Biophilic design patterns and universal design principles application in the long-term residential care centers for the elderly

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Abstract:

The number of elder people living with dementia and related cognitive disorders is predicted to increase dramatically in the coming years. As a consequence, the need is increasing for appropriately designed long-term care (LTC) environments and design guidelines for these settings. This investigation presents the findings of a broad literature review on biophilic and universal design and their application on LTC. Biophilic and universal design can reduce stress, enhance creativity and clarity of thought, improve our wellbeing and expedite healing; as the world population continues to urbanize these qualities are ever more important. Theorists, research scientists, and design practitioners have been working for decades to define aspects of nature that most impact our satisfaction with the built environment. "14 Patterns of Biophilic Design" and 7 principles of universal design articulates the relationships between nature, human biology and the design of the built environment so that we may experience the human benefits of biophilia and universal design in our design applications. Biophilia in Context looks as the evolution of biophilic design in architecture and planning and presents a framework for relating the human biological science and nature. Design Considerations explores a sampling of factors (e.g., scale, climate, user demographics) that may influence biophilic and universal design decisions to bring greater clarity to why some interventions are replicable and why others may not be. The Patterns lays out a series of tools for understanding design opportunities, including the roots of the science behind each pattern, then metrics, strategies and considerations for how to use each pattern. This paper moves from research on biophilic responses to design application as a way to effectively enhance health and well-being for elder people and society, and the study of the different patterns of biophilic design and universal design and how to apply them within the centers of elder people, and thus its impact on the psyche, health. Research problem:1-The fast growth of the built environment has caused designers to focus mostly on the function of the building and more recently on the impact of the building on the natural environment. 2- Determine what are the design mechanisms and determinants that help the designer in activating the role of the environment and integration with nature in nursing homes for their important role in the recovery of the elderly and raising the efficiency of their psychological and physical health. Objective: How to benefit from applying the concept of biophilic and universal design trends in interior design, and benefit from them in designing long-term residence centers for the elderly to make a positive impact on their psychological and physical health. Hypotheses: 1-The application of the concept of biophilic and universal design in the residence centers for the elderly reflects positively on their mental and physical health. 2-The application of the concept of biophilic and universal design in the residence centers for the elderly increases their communication with the surrounding environment and harmony with it. Methodology: 1-The descriptive analytical approach: through a definition of biophilic design patterns and universal design and their determinants and how to apply them in residential centers for the elderly. 2- Analytic approach :through the analysis of an example of elder people center achieving biophilic and universal design.

Keywords:

Biophilic design, longterm residential care centers, universal design

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Introduction Biophilic design reduce stress, It clarify the idea	and enhances creativity, this is what theorists and research scientists have reached and practitioners of
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biophilic design and with the spread of diseases and stress recently studies were directed to solve these problems by providing opportunities for people to live in healthy spaces be less stressful and enjoy greater well-being for its users, Previous studies on elder people's growth and development showed that natural elements have positive effects on elder people by bringing mental and physical changes for them in various aspects, which helps them become healthier and happier, and here comes the role of nature-loving design, as "biophilia" is the innate biological connection of man with nature, therefore, it was necessary to study the different patterns of biophilic and universal design and their role in improving public health, thinking and creativity of space users.

It stands to reason that long-term care (LTC) environments for the aged, including those designed for persons with dementia, a condition that results in significantly diminished cognitive and physical functioning, should be designed, planned and built to promote occupants' wellbeing and enjoyment of this stage of life to the fullest extent. The majority of LTC environments are not explicitly designed from the standpoint of facilitating meaningful person-nature connectivity. Biophilia is defined as people's innate affinity to other forms of life, and the natural world; ^(3-p21)

The biophilic design states that space has a healing effect on people, and it is a design principle that has a psychological, physiological and social improvement effect with studies put forward by various fields of researchers. Although several theories have been within biophilic design discourse, Browning's 14 biophilic design principle is suitable for the research because of its more precise and applicable parameters in the design process. (2-p167)

Universal Design Universal design (UD) is introduced as a reaction to shaping design according society's principles to majority perception. While the majority is perceived as society's usual standards, the group that does not comply with this standard is excluded from the potential user category. However, even if only the life stages of humanity are considered, humans will not remain in a fixed physical condition; it has not beenevaluated in a single standard in childhood, youth and old age. The universal design is understood as a specific design solution for a specific group with a disability issue; however, it includes every phase of design and life stages; it leads to intelligent solutions for all generations and areas. Thus, universal design evaluates society as a single society with different physical conditions, needs, and various characteristics. (3-p21)

