

# Artful Systems in the Home

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# Home Making

organising of family life:

examples from field study

broader findings

design implications

# school pickup

**Emma:** Come on trouble.

**Sophie:** I'm a bloody reserve...

**Emma:** Excuse me?

**Sophie:** I'm a reserve for the swimming thing

**Emma:** Oh, that's good

**Sophie:** I'm not going! I don't want...

**Emma:** That's not too bad, a reserve.

**Sophie:** Yeah, there's somebody [inaudible]

**Emma:** Well, at least you get to take part.

**Sophie:** Only one kid from our class has got in.

**Emma:** Really... Typical school letter [reads through it]. When is it, 17th of June?

**Sophie:** Tomorrow.

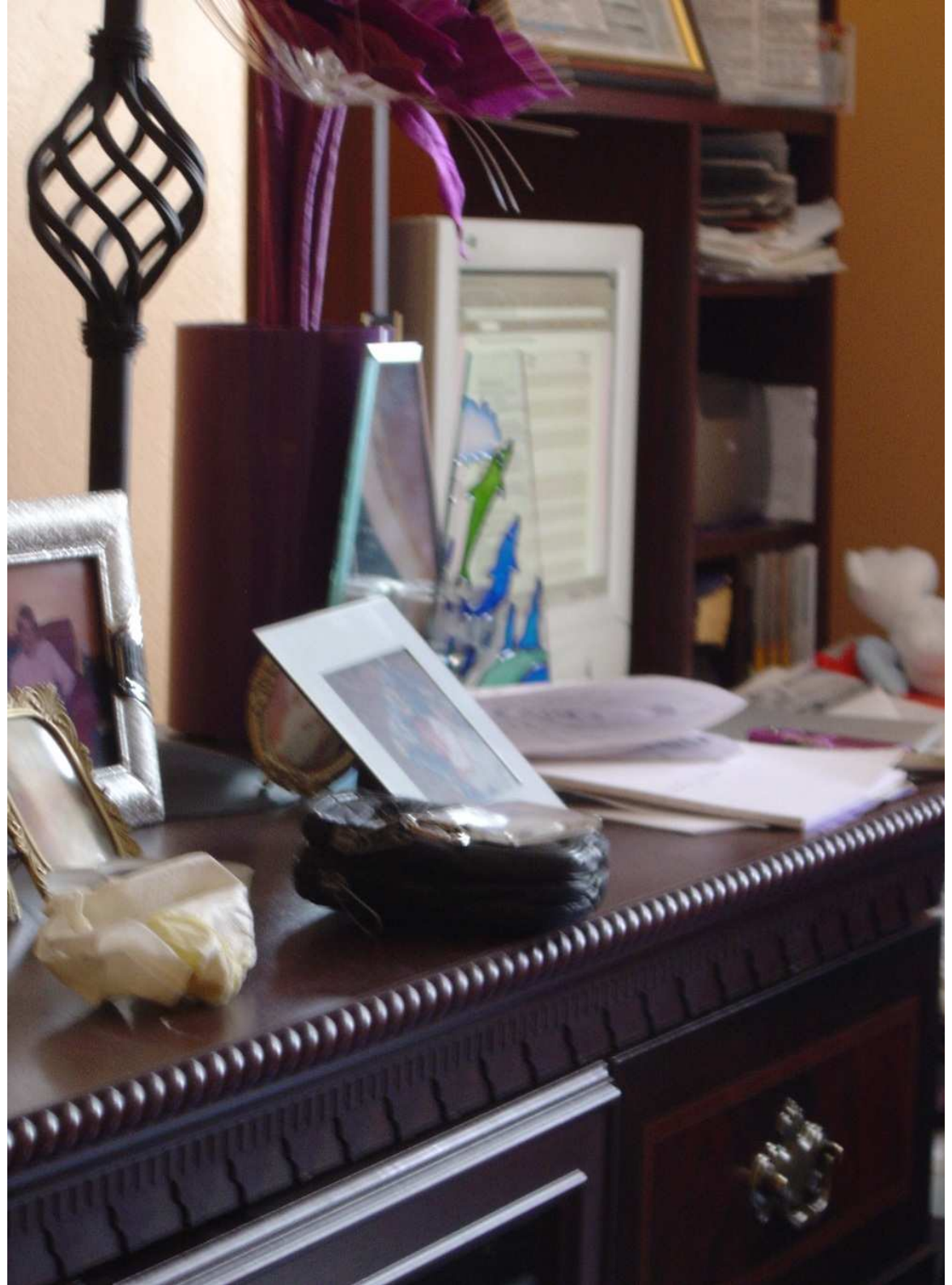
**Emma:** Tomorrow?

