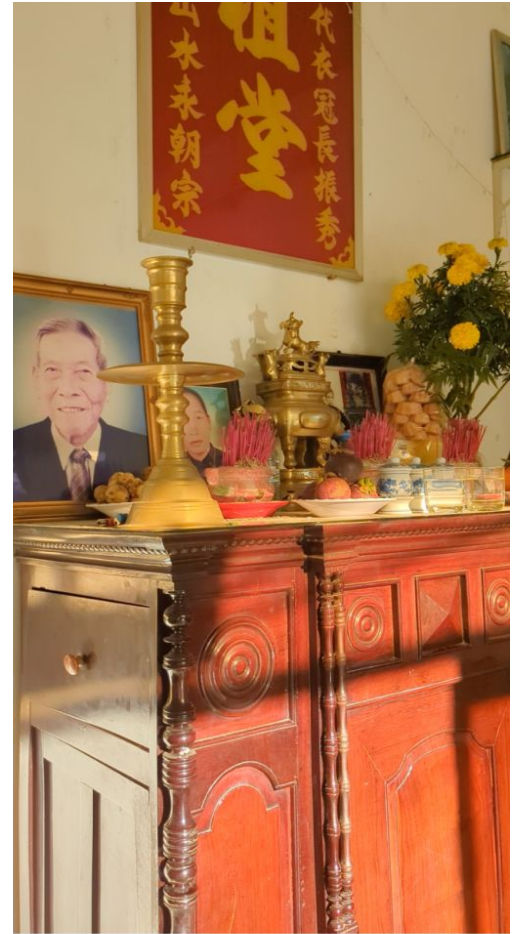


# Family Altar Research



## Zone of Interest

A common tradition among Vietnamese people is to have an altar in their homes to pay tribute and respect to members of their families that have passed away. It's also a way to stay connected to loved ones and a way to mourn yet celebrate their life and death. While their physical form is no longer present, their spirits remain.

## Etymology of Domestic

domestique

prepared or made  
in the house



domesticus

belonging to the  
household



qui est lié au foyer

## Idioms

Home is where the heart is

Make yourself at home

Home sweet home

## Dichotomies

Physical ————— Spiritual

Mourning ————— Celebration

Disrespect ————— Honour

Nomad ————— Roots

## Worship / Thờ



**chny29** Worship or showing honor and respect?



16w 132 likes Reply



**nguyen.joeseph** Worship or venerate?



16w 3 likes Reply

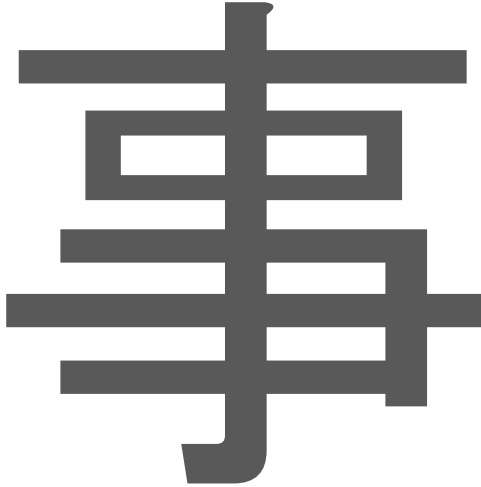


**c0kekhang** It is worshipping. The word thờ itself means to worship in Vietnamese. The ancestors pictures are placed on a bàn thờ which is a table of worship. You pay your respects by worshipping the ancestors for them to bring you blessings and luck.

