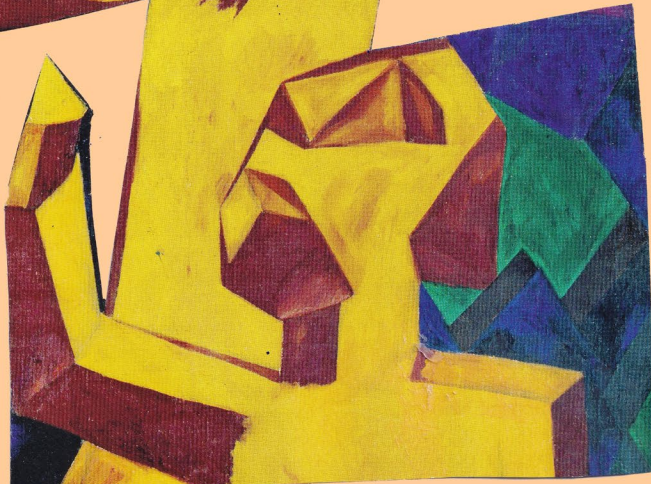
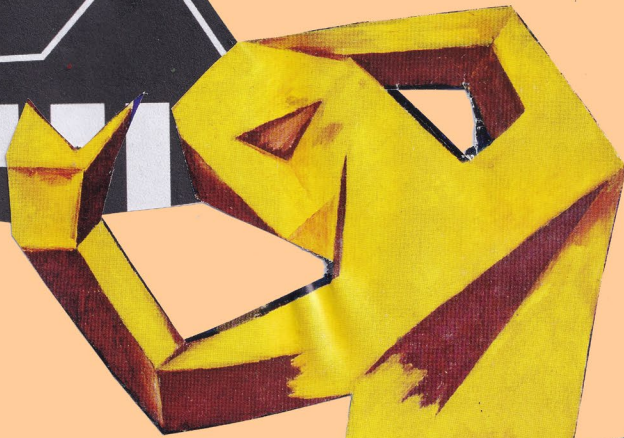
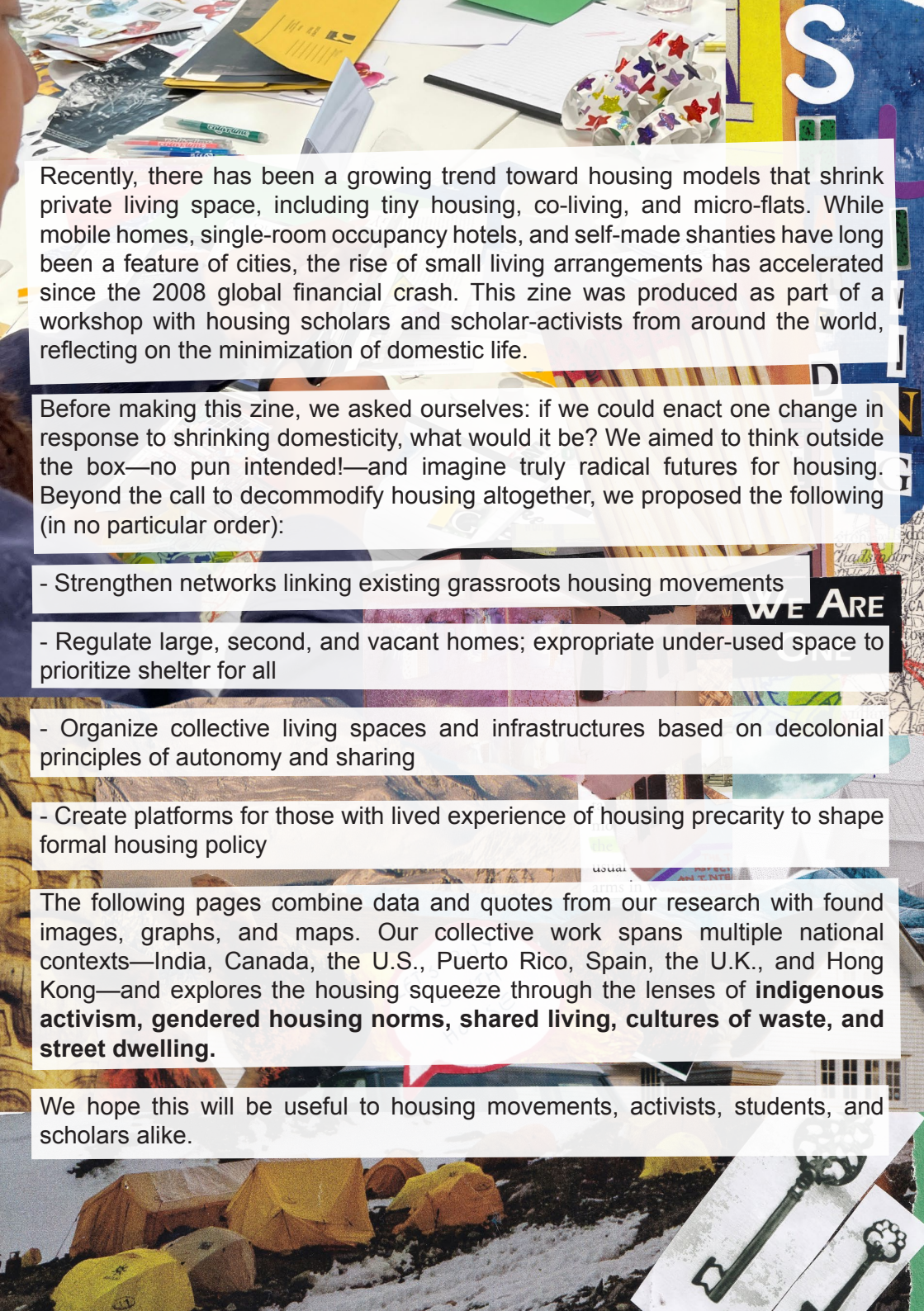


