

Abstract

The aim of this study is to investigate area characteristics and usage behavior of the elderly in kitchen areas to discover satisfaction of the elderly on physical patterns according to their cooking behavior.

Because of change in population structure, the number of the elderly gradually increase while their descendants cannot fully support the elderly in their family. The elderly must be sometimes alone and self-care. Moreover, the kitchen is the place where accidents occur frequently secondly, while a bathroom is the most frequent accident occurrence place (Susan E. Carter, 1997). Furthermore, the studies on the relationship of the kitchen and the elderly are bare. Hence the most appropriate characteristics for the elderly should be investigated.

This study focuses on the kitchen area in single houses. The variables to be studied are social aspect, area characteristics and usage behavior of the elderly, each of which is described in detail as follows: (1) the social aspect contains sex, age, number of dwellers, and time of use (2) the area characteristics are kitchen layouts, texture, area per person, and reaching distance, and (3) the behavior aspect involves usage of tools and furniture relating to preparing, cooking, cleaning, and storing.

We conducted this study using a qualitative data collection approach in 12 single houses with 50-60 square wa and 4-6 million Baht. Elementary data collection was done by deeply interviewing for satisfaction and unsatisfaction combined with monitoring surrounding and cooking behaviors of the sample elderlies in the kitchen. The collected data were then statistically analyzed by average satisfaction value, frequency of behavior sequences. Next, the obtained results were analyzed by Architecture principles. Finally the guideline of kitchen design for the elderly in the house were concluded.