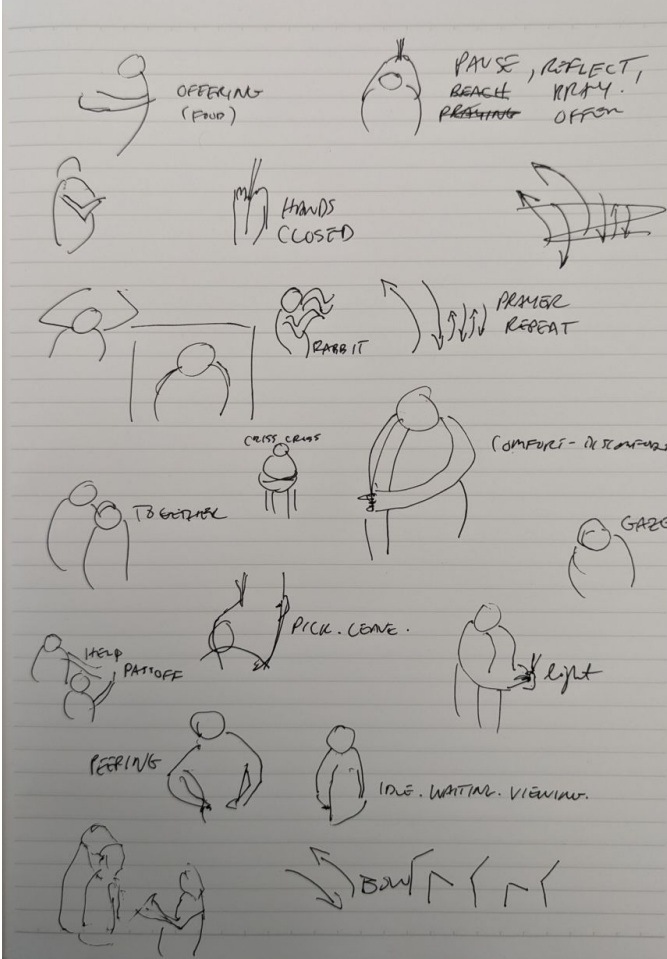


16w 20 likes Reply

## Thờ Etymology



# Visual Research



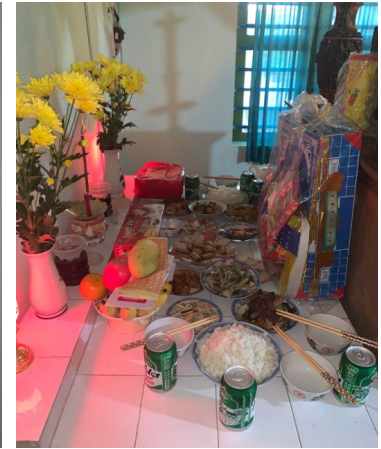
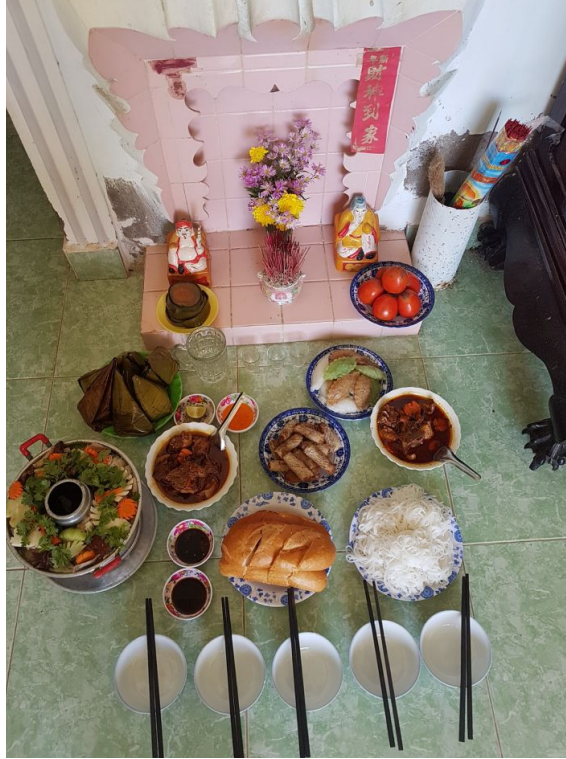


