Designing for an Aging Population

Researching a Design Solution for The Pinemont Assisted Living Facility

Allison Shives

Dr. Mitzi Perritt

The Forum - Houston, Texas Toured Similar Facility

Assisted Living Facility Traditional Furniture ♦ Elegant Style Accessible Design Active Living Features oLibrary oSalon oChapel oWellness Center ODay Activity / Sunroom



The Aging Population

Aging starts at birth and continues throughout life. As people age, they need to continue to live a happy life. A designer's job is to design a facility that will encourage an independent lifestyle while providing the help and community involvement aging requires. The design solution should meet the aging population's desire to age

in place. An assisted living facility allows older adults to live independently while being surrounded by a support group and events that promote an active lifestyle which is conducive to physical and mental wellbeing.



Wayfinding



Changes Accompany Aging Researched Behavior of Older People Reduction of strength and stamina ♦Yellowing in the lens of eye •Colors are not seen the same ♦ Tactile senses decrease OLess sensitivity

Motor and cognitive skills decline oGreater need for accessibility •Easily confused and can get lost Distinguishing sounds becomes harder OHigher pitches are harder to hear

Findings

Design Needs for an Older Population



The Pinemont Assisted Living Facility

Outdoor Garden Sunroom for multiple activities Library Dining Room

Fall 2009



Use Landmarks Simple Signage Views of Outside Higher light levels at destinations Color coding with finishes

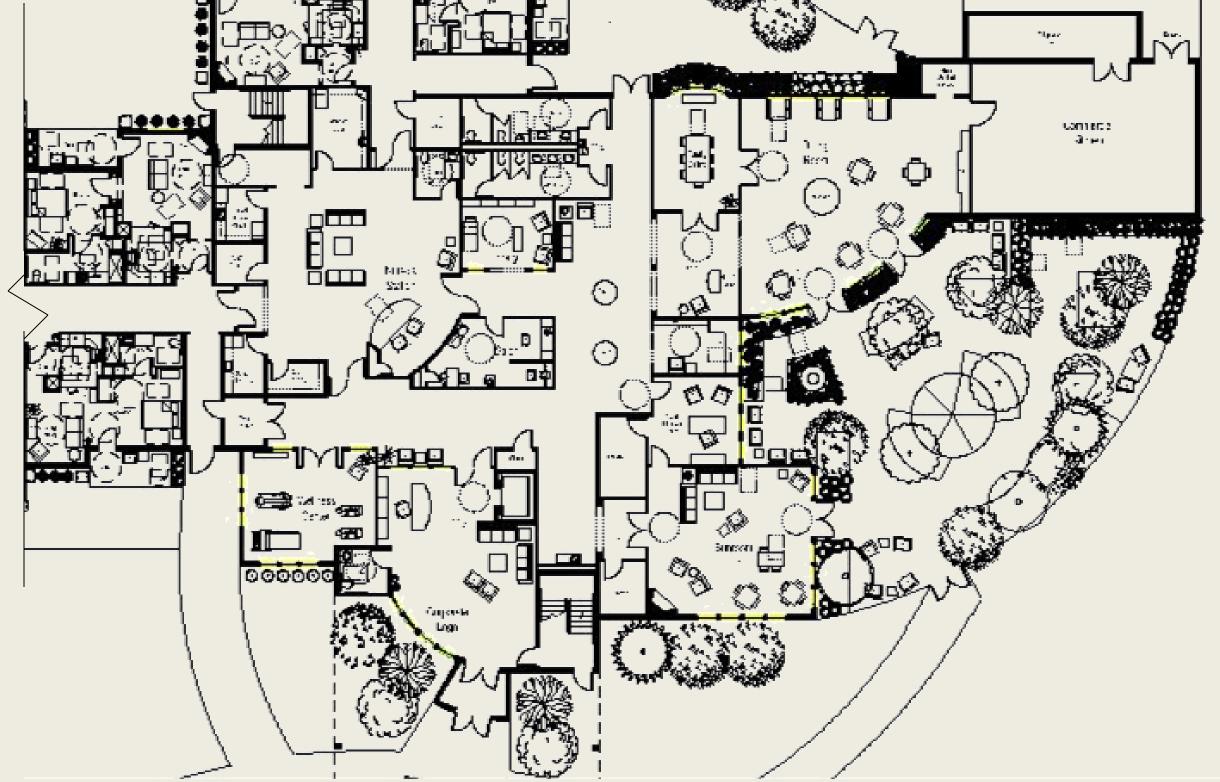


Preferences Bold Blues Smooth Textures Traditional Furniture

Accessibility Comply with ADA Make space adaptable



HMS 412



Research Prepared By: Allison Shives