HOUSING SQUEEZE





Recently, there has been a growing trend toward housing models that shrink private living space, including tiny housing, co-living, and micro-flats. While mobile homes, single-room occupancy hotels, and self-made shanties have long been a feature of cities, the rise of small living arrangements has accelerated since the 2008 global financial crash. This zine was produced as part of a workshop with housing scholars and scholar-activists from around the world, reflecting on the minimization of domestic life.

Before making this zine, we asked ourselves: if we could enact one change in response to shrinking domesticity, what would it be? We aimed to think outside the box—no pun intended!—and imagine truly radical futures for housing. Beyond the call to decommodify housing altogether, we proposed the following (in no particular order):

- Strengthen networks linking existing grassroots housing movements
- Regulate large, second, and vacant homes; expropriate under-used space to prioritize shelter for all
- Organize collective living spaces and infrastructures based on decolonial principles of autonomy and sharing
- Create platforms for those with lived experience of housing precarity to shape formal housing policy

The following pages combine data and quotes from our research with found images, graphs, and maps. Our collective work spans multiple national contexts—India, Canada, the U.S., Puerto Rico, Spain, the U.K., and Hong Kong—and explores the housing squeeze through the lenses of **indigenous activism, gendered housing norms, shared living, cultures of waste, and street dwelling.**

We hope this will be useful to housing movements, activists, students, and scholars alike.





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Vision of the Future



IS IT ?

what it extracts
what it provides
what it nourishes



what
is (the value)
of a
Home ?

who
decides?



WHAT DO WE
REALLY NEED

ON THE ROAD

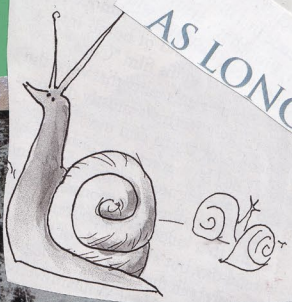
Home Stretch

when you want it.



DISCOMFORT

FOR THE FIRST TIME



AS LONG AS



to survive...

A DISMAL STORY

"We didn't have a laundry [washing machine] ...
the boss, the owner... he had a
washing machine and a cooker but he didn't let us [use them], you know. So we
suffered... for six months."



fast foods, take-away foods all the time...with five of us, it was very tough.

"We used a €100 a day because we didn't have any facilities to cook."