# Visual Research



## Family Altar Research

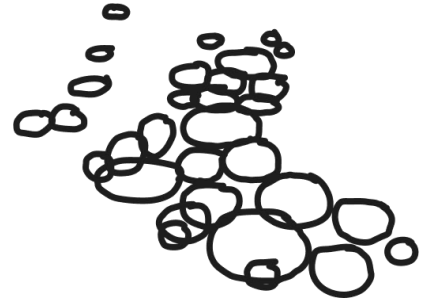
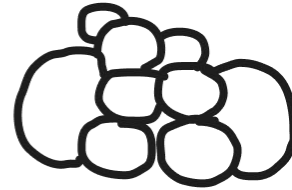
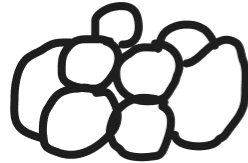
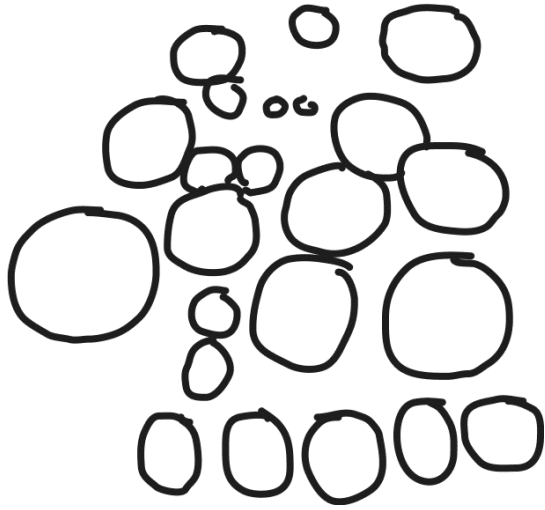
## Visual Research



## Visual Research



# Circles of Life





## Visual Research



## Visual Research



# Incense / Roots / Plants



Ancestral Altar

Bàn Thờ Tổ Tiên



Grandparent Altar

Bàn Thờ Ông Bà

## Lost in Translation

Parent Altar

Bàn Thờ Ba Mẹ

Family Altar

Bàn Thờ Gia Đình

## Interview Insights

Sensitivity and superstition towards death  
Not about worship, about relationship  
Consideration for space and location  
Something burning and intent  
Duty of youngest/eldest son

## Question

Living in a globalized world where siblings are dispersed, how can we still honour traditions but adapt to our new reality?

## Next Steps

# Family Altar

## Bàn Thờ Gia Đình

Draw the following on a piece of paper  
Vẽ những điều sau trên một tờ giấy

- ① A floorplan of the space and mark the position of the altar  
Một bản vẽ mặt bằng của không gian và đánh dấu vị trí của bàn thờ
- ② What the altar looks like  
Bàn thờ trông như thế nào
- ③ Essence of the rituals performed around the altar  
Bản chất của các nghi lễ được thực hiện xung quanh bàn thờ

# Next Steps

<p>ENG   VIET</p> <p><b>Family Altar</b></p> <p>A visual research project about the Vietnamese family altars. The following are screens with drawing directions.</p> <p><a href="#">Start</a></p> <p>Project part of Master of Media Design at HEAD-Geneve Conducted by Peter Ha peter.ha@etu.hesge.ch</p>	<p><b>Draw the following</b> ENG   VIET</p> <p>A floorplan of the space and mark the position of the altar</p> <p><a href="#">Next</a></p>	<p><b>Draw the following</b> ENG   VIET</p> <p>What the altar looks like</p> <p><a href="#">Next</a></p>	<p><b>Draw the following</b> ENG   VIET</p> <p>Essence of the rituals performed around the altar</p> <p><a href="#">Next</a></p>	<p><b>Enter your name</b> ENG   VIET</p> <p>Or if you prefer, you can leave empty</p> <p><a href="#">Submit</a></p>	<p>Thank you for your contribution! Share with your friends and family this research project</p> <p><a href="#">Copy Link</a></p> <p>Project part of Master of Media Design at HEAD-Geneve Conducted by Peter Ha peter.ha@etu.hesge.ch</p>
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Thank you for  
your time and  
attention!