Dignity, Design, Dementia: dementia related design and the built environment

Chris Lynch
Deputy CEO, Director of Policy, Communications & Publications
About ADI

• Established in 1984

• Umbrella organisation of Alzheimer and dementia associations in 120 countries around the world - 102 full members associations and federations, and 18 in the development programme

• Official relations with World health Organization regional bodies

• Promoter of World Alzheimer’s Month

• Publisher of the World Alzheimer Report and others

Our vision is prevention, care and inclusion today, and cure tomorrow
“It took more than three decades of championing the principles of environmental design for dementia and developing the research evidence base on how the physical environment can support the independence and wellbeing of people with dementia, to reach a point where cognitively supportive design should be the default requirement for new and existing long term residential care facilities”.

“It has taken a fraction of that time for an emerging coronavirus to displace concern with residents’ lived experience in favour of strict transmission and infection control measures, forcing a return to more institutionalised and medicalised environments and care practices”.

Long term care & the pandemic
We must do more to protect people with dementia

No group has been harder hit by the coronavirus pandemic than people living with dementia.

They account for a staggering two-thirds of the nearly 9,000 COVID-19 deaths in Canada. **Here’s the math:** Eighty per cent of COVID-19 deaths occurred in long-term care and 80 per cent of long-term care residents have dementia.
Discharge of hospital patients to care homes
Environmental designers, care providers and care managers all urgently need to respond to the changing context of long term care precipitated by COVID-19, and that the challenge in future will be to design settings which can be dynamically adapted to respond to novel infectious agents and aid infection control whilst also providing the levels of stimulus, activity and interaction necessary to allow residents to live well.
Architects, designers, academics, long term care providers, residents and carers need to come together and take up the challenge of developing evidence-based modifications and designing long term care facilities which:

1. reduce the risk of COVID-19 disease transmission and/or improve infection control for residents, staff and visitors – where possible without excessive negative impact on other areas of resident wellbeing
2. incorporate dementia design principles to support and enable long-term care residents to maintain existing capabilities and enjoy their best possible lived experience of care; and

3. are capable of being adapted to rapidly changing levels of threat from coronavirus and/or other future emerging infectious agents in ways which, in every configuration, maintain the opportunities for stimulation through activity and social interaction that are critical to residents’ wellbeing and quality of life
Download the World Alzheimer Report: Dignity, Design, Dementia

www.alzint.org/resource/world-alzheimer-report-2020/

THANK YOU.

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