IN SEARCH OF INDEPENDENCE

PROGRESSION FOR YOUNG ADULTS WITH AUTISM SPECTRUM DISORDERS

"INDIVIDUALS WITH AUTISM DESERVE A POSITIVE DESIGN APPROACH NOT BECAUSE OF THEIR AUTISM, BUT BECAUSE THAT IS HOW EVERYONE SHOULD BE TREATED."

- Christopher N. Henry

WHAT ARE AUTISM SPECTRUM DISORDERS?

Autism Spectrum Disorders (ASD) affect an estimated 1 in 50 children. The Centers for Disease Control and Prevention officially estimating that Autism Spectrum Disorders (ASD) affect an estimated 1 in 68 children, a number that has tripled over the last decade. However, recent government surveys of parents suggest that the number sampled is closer to 1 in 45. ASD causes include autism, Asperger Syndrome, and high-functioning autism. The two most commonly associated symptoms involve social interaction and communication skills. ASD varies depending on the person, with some instances being more severe than others, but impairments are abnormal. Impaired social interaction, difficulty in communication skills, and overloading of sensory information are symptoms of ASD. The Social Communication Checklist (SCHILD) outlines seven issues that she found affect positive behavior and skill development in users with autism and ASD:

1. ROBUSTNESS
2. SPATIAL SEQUENCING
3. ESCAPE SPACES
4. ACoustics
5. TRANSITION SPACES
6. SENSORY ZONING
7. SAFETY

INCORPORATING THE DESIGN PRINCIPLES

The concept of residential building focuses on specific separate spaces that divide the spectrum into separate rooms and areas. By making the transition units along the axis, residents can adjust to their needs by making use of the layout for various uses and maintaining control over space. The transition units along the axis, such as preparing meals, studying and socializing, create a moment of privacy before the transition outside or into the high activity spaces, such as the kitchen and common space. The staff office, mechanical, and laundry spaces were located on the middle of the design to help mitigate noise and distractions. It is not realistic to believe that the behavior and movements from ASD can be expected, and each of us has a unique way to live in a world that has many sensory issues. A moment of isolation and space is how children, but smaller ones do it too.

RESIDENTIAL FLOOR PLAN

3244 SQ. FT.

RESIDENTIAL ROOF PLAN

DESIGN LAYOUT

Three spaces of the residential building focus on specific separate spaces that divide the spectrum into separate rooms and areas. By making the transition units along the axis, residents can adjust to their needs by making use of the layout for various uses and maintaining control over space. The transition units along the axis, such as preparing meals, studying and socializing, create a moment of privacy before the transition outside or into the high activity spaces, such as the kitchen and common space. The staff office, mechanical, and laundry spaces were located on the middle of the design to help mitigate noise and distractions. It is not realistic to believe that the behavior and movements from ASD can be expected, and each of us has a unique way to live in a world that has many sensory issues. A moment of isolation and space is how children, but smaller ones do it too.