

The Placement Arts

In *The Everies Book*, I explained a little about Spiritual Housework. I've since discovered this term can have a social science usage [1] in discussions of class & gender distinctions. That is definitely not the way I'm using it. The term could also convey ideas of religious practices requiring a belief system, or even defying some belief system. That may well be an aspect of one's own practice of Spiritual Housework, but as a blanket term I'm not using it that way either.

I mean any housework, done by any human being, which is not purely for cleaning, maintenance or decorative purposes, even though it may well involve cleaning, maintenance, decorating, gardening, repairs, renovations or any household-enhancing activity. What makes the housework 'spiritual' is the fact that the action is not mere labour. It is being done to grace the home with a figurative 'magic touch', if you like. It has the specific aim of generating a positive effect on the inhabitants, their environment, or their affairs.

Many actions considered Spiritual Housework are not even housework as such. They may be habits, rituals, paperwork or interpersonal activities. Indeed, they could be any category of thing, as long as they're to do with enhancing the inhabitants' experience of home, or supporting their lives and aspirations outside it. Any sort of intentional household enhancement is all that is meant by 'Spiritual Housework' in *The Everies Book*.

Note that the person with the intention should be the one to impose it through their own labours, unless delegating aids the intention. If you want a teenager to benefit from a cleaned room, it would be better to have them clean their own space. Makes sense, right? Yes, I know: you'll probably need to do your own Spiritual Housework to increase the odds that your teen will go along with you. The object, though, is to empower household members to take charge of their own areas, not override them. Additionally, tasks outside your legitimate skill set, such as wiring or plumbing, should definitely be outsourced!

Spiritual Housework as used in this text is more like Space Clearing, associated with the Placement Arts. These usually have building science at their roots. The best-known of these arts are [Feng Shui](#), [Vaastu](#) and [Wabi Sabi](#), but there are other arts or sciences designed to enhance the home's harmony with its environment and occupants. Simple decluttering is a sub-study of such Placement Arts.

Sustainability is rightly popular in design, building and everyday living. Passive solar design as a component of this is ...



References:

[1] Roberts, Dorothy E. *Faculty Scholarship*, Spiritual and Menial Housework, Paper 1282. http://scholarship.law.upenn.edu/faculty_scholarship/1282, 1997, accessed 5 April 2016.

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Original citation:

Ross, Heidi. Appendix A: The Placement Arts, in *The Everies Book*, p.74. Perth: Inspector Ross Publications, 2009-2020.