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**A STORY OF INNOVATION:  
THE ALEXIAN VILLAGE HEALTH CENTER,  
MILWAUKEE**

**Mark A. Proffitt  
and  
Chen-Jui Yang**

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**Institute on Aging and Environment  
Center for Architecture and Urban Planning Research  
University of Wisconsin-Milwaukee**

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**Abstract**

This monograph is the result of a study at the Alexian Village of Milwaukee, Wisconsin, a Continuing Care Retirement Community, which shows how the quality of its Health Center residents life was improved through manipulation of the physical environment. This monograph set out to achieve four major goals: i) Communicate that an institutional setting for older person is the result of interaction of the three dimension of the organization, the individuals and the setting; ii) Demonstrate the role of the physical environment as a therapeutic tool; iii) Demonstrate the importance of the preparatory process in creating a facility for older persons; iv) Demonstrate the rewards of ongoing analysis and evaluation. It is hoped that this story of innovation center will encourage others to consider all the factors and be prepared to make a commitment to provide a true therapeutic environment for the elderly.

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**Contemporary environments for people with dementia.** (1993). Cohen, U., & Day, K. Baltimore, MD: Johns Hopkins University Press.

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