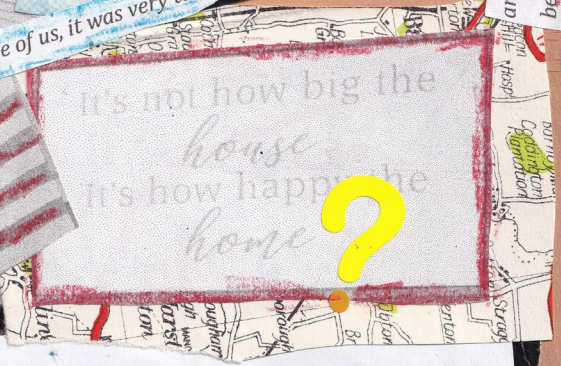
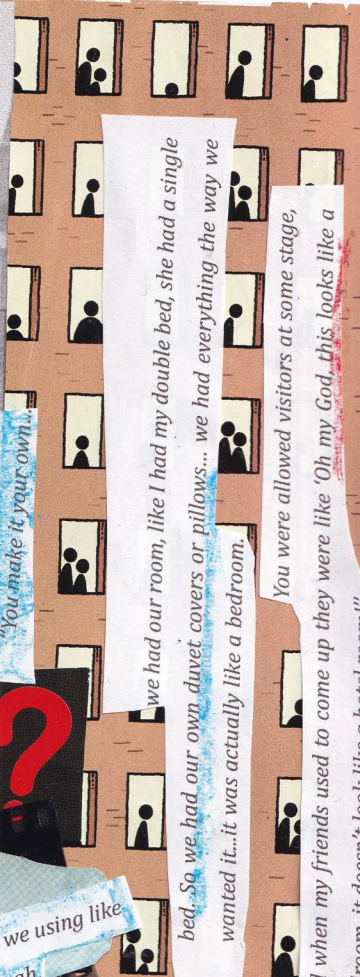
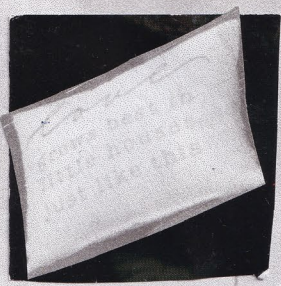
"You make it your own."

"We had our room, like I had my double bed, she had a single bed. So we had our own duvet covers or pillows... we had everything the way we wanted it...it was actually like a bedroom."

"You were allowed visitors at some stage, and when my friends used to come up they were like 'Oh my God, this looks like a bedroom. it doesn't look like a hotel room!'"

"The government now is creating the mentally ill people of the future. All them kids now that are going through homelessness... it's going to really affect them, they're going to be like 'God we lived in a hotel'"

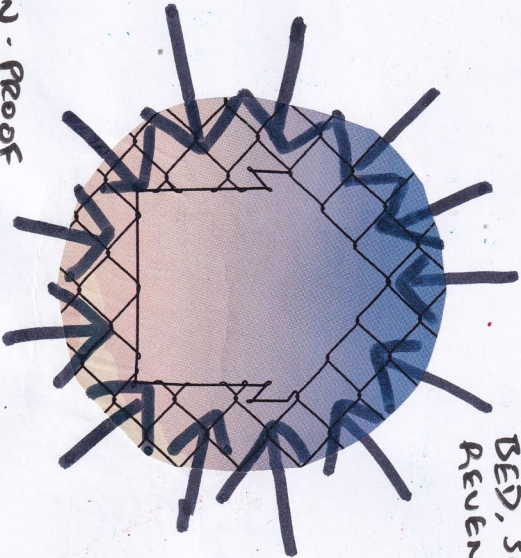
It's not how big the house
It's how happy the home





"WE CONVERT EXTRA SPACE INTO ADDITIONAL BEDROOMS, TO MAXIMISE YOUR INCOME"

"IT'S A RECESSION - PROOF INVESTMENT... AT THE END OF THE DAY WE ALL NEED A BED"



"THIS WALL DIDN'T EXIST BEFORE. THIS WAS SUPPOSED TO BE THE LIVING ROOM. NOW WE OUTSOURCED THE LIVING ROOM AND ADDED ANOTHER BED, SO WE GET ANOTHER REVENUE STREAM."



"OUR BUSINESS MODEL ALLOWS US TO IMPROVE SPACE DENSITY, GENERATING MORE REVENUES PER SQM, THAN ANY OTHER SOLUTION"



animal besides humans

national minimum standard of 37 sq metres

WE WERE STUCK THERE, TREED AND FRAZZLED LIKE CATS

each chimp

has always been an individual, worthy of individual attention and concern—that is, in some sense a person.

