

Thesis title	Nursing home in Thai socioeconomic : A case study of its physical environmental aspects toward and interior architectural design guideline
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Year	1977

### ABSTRACT

This research aimed to examine the physical and environmental needs of the elderly's dwelling conditions, in order to derive a set of interior criterion and standard for nursing home design. Contextually, it dealt with issues of space planning, physical built environment, and safety measures for nursing home in a Thai socio-cultural setting.

The research procedure comprised four stages. First, it explored the relevant literature and theories, followed by a preliminary observation at some nursing home in Bangkok to establish variables and research methodologies involved. Second, it took a post occupancy evaluation approach to investigate three different nursing homes in Bangkok. Each of the nursing home provided distinctive type and level of elderly cares. Samples were drawn from a population of nursing homes in Bangkok and its vicinity. The primary units of investigation were categorized by their types of operators--private enterprises, public services, and non-profit organizations. Each of the three samples for case studies represented one of the three groups of services. In addition, the three samples also portrayed two classes of charged services--costly services and economical services with minimal

or no charge. The three samples were Ban Bangkae Nursing Home, Mittrapab Songkroh Foundation (nursing home for women), and Kluynamtai II Hospital. Structured interview, indepth interview, unobtrusive observations, and area mappings were techniques which were applied in the data collecting process.

Third, Statistical Package for Social Science (SPSS) was utilized to analyze the gathered data. Descriptive and correlative statistics were employed to reveal the linkages of emotional, spatial, and behavioral variables.

The study found that nursing home design must provide sufficient privacy and unambiguous territoriality for the elderly, in order to assist interaction among dwellers and to facilitate delightful coresidency within a common facility. The spatial arrangements for different kinds of activities such as circulating, sleeping, bathing, dining, relaxing, and recreation must be appropriately arranged according to the elderly's physical and emotional limitations. Since sense of space was found highly correlated with other aspects of sensory, the over all design of the built environment must take into account requirements such as sufficient amount of day light, adequate ventilation, distance from noise and odor disturbance. Examples of such annoyances are heavy traffic, schools, commercial centers, and densely populated area. Air conditioning was highly recommended for nursing home in tropical climate, especially in areas where high level of external noise was unavoidable such as within the CBD areas. Finally, the study also found that personal and physical safety measures were equally important, which elements aided the elderly's physical and emotional comfort.

In the final stage of the research, design criterion were derived from the analysis of data and two design prototype were proposed.