

Enhancing the Healing Environments in Elderly Housing Design

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Abstract

This paper is intended to discuss how to enhance the healing environments for elderly housing, based on the literature review and site-visits, and to suggest some reference materials for the planning and design of elderly housing.

Major contents consist of the concept of healing environments, discussion of the environment factors for the enhancement of healing condition in terms of architectural, social & psychological, cultural, and technological aspects, and some conclusions.

Healing environment in elderly housing can be defined as a space, tool or design which aims at eliminating environmental stressors of the residents. Healing environment can be enhanced by the efforts of various aspects.

In architectural aspects, homelikeness makes the residents to minimize the transfer shock from home to institution and can be realized through the design of every resident's personalized environment, small-scale living unit, and residents' participation in domestic activities. Good view through the window can draw nature into the room and the residents feel comfortable to see the sky, trees, birds and land.

In social and psychological aspects, dignity and

privacy is a fundamental factor for healing. Private bedroom, special measure between privacy and observation, toileting area belong to bedroom are to be preferably designed. Clearly defined boundaries from public to private space can keep the residents from psychological embarrassment. Family involvement is also positive to the residents' mental stability and so related rooms for activities are to be properly designed.

In cultural aspects, the spaces for daily living such as bedroom, living room and dining room need to be designed to reflect the traditional way of living such as Ondol in Korea and Dadami in Japan, because the residents have been used to lifetime living habit.

In technological aspects, "SmartHome" technology such as "prediction of fall risk" and "health monitoring management system" can be reviewed to apply for the feeling of the residents' safety.

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