'rabbit hutch' developments (Jones, 2018)

The flats start at £285,000, it's smaller than average

Instagram generation

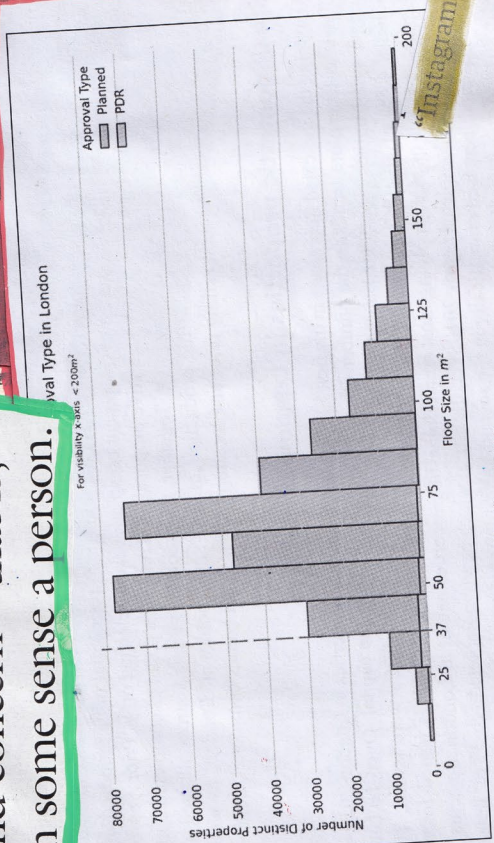
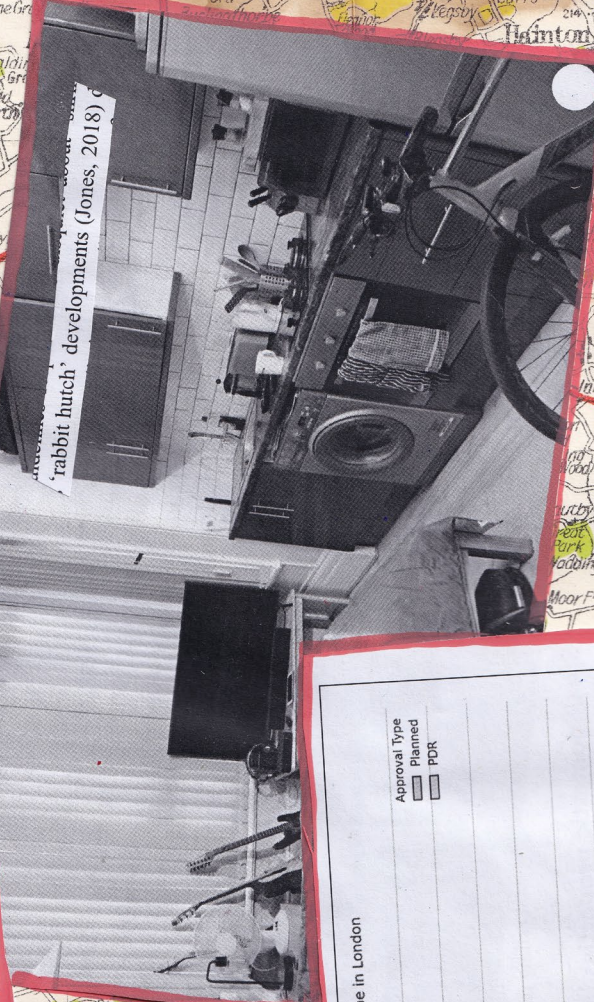


Figure 1. Newly-built London homes by floorspace.

THE END OF CHEAP

'I have to move my bike to get to the fridge' - the UK boom in microflats

Every year, between 1,000 and 2,000 new micro apartments come on the market in London, 3% of all new homes.

Number of new builds under 37 sq metres

Shrinking homes?

439 New builds under 37 sq metres
Tokington, Wembley
Brent

252 Shoreditch
Hackney

242 Blackwall & Leamouth
Tower Hamlets

boom in small homes

1,208 Total for all of Tower Hamlets

soaring property prices, chronic housing shortage

301 Elephant & Castle
Southwark

Between 2011 and 2021 as many as one in 15 flats in London fell below the national minimum standard of 37 sq metres

micro apartments cost up to 30% more

RAW MEAT

YOU COULD JUST GO LIVE IN
A BOX, SLEEP ON A BOXSPRING
IN A SMALLER BOX... DRIVE
ROUND IN CIRCLES IN A BOX
ON WHEELS...

