

ABSTRACT

POSTOCCUPANCY EVALUATION OF ALZHEIMER'S FACILITIES IN THE BAY AREA, CALIFORNIA

The main aim of this research was to evaluate the existing design of Alzheimer's care units. The focus of this evaluation was on the design of two areas: wandering paths and activity areas. Four Alzheimer's care units were selected for this study from the Bay Area, California. Postoccupancy Evaluation was employed for the assessment of the existing design of the wandering paths and the activity areas. Research methods included behavioral observations, visual analysis, and survey questionnaires. Four study sites were compared for the design of the wandering paths and the activity areas by plotting evaluation graphs and tables. Results of the study reflected the level of distracting and therapeutic elements in the design of the activity areas and the wandering paths. Based on the findings of the Postoccupancy Evaluation, recommendations were made to improve the existing design of activity areas and wandering paths at the four study sites.

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May 2009