

## **PROJECT DETAILS FOR FINAL SUBMISSION**

**Project Title:**

The Journey of Gaze

**Student's Full Name:**

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**Instructor's Full Name:**

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**Course:**

Design 3

**Studio Brief Title:**

A Home is Not a House

**Short Project Description (100 words max.):**

Villa Müller, now transformed from a private residence into a museum, my design project aims to leverage this historical context to confront the evolution of domestic life from past to present. By reimagining the positioning and orientation of windows to create new sightlines, the project moves beyond simply examining gaze. It seeks to establish critical spatial relationships that prompt visitors to reflect on the interplay between care, architecture, and the dynamics of seeing and being seen.

**Full Project Narrative/Text Description (300 words max.):**

Today, houses are generally designed to accommodate their residents, but within those walls, distinct roles unfold—parents, children, elderly members, and household workers like maids or nannies all navigate spaces that reveal underlying hierarchies. Most modern homes follow standardized layouts, often including a maid's room tucked away in a smaller, less visible area. These designs prioritize comfort for the main family while reducing spaces for caregivers, reflecting their diminished visibility and undervalued role within the household.

This tension between care and spatial hierarchy shaped my design experiments. By listing all rooms typically found in Thai housing and creating modular models, I invited participants to design a house that suited their needs. The results revealed “homes within a house,” with layouts reflecting individualized values and priorities. However, when I asked participants to imagine themselves as the ones responsible for caregiving and maintaining the house, their designs shifted significantly. Some opted for smaller, more efficient layouts, but others—primarily women familiar with caregiving roles—did not alter their designs, reinforcing traditional spatial divisions. These outcomes expose how caregiving responsibilities and gender roles are deeply embedded in architectural choices.

My project uses these insights to critically reimagine Villa Müller, a masterful example of Adolf Loos' *Raumplan*. While celebrated for its interlocking levels and spatial efficiency, the house also

hides a secondary circulation system for the maid, including a vertical staircase that contrasts with the elegant, visible flow of the main spaces. My design focuses on unveiling this hidden layer, shifting the emphasis from masterpiece rooms to neglected spaces like the laundry room, maid's quarters, and garage. By reorienting windows and altering room sequences, the project reveals the circulation of care and invites visitors to confront how domestic spaces, both past and present, reflect labor, visibility, and the dynamics of care.