

DESIGNING FOR DEMENTIA

How do you design a senior living facility to best accommodate memory care residents?



PERSONAL ROOMS

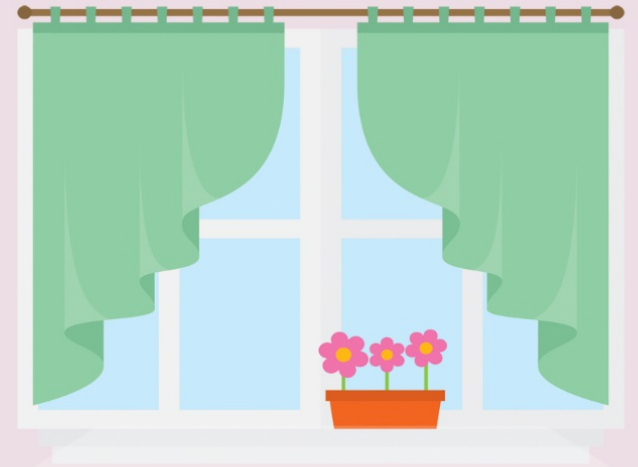
Rooms should be painted in a neutral color palette to accommodate for personalization, have well-placed task lighting, shelf space for personal items and be free from outside noise or distractions.

Even and consistent lighting will help residents move more easily throughout a space. Making sure lights are evenly spaced, and are providing the right amount of light, is important.

COMMON SPACES

Multipurpose rooms can cause confusion, so creating designated zones for conversation, cooking or watching television is ideal. The furnishings should be easily movable and the rooms should have ample natural lighting.

Interior layouts should be furnished similarly to a traditional home, minimizing features that resemble a hospital or hotel. It is important to use contrasting materials between floor and wall surfaces.



RESIDENTIAL QUALITIES

"Home-like" exteriors are favorable, as they replicate the look and feel of a residential home.

Interior layouts should be furnished similarly to a traditional home, minimizing features that resemble a hospital or hotel.

View of the outdoors can offer temporal orientation, from seeing what time of day it is by the quality of light to the seasonal changes evidenced by the flora and weather.

OUTDOOR ELEMENTS

Serene outdoor environment are preferred, as they will help avoid confusion, disorientation and anxiety.

Incorporating a garden into a facility for residents to use helps encourage social interaction, friendship and a happier mental state.

Perimeter fencing should be "camouflaged" with landscape design to not attract attention from residents. Construct walking paths that are continuous and loop back to building entrances.

