

**SETTINGS AND RITUALS: SOCIO-CULTURAL REFERENCES IN HOME IMPLEMENTS IN FILIPINO HOUSEHOLDS IN VIGAN, ILOCOS SUR DURING THE PHILIPPINE SPANISH COLONIAL (PERIOD 1800-1900).** Florendo, Raquel, Department of Clothing, Textiles and Related Arts, Bachelor of Interior Design Program, College of Home Economics, University of the Philippines, Diliman, Quezon City, 1101, Philippines.

The relationship between the character of the community and development of the household implements within the dwellings of Vigan, Ilocos Sur during the nineteenth century is established in the study. The significant social, cultural and economic components that affected the settings where household implements evolved is discussed in relation to their interior spaces. The meaningful social norms, communal values, practices and mode of life as reflected in the household implements of the dwellings built during the Spanish colonial period in the nineteenth century in Vigan, Ilocos Sur, is reconstructed within a socio-cultural context.

The paper utilizes a content analysis method of research that recognizes that all communication is verbal. The household implements in the dwellings are utilized as units of analysis. Focus of the discussion is on household implements like furniture, accessories and decorative elements.

Semiotics and the socio-cultural approach to the study of the household implements found within the dwellings are used as the methods of analysis. Frequencies, and inventories of the components are recorded. They are documented using the photo criticism method.

The social areas of the dwellings were the largest and most profusely decorated. The private areas were comparatively small and simple. The area size, utilitarian function, inventory of the household implements, were the indicators of the socio-cultural parameters of the period during the nineteenth century. Social norms, values and beliefs found reflection in the household implements of the dwellings.

As a non-verbal expressive system, the household implements provided a venue for the physical, institutional and cultural indicators of life during the nineteenth century of the Philippine colonial period as observed in the Vigan dwellings. The settings and rituals that coincide with the presence of the implements provide a deeper understanding of the Filipino way of life as it functioned effectively during the 1800's. What one learns from the past, establishes a sound foundation for the present which in its turn will be the substructure of the future.