

THE IMPACT OF AGED PEOPLE AND DEMENTIA FRIENDLY ENVIRONMENTS IN USERS' SOCIO-ECONOMIC INCLUSIVENESS

METHODOLOGY

DEMENTIA ACTION ALLIANCE SERVICE USER REFERENCE FORUM LJMU PROFESSIONALS

LITERATURE REVIEW

The study starts from an explorative, analytical approach based on an empirical literature review in order to establish the state of the art in contemporary social and economic challenges focusing on the issue of ageing populations and design for dementia at different scales.

THINKING

It aims to reveal the conceptual design process adopted behind a case study and to discover patterns for future development of the designers' role in a design process. Interviews and semi-structured questionnaires to designers who were involved in the design process. In particular, interviews and questionnaires will investigate the function of conceptual design process related to residents' involvement in it.

MAKING

It aims to describe the current environmental settings and how the context affects the proposed conceptual design. The case study visit is a key tool for the analysis that will provide video and photo archives. They will describe the relationship between the built (indoor and outdoor space) and the surrounding environment and the interior space. Attention will be put on aspects which influence the residents' sensorial experience such as the "privacy gradient", the use of natural light, and "the hard and soft areas".

LIVING

It aims to interpret architectural and urban projects through users, workers and managers so people who interact with the built environments. The researcher observes, comprehends and describes directly the relationships between a case study, its inhabitants, and the surrounding community through behavioral mappings and interviews and semi-structured questionnaires to residents, workers, and managers.

POST - FIELDWORK STUDY AND UNDERSTANDING

The production of further materials such as graphic-visual representations of information, data or knowledge, conceptual schemes, analytical drawings and interpretation of terrestrial photography (Simpson, 2015) extend the analysis of each case. Additionally, a central role is represented by a use of case studies' physical models which constitute a tool that allows the researchers to physically face design choices.

DEVELOPMENT OF RECOMANDATION FOR POLICY AND PROFESSIONALS

The aim of this thesis is to document these phenomena and provide an innovative and comprehensive thinking about architecture and urbanism (Flick, 2011) that has emerged from a specific people-based evaluation tool adopted here in order to convert what has been until now a social - healthcare services (elderly care services) in incubator of social enterprises.

DISSIMINATION OF KNOWLEDGE AND EXCHANGE

THINKING
MAKING
LIVING

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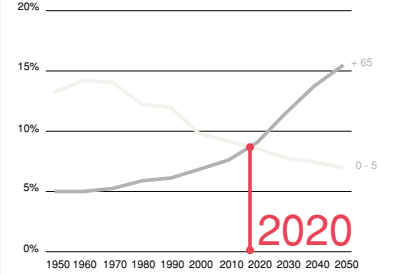
BACKGROUND

One of the aspect that characterises this century is a new demographic setting. In particular, achievements such a better healthcare, education beside an improved economic scenario drove to a reduction of the infant mortality, infertility rate and an increased number of younger - adults living longer (Arup, 2015). In the 1950, only the 7.7 % of the population was 65 or older and 1% was older than 80%. By the 2050, 25.1 % of the world population will be over 65 years old (OECD, 2015). Additionally, an interest and concern for people with dementia which occurs in a working age have dramatically increased (Hayo, 2015) due to a postponed retirement age and worldwide dementia cases will likely grow significantly over the next 40 years because of increasing life expectancies and the aging of populations worldwide (Langa, 2015).

The role of the built environment, both at the architectural and urban scale, is to transform those challenges in opportunities.