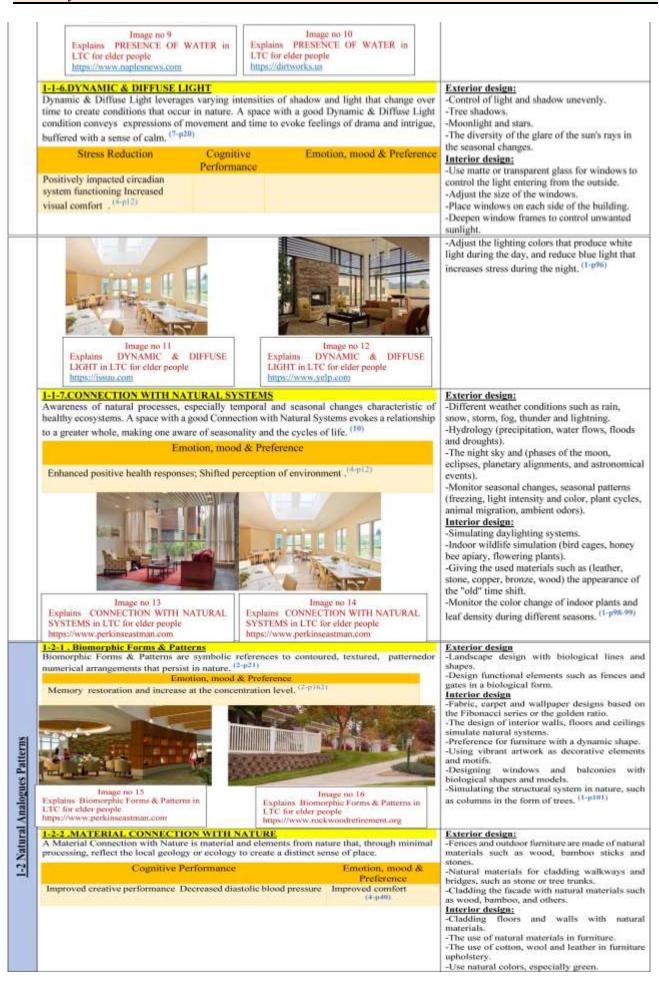
There is a need to compile design solutions that increase the life comfort of users. For this reason, examining the biophilic design and universal design principles together creates accessible, easily usable solutions for elderly nursing homes, which do not reduce the quality of life but increase them. ^(5-p22)

First: The theoretical framework
1-Patterns of Biophilic design ;

	Desi	ription , effect on health and	f examples	-How to apply it within long-term residential care centers for elder people
A vis natur	e throughout the statio	or a living system . Ensure v n complexes in preference to	risual access to real presentations of o simulated nature and non-nature ral processes, and nature, ^{(94)(20),374)} Emotion, mood & Preference	Exterior design: - Provide vegetation as much as possible especially trees. - Design with flexible lines for letters, shapes and formations instead of sharp lines.
L	owered heart rate and blood pressure	Improved mental engagemen attentiveness		 Using natural materials such as stones, wood bamboo and others. Interior design:
1-1 Prior	Image Explains visual co LTC for elder people http://innovation.sem	ntact with nature in Explained Expla	Image no 2 ins visual contact with nature in LTC for people //www.hdenetwork.com	 Place the plant component as possible within the center. Vertical green walls, natural fish ponds, Establishment of water fountains. Interest in raising some pets. The relationship between interior and exterior design: Enlarge window spaces as much as possible. Extension of window sills to the floor. Extending windows to the ceiling. Providing the centers with openings for the ceilings. ^(1-p85)
tissue "audi to na Stre	ity is given to the sounds e sounds of nature, the ro e contacts that simulate itory, olfactory, haptic, o ture, living systems or no ss Reduction	elease of natural plant oils usin the contacts of natural raw is r gustatory stimuli that engend atural processes." (8-p10) Cognitive Performance	ivilization through digital simulation ag mechanical means, and the use of materials this pattern is defined as er a deliberate and positive reference Emotion, mood & Preference	External design: -Hear the sounds of water fountains and waterfalls, wind and rain. -The sounds of tweeting and chirping of birds and birds. -Smell the scents of flowers and plants. -Touch different cultivated plants. -Taste the fruits from the trees grown.
	luced stress hormone systolic blood pressure		Perceived improvements in tranquility and mental health (13)	Interior design: -Touching potted plants, -Touching natural materials.