ME, I'D RATHER
SIT UNDER THE
BRIDGE AND WAIT
FOR A TRAIN TO
STOP AND CORDIALLY
OFFER ME A RIDE.
GO. WIND RUSHING
MY FACE. WATCH CREATION
AS IT ROLLS BY MY OPEN
BOXCAR "DOOR."

-BROOKE WILLETT, HOW TO
BE A HOBO

PEOPLE OUT HERE CONSIDER THEIR
TENTS OR THEIR WOODEN BUILDINGS
THEIR HOME. THIS IS SOMETHING
THAT PEOPLE ARE DOING FOR YEARS



THAT'S THEIR SHELTER. DON'T
JUST ASSUME THAT THEIR HOME
IS GARBAGE JUST BECAUSE IT'S
NOT LIKE YOUR HOME.

BRANDY, CALIFORNIA
HOMELESS ENCAMPMENT RESIDENT

'Home is where your heart is, wherever you get familiar'

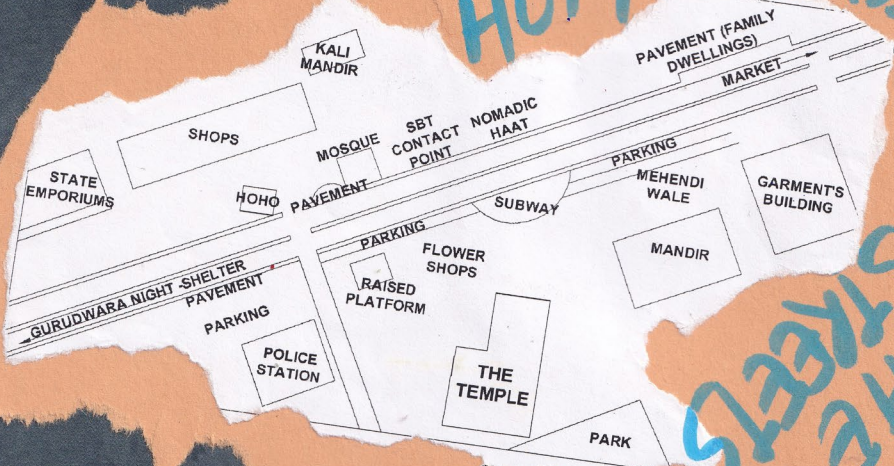
– Neeru, 60 years, Gurudwara night-shelter for women

The Temple

"I have made my own bathing place here. I do not go to the public convenience for bathing now. I have tied a rope around and we cover it with a cloth while bathing. We bring water from the small temple. The priest asks for money. We pay him Rs 10 and can fetch whatever amount of water thereafter. He then asks for money only after a week or so again."

Hum jali par rehte hain (we live around the metal frame)

HOME MAKING ON THE STREETS



Agar bhagwan ka ghar nahi hota toh hamara ghar kaise chalta? Bhagwan ke ghar ki wajah se hi toh hamara ghar chal raha hai – If there were no home for God, how would we have run our home? It is only because of God's home that our homes are running

– Madhuri, Hijra, 48 years, at the Temple

THE RAILWAY STATION

The Market

"My daughtner Kavita feels bad I live here (on the streets) and beg. My son-in-law Varun offers that I stay at their place. But I don't stay with them. I have only suffered all my life. I tell them that while living at the Temple, I get to spend time with people, share conversations and laughter. And therefore I am better off here."

TIME

S

H

A

R

E

D

L

I

V

N

G



claustrophobic



WE ARE ONE

"I think London renting culture often makes houses not homes."