GLOBAL TREND +65

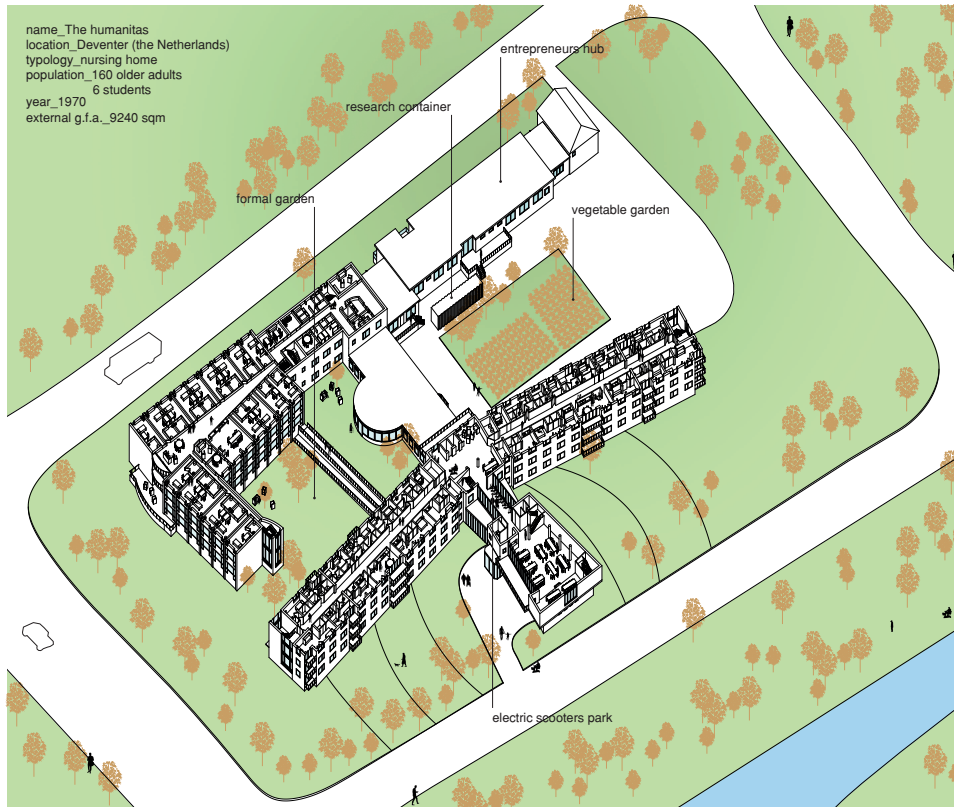
© UN World Population Prospect, 2012



QUESTION

Aware of the described context the thesis is based on the following question:
If the new socio-demographic category emerged in the most developed eastern and western countries - the 'Third - Age' (Laslett, 1989) - is already and will be ageing differently (Huber, 2008); such as an increasing percentage of older adults with early stages of dementia. Do the existing urban and architectural correlates allow them to still be active economic and social actors?

CASE STUDY



CONCLUSION

Since 2012, the nursing home "The Humanitas" in Deventer (The Netherlands) proposes an intergenerational experience between 50 older adults with dementia, 80 people with severe physical suffering, 20 people with social difficulties, 10 people in a short stay for recovery whose average age is 85 years old; and 6 university students from different faculties whose average age is 25 years old. The idea came out after a shortage of human and economic resources of the facility, so the nursing home was no longer able to provide a proper care service to its residents. In this model, the CEO affirms, there is a huge social return on investment (Spikes, 2016). It is able to slow down the mental decline, to avoid depression and to reduce blood pressure when too high (Del Re, 2017). Additionally, the model fights the social isolation of older adults which has detrimental effects on health (De Melker and Saltzman, 2017). On the other side, it proposes a solution to the housing and financial problem of the students (Spikes, 2016). Therefore, "the Humanitas" is an expression of a design that positively impacts on the local community (Miller, and Hal, 2013) and a design which is no longer a product of a consumer society (Dunne and Raby, 2013). The building, built at the end of the 1960s, has a spatial structure that directly influences and is influenced by people activities and wellbeing. This spatial structure is defined as 'social archetypes' and, will be at the base of new architectural and urban typologies able to host a layered care concept where different subjects are involved (WHO, 2012).

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