

PROGRAMMING AND DESIGN FOR DEMENTIA

DEVELOPMENT OF A 50 PERSON RESIDENTIAL ENVIRONMENT

Gerald Weisman and Uriel Cohen
Project Directors

Kristen Day
Research and Design Assistant

George Meyer, AIA
Project Architect

Project Support Provided by Helen Daniel Bader, Milwaukee, WI.

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Abstract

The goals of this applied research project were three-fold: 1) to extend understanding of optimal micro-environmental design for people with dementia; 2) to present a systematic process for the planning, programming, and design of environments for people with dementia; and 3) to illustrate this process by the planning, programming, and design of a model 50 person residential facility. This project was sponsored by Helen Daniel Bader, Milwaukee.

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Related Publications:

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Environments for people with dementia: Case studies. (1988). Cohen, U., Weisman, G., Ray, K., Rand, J., & Toyne, R. Washington, D.C.: Health Facilities Research Program, AIA/ACSA Council on Architectural Research.

Environments for people with dementia: Design guide. (1988). Cohen, U., Weisman, G., Ray, K., Steiner, V., Rand, J., & Toyne, R. Washington, D.C.: Health Facilities Research Program, AIA/ACSA Council on Architectural Research.

Environments for people with dementia: Regulatory analysis. (1990). Cohen, U., Weisman, G., Day, K., & Ray, K. Washington, D.C.: Health Facilities Research Program, AIA/ACSA Council on Architectural Research.

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Holding on to home: Designing environments for people with dementia. (1991). Cohen, U. & Weisman, G. Baltimore, MD: Johns Hopkins University Press.

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PREFACE AND ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

This publication is a direct consequence of the vision and generosity of Helen Daniel Bader. Through her work with people with dementia, Helen Bader came to appreciate the therapeutic role of the designed environment in their care, and to develop strong ideas about the form such settings ought to take. Along with her son David, an alumnus of the School of Architecture and Urban Planning, she enlisted the services of the School to transform her ideas into architectural reality. The resulting applied research project and this publication have two intertwined objectives: 1) to develop both a program and a design for the free-standing 50 person residential environment envisioned by Helen Bader; and 2) to focus, in the programming and design of this facility, on ways in which the micro-environment can support the functional abilities of people with dementia.

These two goals are reflected in the six parts that comprise this publication. Parts 1 and 2 provide a foundation. Previous work linking dementia and design is reviewed and, based upon a conceptual model, a set of therapeutic goals for environments for people with dementia is advanced. Parts 3 and 4 introduce the principles that underlie the design for a model facility for 50 residents presented in Part 5. The publication concludes in Part 6 with a consideration of issues of environmental evaluation.

This publication and the applied research project from which it evolved reflect the contributions of many people. We were pleased to con-

tinue our collaborative relationship with George Meyer, AIA, who took the lead in translating planning and design principles into the design presented in Part 5. Kristen Day played an invaluable role in all phases of the project, gathering, organizing, and analyzing information, as well as preparing material for publication. Gaurie Attanayake, Teet Stumbur, and Somkiet C. Thurmong produced and rendered illustrations and diagrams.

Based upon their own research activities, Margaret Calkins of Heather Hill Inc, in Chardon, Ohio, and Jon Pynoos, of the Andrus Gerontology Center, at the University of Southern California, both contributed much useful information on appropriate design of the micro-environment. As in our past efforts, the Wisconsin Alzheimer's Association freely provided their time and assistance. Finally, the Department of Architecture, the Center for Architecture and Urban Planning Research, and the Graduate School of the University of Wisconsin-Milwaukee provided financial, logistical, and moral support.

Though Helen Bader succumbed to illness before the completion of this project, it is hoped that the process that she initiated will lead to more therapeutic environments for people with dementia. Such settings would be fitting tribute to her concern and commitment.