**Sophie:** ... and we've got to be at school at 8.30

**Emma:** What? Tomorrow?

**Sophie:** yeah

**Emma:** ... [reads from paper] Early start, leave school at 8.30. Arrgh! Well, you'll have to talk to dad. All right, let's get out of here.



# school pickup

letter on sideboard

embodied

point of reference

gala planning

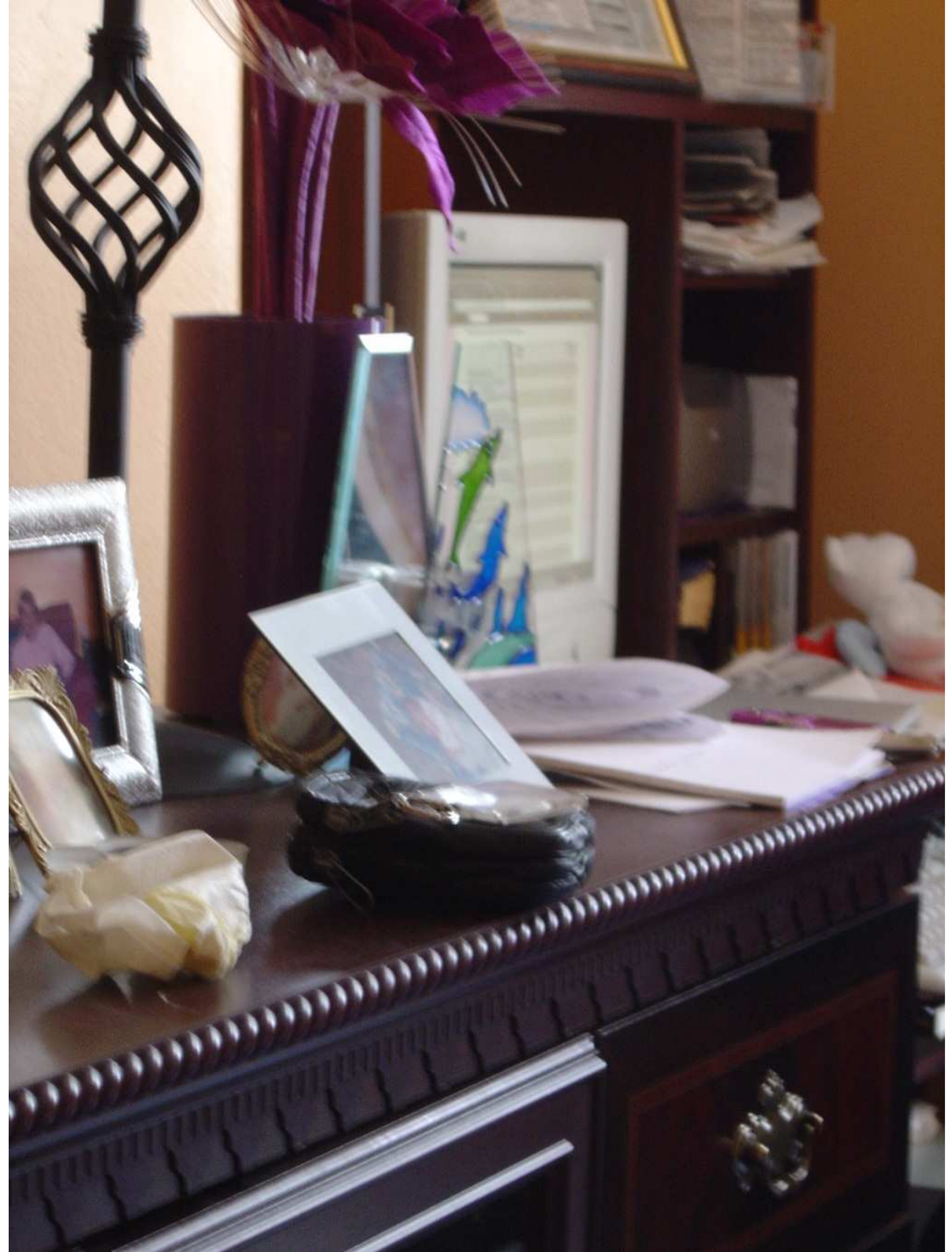
by emma

interleaved with other

chores and activities

co-ordinated with people  
and artefacts

routinised system



# family chart

“I do look at [the calendar] every morning. I do religiously come down, put the kettle on, have my shower, come back, look at it while I’m making the tea, and then go up back to bed with tea. And that’s what I do every morning, that is my routine.”

## organising system:

- home-made
- ritualised
- co-ordinated
- one central overseer
- functional vs. symbolic

Thursday	Friday	Saturday	Sunday
	John with 10-14:00 Boris / Flo to Wiltshire	11:00-12:00 Sarah	Neil / Kate / Flo 10:00-11:00 / Flo 10:45-11:00
John with 10-12:00 Sarah 4:30-5:00 4:50-6:00 Children in car on hill with	John with 10-12:00 Sarah 4:30-5:00 4:50-6:00 Children in car on hill with	9:30 me / Sarah Sophie	9:30 me / Sarah 10:00 Anna / Flo / Kate Sophie
7:00-11:00 VI Paris to London 7:00-8:00 Children in car on hill with	11:30-12:00 Sarah Flo	9:30 me / Sarah Sophie	4-7 Flo / Sarah Sophie
10:00-11:00 Sarah 1:15-2:00 Sarah 3:30-4:00 Sarah	10:00-11:00 Sarah 1:15-2:00 Sarah 3:30-4:00 Sarah	9:30 me / Sarah Sophie	9:30 Sarah 10:00 Anna / Flo
<b>JUNE</b>			



# petal-board

- carefully situated
- performative
- centrally overseen
- delegates responsibility

