Aging in Place in New York City

Presented by Susan Wright, Architect, Design for Aging Committee of the AIA NY Chapter

Forum on Age Friendly Housing and Health Promotion

Held July 19, 2020 New Taipei City Hall, Taiwan
Video introduction
Urban Design and Architectural Guidelines for an Age-Friendly New York City

Older adults want and should be able to live actively and independently for as long as possible. Age-friendly design takes into account the physical changes that occur over time, reducing physical and psychological barriers and the potential for injury. It enables older adults to maintain and maximize their physical capabilities and continue to live independently.

1. General
   a) Restorative recommendations for urban environments should advance numerous social objectives: liveliness, safety, sustainability, health, pleasure, dignity, equitable use, inclusiveness (e.g., age, gender, race, disabilities, height, pets, etc.).
   b) Design for the scale of a range of individuals and how they experience an environment: eye level, pace of walking, views, clarity of information, flexibility of use, etc.
   c) Emphasize qualitative aspects of design: comfortable eye-level stimulation with esthetic variety that is not overwhelming or confusing (contrast in color and shapes, elements with varying textures to respond to sight and touch, ample amount of ambient light, non-glare finishes), control of ambient noise.
   d) Design for minimization of perceived or real physical barriers: all elements for public use should be located in easily accessible barrier-free areas.
   e) Design building forms and public spaces to maintain a uniform level of comfort: reducing glare and drafts; controlling temperature, sound, and light; providing a feeling of safety.

Top 10 Ways Architects Can Become Age-Friendly

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1. All designs should advance numerous social objectives: liveliness, safety, sustainability, health, pleasure, dignity, equitable use, inclusiveness (e.g., age, gender, race, disabilities, height, pets, etc.).
2. Design for the scale of a range of individuals and how they experience an environment: eye level, pace of walking, views, clarity of information, flexibility of use, etc.

https://www.aiany.org/committees/design-for-aging/
DESIGN FOR AGING COMMITTEE - 2013 "BOOMING BOROUGHS" ALL DAY DESIGN WORKSHOP
BOOMING BOROUGHS - ONE DAY, FIVE DIFFERENT SCALES

https://vimeo.com/71022665
RELEASE OF NYC’S “AGING IN PLACE GUIDE FOR BUILDING OWNERS” IN 2016 COINCIDED WITH OTHER SIMILAR GUIDES SUCH AS AARP - “HOMEFIT GUIDE” FOR LIFELONG HOME AND THE ENTERPRISE FOUNDATION - AGING IN PLACE DESIGN GUIDELINES
AGING IN PLACE: BUILDING ENTRY AND FRONT YARD
AGING IN PLACE: RAMPS AND STAIRS
AGING IN PLACE: BUILDING LOBBY AND COMMON SPACES
AGING IN PLACE: WAYFINDING
AGING IN PLACE: DOORS AND ENTRANCES
AGING IN PLACE: FLOORING AND WALKING SURFACES
AGING IN PLACE: HANDRAILS AND GRAB BARS
AGING IN PLACE: SEATING
AGING IN PLACE: TECHNOLOGY AND COMMUNICATIONS
WIRELESS TECHNOLOGY TO RETROFIT EXISTING APARTMENTS
RENOVATION OF KISSENA I AND KISSENA II RESIDENCES WITH TENANTS IN PLACE

DEVELOPER: SELFHELP COMMUNITY SERVICES

ARCHITECT: GRUZEN SAMTON ARCHITECTS, SUSAN WRIGHT AIA

KII - 290 APARTMENTS, 198,531 SQUARE FEET RENOVATION AND 800SF NEW CONSTRUCTION

KI - 135 APARTMENTS, 200,371 SQUARE FEET RENOVATION AND 492SF NEW CONSTRUCTION

425 RENOVATED APARTMENTS

IMPROVED AND UPDATED PUBLIC SPACES

NEW TECHNOLOGIES FOR THE APARTMENTS AND COMMUNITY SPACES
SELFHELP - TELEHEALTH SYSTEM IN EVERY BUILDING LOBBY
SELFHELP - PROGRAM SOCIAL SPACES TO REMAIN ACTIVE
SELFHELP - GARDEN SPACES WITH AGE-FRIENDLY HARDSCAPE AND SEATING
"This program is wonderful! It makes me feel less lonely. I can communicate easily with people. It also gives me a million things to talk about and things to get interested in. My daughter is ecstatic about this program. I am very proud to be a part of this exciting program. The computer gives me company. This program is a God send. You have made me very happy." - Milton (88)
THANK YOU!

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