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2.The main principles of universal design: ^(5-p41-45)

Table :2 Illustrates patterns of universal design							
Description :	and examples	<u>-How to apply it within</u> <u>long-term residential care</u> <u>centers for elder people</u>					
2-1 Equitable use: A design should be usable by man	y groups of society. Image no 29 Explains The facility entrances with ramps or without a level difference in LTC for elder people ttns://www.kkstokvo.co.in	The design must be facilitating the same means used for all groups. The designs requires security , privacy and safety for all users. The designs should be attractive for all visitors.					
2-2Flexibility in use:		The design must be user-					
A design must be usable b capabilities.	y users with many individual Image no 30 Explains The bars at the bathroom provides ailernative usages for the users in LTC for elder people https://www.archdaily.com	friendly usable in more than one condition. The design must have flexibility for users with some unconventional ways.					



2-3 Simple and intuitive use:	The designs is easily
This means that the design is ,understandable, easy and reviewed in	understood.
terms of user experiences and capabilities.	The designs must adapt to
Image no 31 Explains The user must understand the usage without intense explanations. The signs with images instead of words. in LTC for elder people	all users capabilities. The designs provide various language skills and unique fonts. Important information is placed in strategic places.
2-4 Perceptible information:	Important information is easy
Which means that a product and place must be equipped with supporting information vital for all users by adjusting users capabilities .	to understand read , and provides clear instructions quickly according to users various abilities.
Image no 32 Explains Using the contrast of colors. in LTC for elder people https://www.archdaily.com	The use of different types of markings (text,textures images ,) must contain clear information. Contrasting colors are used to distinguish important information from its surroundings.
2-5 Tolerance for error :	Providing safe alert
Means minimizing dangers and errors that can be detrimened.	information when a feature
Image no 33 Explains Non -slip and soft floor covering materials to protect users from possible damage in LTC for elder people	fails. Arranging the elements to reduce hazards and errors. Facilitating safe and precise hazard warning information. Anticipating the loss of awareness in every situation.
2-6 Low physical effort :	The design can be used in
A design must be able to be used efficiently and comfortably and can reduce the occurrence of accidents.	a normal body position. The design can be used in one movement without repetition and is not difficult to use.
Image no 34 Explains Using automatic doors leads to minimize physical effort for the users in LTC for elder people	The design must accommodate unusual ways.
2-7 Size and space for approach and ues:	Providing precise forms
The spaces size should consider approaches to the users size ,movement., and posture .	and boundaries of each design. Creating comfortable shapes for the users standing and sitting. Paying attention to

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Image no 35 Explains Kitchen countertop or information desk countertop multilevel design in LTC for elder people https://www.ispaceoffice.c om		
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<u>Second: Analytical framework</u> Designing of assisted living facility through biophilic and universal design principles: rockwood retirement south hill :

Rockwood Retirement is located in Spokane, Washington, and was established in the 1960s. The renovation includes 62 living units, an auditorium that allows concerts, a heated pool, fitness center, bistro and library. The design is created considering the biophilic principles and universal design.. The community has a Live-well program that includes seven patterns: a healthy mind and body, social connections, lifelong learning, financial well-being, mindfulness, entertainment and fun. and spirituality. There designed four different dining alternatives within these principles: an outdoor dining area, an indoor swimming pool, a ballroom,, a business and arts center, a wellness center, and a library. Moreover, the residents have an opportunity at the garden to plant and gardening. The building has a view of forests, mountains, and the Spokane River. The renovated design is also inspired by the river, the curvilinear corridor that

connects the amenity areas designed like the flowing river.

_The Table below shows that the Rockwood Retirement has fourteen patterns of biophilic design examples in the facility. There is a vast green courtyard near the forest, and it allows the residents even to view the deers near the facility; also, the facility is pet friendly, which allows creating a nonvisual connection for the residents with the haptic experiences as petting, touching, and sharing a feeling with the animals. The materials' usage is mimicking nature with their colors and forms. For instance, the interior corridors have a flowing form mimicking the Spokane River near the facility; the design helps to provide the mystery in the environment; the user is curious about the areas that do not remain in their perspective. The facility has wide windows that open and close by user choice, These broad and operable windows provide diffused and dynamic lights to the interior and create airflow and thermal control and provide a wide perspective for the viewers that maintains the prospect pattern. The facility meets the universal design criteria to a great extent.

