Place Like Home:
Understanding belonging and place-making through design, art and ethnography

Housing is a form of shelter, providing protection from the elements. Home, on the other hand, is something much more complex for humans around the world. In this proposal we aim to create a course as a collaborative research project that investigates the how homes are made as place of belonging and often disrupted by economic, social and political forces.

The novel element of the project will be equipping our student/researchers with a variety of investigative techniques from the fields of art, design and anthropology that will allow them to study their home life and how homes have been represented in literature, film and ethnographic writing. Assignments will be project-based where students engage in auto-ethnography and observational practices as a bases for critical making. The outcome of the course is a collaboratively-constructed archive in the form of a dollhouse that collects the knowledge created in the class in a material form.

Funding will be used for three main purposes: summer support to fund course development, support for HIEPs including a field trip to the Tenement Museum and speaker fee for guest artist Swoon, and for the material and construction costs.