restricting

Shrinking

territorial

ephemeral

personal space

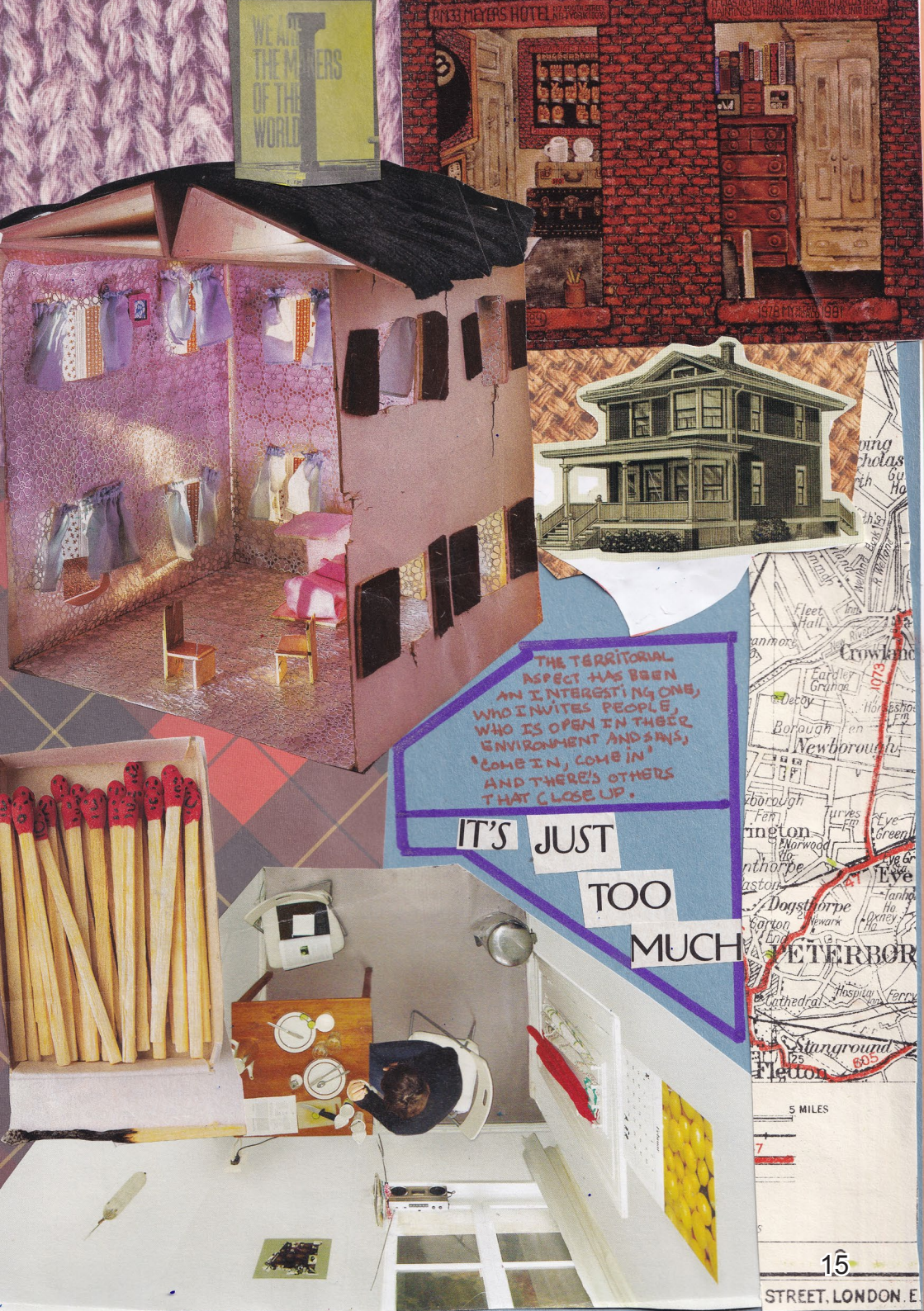




A red circular sticker with a simple black smiley face, featuring two dots for eyes and a wide, curved line for a mouth. The sticker is placed on a background of a newspaper clipping with visible text like "ston" and "000".

SHARING

14



WE ARE THE MASTERS OF THE WORLD

1733 PLAYERS HOTEL

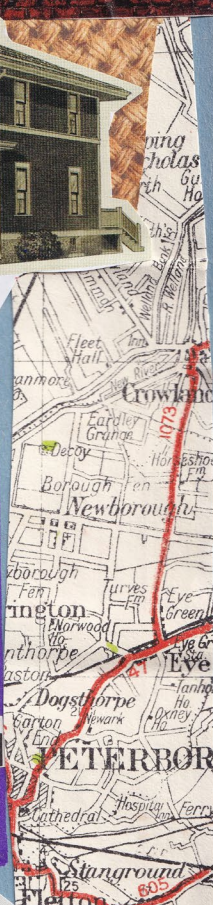
189

1971 1972 1981



THE TERRITORIAL ASPECT HAS BEEN AN INTERESTING ONE, WHO INVITES PEOPLE, WHO IS OPEN IN THEIR ENVIRONMENT AND SAYS, 'COME IN, COME IN' AND THERE'S OTHERS THAT CLOSE UP.