Biophilic pattern	Image	Equitable use	Flexibility in use	Simple and intuitive use	Perceptible information	r	Low physical effort	pace ach
visual connection with nature		•	•	•	•	•	•	•
non -visual connectioun wiith nature		•	•	•	•	•	•	•

Table :3 The evaluation of universal design and biophilic design criteria in Rockwood Retirement South Hill



non rythmic	•	•	•	•	•	•	•
sensory stimuli							
thermal and airflow variability	•	•	•	•	•	•	•
presence of water	•	•	•	•	•	•	•
dynamic and diffuse light	•	•	•	•	•	•	•
connection with natural systems	•	0	0	0	0	0	Ο
biomorphic forms and patterns	•	•	•	•	•	•	•
material connection with nature	•	•	•	•	•	•	•
complexity and order	•	•	•	•	•	•	•

prospect	•	•	•	•	•	•	•
refuge	•	•	•	•	•	•	•
mystery	•	•	•	•	•	•	•
Risk peril	•	•	•	•	0	•	•

• satisfying the pattern onot satisfying the pattern O not possible to evaluate

Analytic framework results:

- 1. The Rockwood Retirement South Hill is a convenient resource for examining the principles of universal and biophilic design. Table 3 shows that the design mostly meets the requirements of the patterns. The framework table presents for the assisted living facilities to be designed in the future or renovated and served as a guidebook to evaluate the design quality.
- 2. The study concludes that resulted from the previous studies on their effects, biophilic design and universal design principles are beneficial theories and design strategies for assisted living facilities; by considering the universal design criteria, designs put the elderly in a suitable and physically and psychologically friendly environment.
- 3. The facility meets the universal design criteria to a great extent. The facility's entrance is designed without a level difference and steps, and usage of automatic doors satisfies the equitable use and low physical effect patterns in UD. Generally, soft materials like carpet covering are used on the floors that prevent slipping and minimize the damage in case of

any falling cases, which meets the tolerance for error principle. Generally, the facility uses natural colors, but the colors used red and green at the corridors cause awareness of the residents' location and ease the wayfinding. The design provides the perceptible information pattern.

Results:

- 1. Nature in the Space Patterns refers to adding natural elements into the built environment. This is perhaps the easiest and cheapest way to introduce Biophilia to the elderly living space and gives people instant access to all the feel good associations of biophilia. Views to nature from the inside of the building, natural light, and direct access to nature like courtyards, gardens and roof terraces planted with greenery, also fall into this category. These direct connections to nature have the strongest impact on us as humans.
- 2. Natural Analogues Patterns refers to man-made elements that mimic nature. Artificial plants, preserved moss walls, representational artwork, patterns and architecture that evoke nature are all examples of natural analogues. Furniture with organic rather than geometric shapes.



Woodgrain and building materials mimicking shells and leaves used in interior of exterior decoration are all excellent illustrations of the use of natural analogues.

- 3. Nature of the Space Patterns refers to the physiological way in which space planning and architectural design affect our human responses and feelings.
- 4. The necessity of the interaction of the elderly with nature made it necessary to search for methods of designing the natural relations of the elderly in the inner space.
- 5. Universal design is a design principle that is suitable for appealing to as much wider society as possible to offer everyone equal opportunities, knowing the differences of everyone, and ensuring the use equally.
- **6.** Biophilic and universal design criteria made the designed spaces suitable for the elderly in physiological, psychological, and sociological ways and made them feel at home and safe.

Recommendations:

We recommend designers through associations and research centers to:

- 1. Finding a way to maximize the external natural ecosystem in the internal environment when designing residence centers for the elderly for long periods.
- 2. Linking the interior design of the residence centers for the elderly with the elements of the natural environment by applying some of the biophilic design and universal design patterns to improve the psychological and physical health of the elderly and their connection to the void.

We recommend agencies interested in the elderly to:

Applying the concept of biophilic design and universal design in architecture and interior design in spaces for the elderly because it helps in attachment to the internal environment and enhances their mental and physical health.

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