

HOUSING FICTIONS.
THE HOUSE IN WRITING AND CULTURE, 1950 TO THE PRESENT

Guest editors: Janet Larson, Francesca Saggini & Anna Enrichetta Soccio

‘In a world which seems bent on ruin and oblivion, we cannot refuse a feeling of affectionate respect for the courage with which such old houses still confront life, cherish its traditions, and are a sanctuary for the lovely wreckage of the past’ – Virginia Woolf, 1917.

‘Whose house is this? Say, tell me, why does its lock fit my key’ – Toni Morrison, 1992.

This issue aims to engage the variety of European approaches to the study of the house in Anglophone literatures and cultures from the standpoint of contemporaneity. Houses are of course not mere assemblages of bricks, roofs, rooms, doors, furniture; rather, they are both lived experiences and the image of an episteme, inhabited dwellings produced through and producing subjective experiences of time and space. As such they are signs reflecting the dynamic interplay of diverse and contending forces: individual and collective, (trans)national and individual, artistic and theoretical, generic, social, economic, cultural and psychological. If for many writers the house provided a fiction of firmness, how well does this notion hold true today in a world in a state of flow, continually rewritten, restructured or dismantled by diasporas, resettlements, border-crossings, blendings, and transformations in identity and culture?

Submissions are invited from scholars working in the fields of the Anglophone literatures, language, media and culture, including the arts and architecture. Contributors may emphasise theoretical/methodological approaches or textual readings. Invited topics include, but are by no means restricted to, the following:

- the cultural architecture of the house;
- the house and the episteme; the disciplines and discourses of the house;
- thresholds and boundaries of/in the house;
- the house and the nation or peoples; the discourses of the house in post-colonial and transcultural perspectives;
- gendered or classed houses;
- the house and the visual.

Detailed proposals (500-1,000 words) for articles of c.5,000 words, as well as any inquiries regarding this issue, should be sent by e-mail to all the three guest editors: Janet Larson at <jl Larson@andromeda.rutgers.edu>, Francesca Saggini at <fsaggini@unitus.it> and Anna Enrichetta Soccio <esoccio@unich.it>.

The deadline for proposals is 31 October 2010, with delivery of completed essays by 31 March 2011. The issue will appear in 2012.