IT'S JUST TOO MUCH



5 MILES

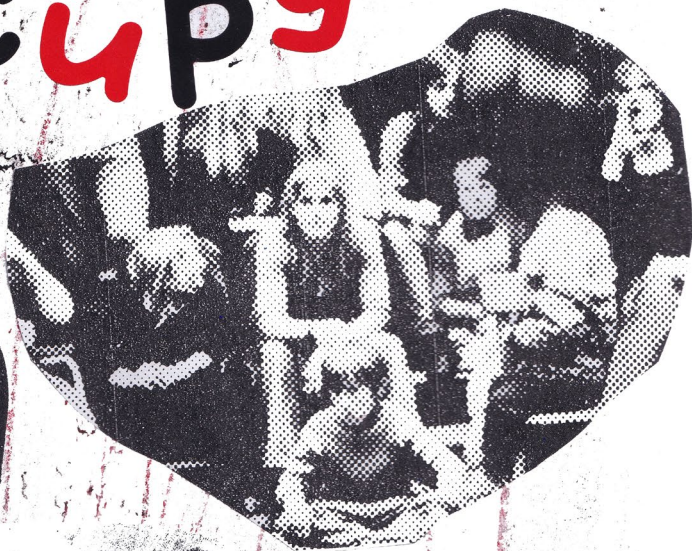
15

STREET, LONDON. E

El hecho de afrontar eso en COLECTIVO es
súper sanador y súper saludable, también,
porque cuando uno vive ~~solo~~ esto sólo, se
siente súper culpable, inevitablemente, porque es
como que el éxito que se supone que tienes que
tener en la sociedad, no lo tienes. Si se vive en
colectivo y el colectivo te dice que es más digno
luchar que quedarse ahí deprimido, eso es como el
apoyo que te saca, mucha gente va al psicólogo para eso,
dicen que al final los psicólogos cumplen la función que
cumpliría una comunidad o colectivo. Mujer, 36-45 años

Organizing
expropriate
claim

Оссуры

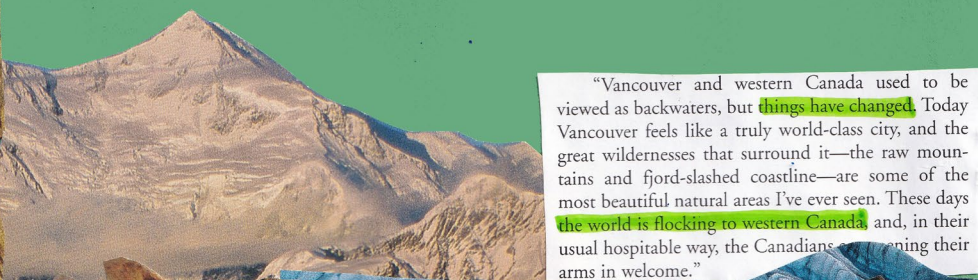


/maGiNE



Land Back

"Vancouver and western Canada used to be viewed as backwaters, but things have changed. Today Vancouver feels like a truly world-class city, and the great wildernesses that surround it—the raw mountains and fjord-slashed coastline—are some of the most beautiful natural areas I've ever seen. These days the world is flocking to western Canada, and, in their usual hospitable way, the Canadians are opening their arms in welcome."





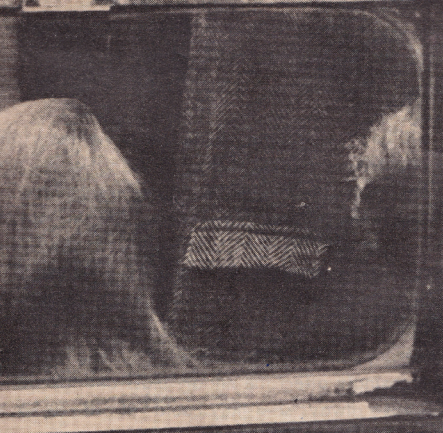
home?

The tension
between the
bonds of tradition
and the blan-
dishments of the
American dream

Vision of the Future

Suddenly I was jet-propelled

ENOUGH
IT IS
ENOUGH



city?

Naïveté is a delicate,
perishable state of being



The zine-making workshop was facilitated by community artist and educator Ioana Simion, who works under the artistic identity Artizine UK.

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DJM