The Architecture of Happiness

By Morgan Larson
Initial Thesis Questions

- Can the quality of space; particularly lighting, space (void), and material, have an impact on the quality of life and perception of a Nursing home?
- How may the results of my research redefine the typology and requirements needed programmatically in a Nursing Home facility?
- How might Phenomenology be used in the process of design in order to answer these questions?
Phenomenology

Is the philosophical study of the structure of experience and consciousness.

In its most basic form, phenomenology attempts to create conditions from the objective study of topics usually regarded as subjective: consciousness and the content of conscious experience such as *judgements, perceptions*, and *emotions*. 
The Stanford Encyclopedia of Philosophy says that:

“The central structure of an experience is its intentionality, it's being directed toward something, as it is an experience of or about some object. An experience is directed toward an object by virtue of its content or meaning together with appropriate enabling conditions.”
Elements of Influence
Case Studies

Jewish Museum by Daniel Libeskind
Kolumba Museum by Peter Zumthor
Therme Vals by Peter Zumthor
Home for Senior Citizens by Peter Zumthor
Manuel Ocaña’s Santa Rita Geriatric Center

Minnesota Masonic Home
Lakeside Senior Apartments; Oakland, California
Monteverde Senior Apartments; Orinda, California
Design Excellence for the Homeless at New Carver Apartments; Los Angeles, California
Therme Vals by Peter Zumthor
Santa Rita Geriatric Center by Manuel Ocaña
Nursing Home Research

Quality of Life for Diverse Older Adults in Assisted Living: The Centrality of Control: Three Assisted Living facilities, three focus group interview with tenants at each facility and six interviews with staff at each.

Case Studies:

Friendship Center at Schooley Mountain: follows the progress of incorporation of a childcare facility into the nursing home and the benefits of it to the tenants.

Providence Mount St. Vincent in Seattle: The child care facility was added on the premises to combat the loneliness and boredom the tenants often felt in the nursing facility. Research done by Kumiko Morita and Minako Kobayashi in 2013 suggested that child care within nursing homes is linked to decreases in loneliness, delayed mental decline, lower blood pressure, and reduced risk of disease and death in elders.
Site:
2225 E. Lake Street, Minneapolis
Typology

Assisted Living Facility with a Community Connection

Private:
- 1 Bedroom Apartments: 500 ft²
- 2 Bedroom Apartments: 700 ft²
- Break Out Community Space: (Variable)
- Private gardens/patios: (Variable)

Public/Community:
- Daycare: 1000 ft²
- Wellness Center: 1500 ft²
- Cafe: 1000 ft²
- Community Classrooms: 360 ft²
- Interior Garden/Green Space: (Variable)

Office:
- Security: 200 ft²
- Rentable space (Community offices): 1000 ft²
- Administration offices: 1000 ft²

Health:
- Pharmacy: 300 ft²
- Nurses Offices and Exam Rooms: 1500 ft²
- Spa: }
Green space shared 1/2 one bedroom & 2 bedroom

Green space shared w/ bedroom & 2 bedroom

Community flex room w/ large kitchen + large space
Community space

Community space shared between & 2 bedroom & 1 bedroom

Private bedroom + garden space

Garden space: open, easy to navigate, highly accessible

Evocative qualities:
Some level of awe
Welcoming
Cheerful

Atrium:
Promote health, lower stress
Green way to promote health, lower stress

Garden area around nursing office & pharmacy
For relaxing mood

Garden space between cafe & daycare
Not accessible to cafe, secure play ground for children

Outdoor space for cafe
Preliminary atrium design

Cafe window design
otton idea of insoual evacy

SCTION BLENVATION NORTH SOUTH

Cluster idea Sctions EAST WEST

Tially covered private garden

Ex NOT above
The Current Iteration...
Atrium
Apartment