

Lucia Tahan, Cloud Housing © Lucia Tahan, OBLIK

**Marking the culmination of more than a year of research with a two-day festival, Housing the Human unveils the results of five projects that tackle questions on how will we live in the near future.**

# HOUSING THE HUMAN FESTIVAL

**October 18–19, 2019**

Friday, October 18 | from 7 PM

Saturday, October 19 | from 5 PM

**radialsystem**

Holzmarktstrasse 33 | 10243 Berlin



Simone C Niquille, HOMESCHOOL © Simone C Niquille

These projects are based on both existing developments in the consumer industries and current shifts in thinking about the centrality of the human species in the post-Anthropocene.

Three projects explore the concrete spatial ramifications of sharing our homes with robots, but also the emotional and psychological impact of cohabitation with technology at close quarters: **Certain Measures** present a domestic setting that adapts to its human inhabitants' requests. But what does it mean for AI to have such intimate knowledge of our every need? **Lucia Tahan's** *CLOUD HOUSING* imagines an app catering to a nomadic creative class and offers on-demand rentals and upgrades on their décor—but shedding the burden of ownership comes at a price. **Simone C Niquille's** *HOMESCHOOL* analyzes the standard datasets now used to train domestic robots, and asks what human biases are passed on to the machines we let into our homes. Meanwhile, **Mae-ling Lokko's** *AGROCOLOGIES* suggests sharing our kitchens with mycelium cultures, and feeding them with our food waste. The resulting bio-material can be used to create new objects. And as we'd share our homes with robots, biomes, and other species, **Dasha Tsapenko's** *LOVATORY* wonders whether we'd also enter into new types of relationships of codependency, trust, or even romance with our nonhuman cohabitants.

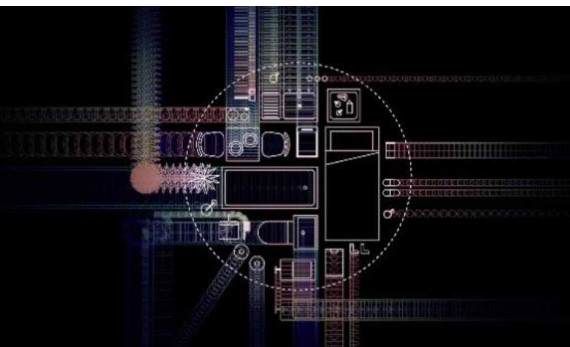
The designers will present the prototypes to the public with **Experts** who will offer critical observations on the topics at hand: Architects Tatiana Bilbao and Rahul Mehrotra, architectural theorist Beatriz Colomina, art historian Margit Rosen, designer Daniel Perlin, and curator James Taylor-Foster will walk through the presentations and initiate conversations.

As part of the supporting program, **ARCH+ features** will host a talk between writer and editor Anh-Linh Ngo and architecture curator James Taylor-Foster on practical futurology and transdisciplinary research. In addition, Beatriz Colomina—theorist, curator, and author of *The Century of the Bed*—will discuss “*The 24/7 Bed*” in a talk on the shifting role the bed occupies in the age of social media, when Smartphones are often the first and last things we touch every day. How does the convergence of Smartphone technology, flexible working conditions, the rise of the gig economy, and young professionals’ nomadic lifestyles impact the significance of the bed as a site of labor, leisure, and surveillance? Following her lecture-performance, she will invite architectural theorist Mark Wigley, the five designers, and others to a “Bed-In” for a series of conversations in pajamas.

The public is also invited to **After Money**, a game night-as-public forum that asks how new networks of care and sociability can emerge in a world without money. The players—politicians and prominent decision-makers—barter in skills and influence in order to survive natural and man-made disasters. The Urban Works Agency of the California College of the Arts designed the role-playing game specifically for Housing the Human. The game is presented in collaboration with Future Architecture Platform.

On Saturday morning, Housing the Human will hold a public **Seminar** with renowned experts and professionals centered around three defining themes: **METHODOLOGICAL FRICTIONS**, on the practical hurdles of working across disciplines; **USEFULNESS**, on the tension between artistic freedom and practical implementation; and **PROPHECIES**, on the promise and missteps of working with innovation and future-oriented topics.

## The Prototypes:



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### CERTAIN MEASURES (DE, US)

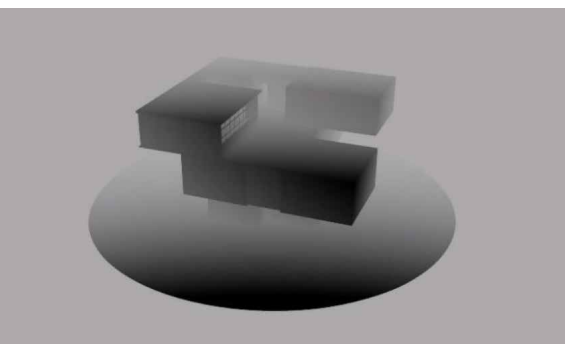
In the scenario *Home Is Where the Droids Are*, domestic robots aren’t just machines that carry out household chores. Rather, they become the very inventory of our apartments, as indispensable and cozy mobile “supporters” that are always attuned to our needs. The way we humans use space and how comfortable we are in it would depend on the presence or absence of such devices. In this ongoing reciprocal adaptation between man and machine, it is by no means clear who ultimately retains control. At the Housing the Human Festival, this vision of the future is made tangible as a spatial installation in which the visitors in a simulated home repeatedly come into contact with domestic robots, finding themselves in unpredictable situations. They prove to be stubborn and confusing. They’re not tame.



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### MAE-LING LOKKO (GH, PH, US)

*AGROCOLOGIES* presents the upcycling of food waste through new domestic rituals and social activities. Fungal organisms embedded in the kitchen's infrastructure are fed leftovers to “grow” a new range of bio-based, compostable household items. At radialsystem, *AGROCOLOGIES* will stage a live performances to demonstrate how this form of upcycling can be integrated into everyday life.



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### SIMONE C NIQUILLE (CH, NL)

Household robots rely on computer vision to navigate domestic environments, but a camera alone does not recognize the objects that it captures. The film *HOMESCHOOL* (2019, 12:44 min.) is based on 3D datasets used to “train” and program such robots, and juxtaposes their systemization and standardization with the complexity of real life.

