

## A study on development of suitable healthcare equipment for aged people at their homes

### Toward efficiency and reduction of the homehelpers' labor in healthcare

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#### Abstract

Concerning the development of suitable healthcare equipment for aged people at their homes in order to reduce the labor and increase the efficiency in the homehelpers' work, we conducted a study on the actual conditions of healthcare in Kyoto city (healthcare in taking a meal and excretion, moving and taking a bath by using a hand-powered lift, moving by a wheelchair, shower carrier healthcare, assistance in body care and housework) by digital video filming, interviews and layout investigations.

On the base of those investigations by using methods for analysis of video pictures, we divided the healthcare work into scenes and extracted the main problems in terms of healthcare equipment, information, environment, healthcare skills, mental burden, social system, family burden, etc.

Furthermore the questionnaire survey of home helpers (18 persons - 50% answers) clarified that more than half of them have lumbago pains and the biggest load in the everyday healthcare comes from moving the patients or getting them into or out of the equipment for moving.

Finally we considered concrete proposals appropriate for each healthcare scene image, based on evaluation toward efficiency (design guidelines) for suitable healthcare equipment for aged people at their homes:

- 1) Design toward a proper posture
- 2) Design toward self-help possibility
- 3) Design toward patient active participation
- 4) Design toward rationality of the whole process
- 5) Design toward place-appropriate healthcare equipment
- 6) Design toward healing of mind
- 7) Good level of healthcare skills
- 8) Economic, systematic rationality

#### Keywords

Healthcare equipment, Unsuitability, Homehelper, Labor reduction

## Naturalizing Modern Design

### Native Timber and Modernist Style in Australia

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#### Abstract

Native timbers were used almost exclusively in Australian modernist furniture design in the 1930s and during that decade modern interiors were frequently promoted in popular magazines and professional journals, as providing an opportunity to use them. The championing of austere modernist style by Australian designers using native timbers, was an expression of pride in Australia's natural resources and a confident assertion of Australia as a modern independent nation. This reflects a change in focus in Australian culture from Britain to Europe, Scandinavia and the USA, while differentiating the nation and its people as simple and natural in contrast to the sophistication and complexity of other nations and cultures.

On the basis of primary sources, (magazines, journals and interviews with associates of the designers), this paper argues that while the promotion of native timbers in connection with modernism was an assertion of a new modern national identity, paradoxically, it served to underscore and perpetuate a traditional image of Australia. In its focus on native timbers Australia maintained an image of itself as a supplier of natural resources to the British Empire and thus as dependent upon Britain.

#### Keywords

Modernist style, national identity, native timbers, austerity.