I've asked for this text to be printed in reverse to engage the invocation of interior ecologies in a direct way, producing an interior ecology as distinct from writing about the topic, producing a representation. By now, you may be reading this page by holding the journal up to a mirrored surface; the reflected image a composition of text, fingers, surroundings, with your eyes hovering somewhere above the top. The relation between the two surfaces and between you, a reader, becomes apparent, becomes active and activated as a unique moment, a now here. Different environments and surroundings, different ways of handling the journal to make it make sense, different light conditions and times.

An interior-making; interior ecologies.

This thisness composed of spatial and temporal relations in a process of movement, always becoming. By now, the weight of the journal becomes tangible – even if it is lying on a horizontal surface – making present the rest of the journal. This page and text lies on top of many pages of text – all addressing the provocation of interior ecologies. The surface of this page exposed to the current, a present composed of what has passed/past while in a process of future becoming.

'... the German biologist Ernst Haeckel coined the term 'Oekologie' in 1866 ... 'Oekologie' is derived from the Greek *oikos*, meaning house, and the term describes the 'study of the home'. This is the essential meaning of ecology – the study of plants and animals (including humans) in the places where they live, their habitat, or their environment. The environment comprises the surrounding of an organism, including all the physical and biological factors with which an individual interacts and on which it depends for its survival. The organism in turn modifies and alters the environment in which it lives'.¹

There are many connections here with the practice of interior design – the focus on inhabitation and modes of life, life styles – which invite/incite a shift from emphasising the concept of interior in relation to space and as a practice that addresses existing space / designing inside some thing to one where relations are primary in the making of interiors. The conjunction of ecology with interior – interior ecologies, interior ecologists – highlights processes, effects and affects where relations compose to produce spaces and species. A sense here of immersion within indeterminate forces, flux, immanence and a process of making, interior-making,

The writings of early 20th century German biologist Jacob von Uexküll and his concept of 'Umwelt' capture this idea of interior ecologies as assemblages producing spaces, objects and subjects. 'Every object becomes something completely different on entering a different Umwelt. A flower stem that in our Umwelt is a support for a flower, becomes a pipe full of liquid for the meadow spittlebug (*Philaneus spumarius*) who sucks the liquid to build its foamy nest. The same flower stem becomes an upward path for the ant, connecting its nest with its hunting ground in the flower. For the grazing cow the flower stem becomes part of a tasty morsel of food for her to chew in her big mouth'.²

While each Umwelt is like a 'home', an ecology composed of habits and modes of life; highlighted is the potential of different interiors and exteriors produced through different forces and relations. Here the practice of interior design as one of interior-making producing assemblages and hence spaces and subjects. Interior design as a practice concerned with inhabitation, interior-making and interiority, spaces and subjectivities, is a potentially powerful way to respond to the vastness of globalisation and its tendency to effect a loss of proportion and proximity for human contact and encounter. Hence the challenge of the act of inhabiting, of making home, interior-making as an interior ecology.

 Peter Attiwill & Barbara Wilson, eds., Ecology. An Australian Perspective, 2nd ed. (Australia: Oxford University Press, 2006) 3.
von Uexküll quoted in Elizabeth Grosz, Chaos, Territory, Art. Deleuze and the framing of the earth (New York: Columbia University Press, 2008) 41.

Suzie Attiwill

IDEA JOURNAL 2010 Interior Ecologies