QuickTime™ and  
Photo - JPEG decompressor  
are needed to see this picture.

- embodies moral order

# kitchen table

- physical properties
- combined collections

baby book turned critical phone numbers

baby book

- defunct
- ready to be re-jigged
- transformation
- continual assessment of system



“It has a kind of sentimental value... And I can't bear to throw it away but you know, it's silly to keep, so I've kind of made it into my recipe book where I stick in recipes and stuff. So I can see some of it but some of it's just boring and repetitive and there are lots of useful pages in the back so... ”

baby book turned  
recipe book

recipe book

- sentimental vs. functional
- legitimate place
- constituted value system

- Organising systems

- capture, integrate and arrange, and convey information
- heterogeneous collections of artefacts
- enmesh material and social practices

- Social character of organising systems
  - ad-hoc, devised to suit the needs at hand
  - evolving and ongoing
  - personally and idiosyncratically crafted
  - shared but centrally overseen

- Socially organising systems
  - implicated in 'home making'
  - expression of family, of home
  - social roles, status, divisions of labour
  - a home's 'moral order'



- Design implications

- not overly prescriptive
- sensitive to a home's social organisation
- allow materials enlisted as '*resources*'

- Design implications (continued)
- combinations of heterogeneous resources
  - to be combined artfully:
    - for the business at hand
    - the making of family
  - pliable/re-configurable
  - integration with existing systems