

Designing for an Aging Population



Researching a Design Solution for The Pinemont Assisted Living Facility

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The Forum - Houston, Texas Toured Similar Facility

- ◆ Assisted Living Facility
- ◆ Traditional Furniture
- ◆ Elegant Style
- ◆ Accessible Design
- ◆ Active Living Features
 - Library
 - Salon
 - Chapel
 - Wellness Center
 - Day Activity / Sunroom



Research

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.



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
 - Less sensitivity
- ◆ Motor and cognitive skills decline
 - Greater need for accessibility
 - Easily confused and can get lost
- ◆ Distinguishing sounds becomes harder
 - Higher pitches are harder to hear



Result of Findings



Findings

Design Needs for an Older Population

Wayfinding

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

Accessibility

- Comply with ADA
- Make space adaptable

Preferences

- Bold Blues
- Smooth Textures
- Traditional Furniture