INFILLING THE AGING
restoring a lost demographic to Seattle’s Belltown Neighborhood
Aging in Belltown makes sense. An abundance of amenities and residences within walking distance make this neighborhood easily accessible, even as driving becomes a challenge.

Since normality of daily life is not tied to a vehicle, residents of Belltown can avoid the sharp decline in freedom caused by the loss of a driver's license.
Glazing details that promote autonomy: the undulation of the glass within the units allow for a greater field of view than typical perpendicular glazing. Not only are views increased up and down, but also side to side.

Even from a seated position, residents can visually engage with the street, sky, and sun.
The Belltown neighborhood is home to about 2% of Seattle’s residents (nearly 12,000 people) and boasts one of the highest neighborhood population densities in Seattle. 85% of people living in Belltown are between the ages of 18 and 65. Only about 2% of the population is younger than age 18 and 13% of the population is older than age 65. Because of these tilted demographics, this community will be hit especially hard by the effects of the baby boom generation. 300 Belltown residents will turn 65 every year for the next 30 years. Only 275 beds are dedicated for elderly individuals in the neighborhood — presenting a significant challenge for residents who prefer to age-in-place.

This proposal will allow those residents to live in close proximity to family and life-long friends—helping to maintain social networks that are often strained by the decision to re-locate to long term care facilities.

For the Individual.
For the Family.
For the City.

Integrating care-based facilities into the urban environment has three main advantages. The first is for the individual. A facility located in a walkable urban center near many amenities can keep an individual active in the community much longer as their ability to drive and walk and drive becomes an issue.

The second is for the family and friends of the individual. This type of setting is much more desirable to spend time and interact in. Creating an environment desirable for guests will increase the duration and frequency of their visits, helping diminish the sense of isolation for the resident.

The final reason is for the city itself. Many downtown communities, including Belltown, have a very narrow age demographic. Residents of these communities tend to be adults, ages 25 – 65. Re-introducing the older demographic will promote diversity and stability in these communities.

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In a rainy climate, access to sun is especially desirable. Single loaded corridors ensure all tenants will have access to solar exposure—even those with restricted mobility.

Additionally, since many residents walk as part of exercise routines, single loading creates more inviting space in which to do so.