



Original scientific paper

# Living Space Needs of Small Housing in the Post-Pandemic Era: Malaga as a case study

\* Professor Dr. **Carlos Rosa-Jiménez**  , B. Arch. **Cristina Jaime-Segura** 

<sup>1</sup> and <sup>2</sup> Institute for Habitat, Tourism, Territory, Edificio Ada Byron, Campus de Teatinos, 29071, University of Malaga, Malaga, Spain.

<sup>1</sup> E-mail: [cjrosa@uma.es](mailto:cjrosa@uma.es), <sup>2</sup> E-mail: [jscristina@uma.es](mailto:jscristina@uma.es)

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## ABSTRACT



*The COVID-19 lockdown period has highlighted the ability of housing to accommodate a comprehensive programme typical of the city and its public space. Housing units of under 60 m<sup>2</sup> and in blocks of flats are the more vulnerable, as they have a higher percentage of non-community open spaces. That problem was analysed using a methodology based on psychological, urban planning and architectural indicators applied to two coastal cities in the Mediterranean area of southern Spain. The results highlight three aspects in this type of dwelling: the need to consider the orientation of the housing to improve the quality of indoor and outdoor space; the need in public housing policies for a greater number of rooms to facilitate remote working; and finally, the importance of functional terraces overlooking green areas.*

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## 1. Introduction

In Spain, the stay-at-home lockdown during the COVID-19 pandemic highlighted the difficulty of combining remote working and family life. The experience of not only much of the Spanish population but also worldwide was reflected in numerous media assessments of the shortcomings of the housing stock. The stay-at-home lockdown forced people to relegate their whole daily life to their homes. In the words of Fernández Galiano (2020) "the intimate

hideaway has become a prison cell". Suddenly, the home has become the centre of all activity, even that which had taken place up until then in the city - which practically emptied -: education, work and leisure. Stay-at-home lockdown revealed the lack of

### \*Corresponding Author:

Institute for Habitat, Tourism, Territory, Edificio Ada Byron, Campus de Teatinos, 29071, University of Malaga, Malaga, Spain.

Email address: [cjrosa@uma.es](mailto:cjrosa@uma.es)

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