

Faculti Summary

<https://faculti.net/small-spaces-recasting-the-architecture-of-empire/>

This video is a transcript of a discussion reflecting on the motivations and intellectual journey behind writing a book that examines the significance of small spaces, particularly in the context of historical architecture and material culture. The speaker, trained as an architect and architectural historian, traces the development of their ideas back over 30 years, influenced by mentors and the study of American historical archaeology.

Key themes include the exploration of everyday objects and spaces, such as the concept of a "bottle cana," which refers to a storage space for bottles, particularly associated with alcohol. The speaker emphasizes the importance of understanding how spaces are experienced differently by various groups — a concept often overlooked in traditional architectural studies.

They argue for a new approach to historical narratives, focusing on overlooked small spaces and their relationships to larger social processes, rather than centering the narrative solely on grand historical events or structures. The speaker aims to uncover the significance and social context of small spaces, analyzing their functions, the people who inhabit them, and how these spaces contribute to broader narratives of history and culture.

The overall goal is to reframe history through the lens of these small yet vital spaces, suggesting that understanding the intricacies of human experience within them is crucial for a comprehensive view of historical and architectural discourse.