

HARRINGTON

COLLEGE OF DESIGN

Stratifications

Dan Harper
Aaron Gilbert

Dan started his initial designs with the concept of “East Meets West.” Aaron’s design was inspired by the “Cornucopia.” The designs came together as “Stratifications.”

Dan:

East Meets West - Traditional Spaces, Convertible Places

Combining the cultural conventions of both the East and the West, the design for this senior living apartment embraces tradition and innovation alike.

Today’s senior has lived during a time of prosperity and opportunity as well as thrift and economy. The concept of ‘Home’ for them incorporates diverse needs and wants:

Needs

Affordable
Flexible
Efficient
Accessible

Wants

Storage
Personality
Light
Permanence

Typically, these may seem to be polar opposites:

How does one create ample storage in a small footprint?

Is it possible to create a flexible space while instilling a sense of permanence?

Does wheelchair accessible automatically negate personality?

By blending the concepts of both Eastern philosophies such as compact spaces, convertible millwork, and shoji screens with Western traditions of closet storage, walled spaces, expressive materials and finishes, and furniture that complements personality, it is possible to arrive at a space for long-term living that is responsive to a resident's needs and wants.

Creating a Home is possible.

Inspiration

Model



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Aaron:

The Cornucopia - Maximizing Storage in Three Levels

The elderly have the advantage of rich life experience. As they have passed through life, they have accumulated stories, perspective, and memorabilia. However, often in the senior years, various circumstances can require that an elderly person relocate to smaller quarters. In this design for a small

senior apartment, inspiration is drawn from the concept of a cornucopia. The cornucopia is associated with ripe produce, harvest, and unlimited capacity.

The design of the apartment draws on the cornucopia in terms of storage, repetition of curved elements, and color palate. The overall defining feature of the design is the incorporation of three levels of storage. Upper level storage, especially the attic level, is for items that will rarely be accessed; these are the items that the occupant does not want to part with but does not use on a regular basis. Lower level storage, primarily built in under furniture, is for items that are accessed on an intermittent basis. The main level of storage, in the built-in units at eye level, is for display items and for items that are accessed regularly.

Inspiration

Model

Stratifications – Layered Embraces

In melding our designs, we wanted to capture both the ample storage from the Cornucopia, as well as the flexibility and compactness of East Meets West. The element of the shoji screen, used in Dan's original design, was perfect to allow various configurations of space. It also suggested a diffuse light, which we felt, would be perfect illumination in a space for an elderly resident. We also retained the curved features and three levels of storage from Aaron's design. In combining the design concepts, we shifted to a Japanese Cornucopia. While we did not want the space to feel specifically Japanese, we used this to guide our palettes of colors, materials, and light.

Ultimately, with the millwork and screens as permanent features, each resident could easily customize the space by changing the fabrics of the cushioned seating.

Inspiration



Japanese Cornucopia



Japanese Cherry Branch



Shoji Screen

Palettes



Model

