

# HARRINGTON

## COLLEGE OF DESIGN

### Methodology

#### *Jennifer Lea's Design*

#### *The "Not So Big House"*

The idea here is to utilize Sarah Susanka's "Not So Big House" concepts of Space, Order, and Light to create a personable, open, and flexible space that provides opportunities to tailor the central layout and finishes to fit one's own style and comfort. The idea behind the concept of the "Not So Big House" is to demonstrate that sometimes you can "live large" in a space that may not be as big as you thought you needed.

Smaller living spaces require a more "thoughtful design approach"- regardless if for senior living. Consideration of the actual use/function of the areas, universality/accessibility needs, storage, practicality, as well as the feasibility of the end users possible budget constraints (or lack thereof) all need to be taken into account. In this situation, novelty in concept should be left to the discretion of the actual resident.

The methodology here is to provide some well thought-out fundamentals but still allow for customization by the occupant so they can create their own essence of home. Maximization of light is a core element in layout of the space. The room can be arranged to accommodate different furnishing configurations while many of the built in pieces serve "double duty" and can be utilized for a variety of purposes.

### *Leslie Bowman's Design*

#### *Suite Memory Lane*

The concept for the Catholic Charity renovation is Suite Memory Lane. The basis for the concept is based upon the notion that the elderly love to reminisce the past. I based my design on traditional elements such as built-in shelving, desks and wardrobes. My view is that moving walls/furniture would be difficult and unstable for the elderly. While the concept might be novel and ideal for the smaller space, my view is that they would prefer something more stable and sturdy. Most of this generation grew up with basic and simple things and I intend to bring them back to that. Just like housing used to be.

For the "Suite" part of my design, I created a suite for the bedroom and bathroom area allowing for the luxurious feel of a higher end hotel suite. I transformed the bathtub into a shower allowing for easier access. A shower curtain will be used with no threshold to allow for the fragility and unsteady mobility of some residents. The bed is a built-in which pulls out and locks (See picture). Wardrobes are created in the corridor between the bed and the bathroom to allow for both clothes storage and bathroom storage.

For the "Memory Lane" part of my design, I created built-in shelving and desks which allow for plenty of display. I know when visiting my grandparents or my parent's house, it is full of pictures and knick knacks from travels which are proudly displayed. I believe it gives the resident a sense of comfort to display the things that are near and dear to them. It also allows for stories to be told to visitors. It is easy to strike up conversation about displayed items, allowing the resident to feel special and important. They can walk down "Memory Lane" anytime they choose.

While my design is simple and basic, I believe that it works best for the program at hand. It allows for plenty of storage, for a sense of security as people age and for flexibility. It allows them to change the display items and decorate for the seasons. I believe that this design would also be very budget friendly.

The built-ins and the bed could be easily built by a carpenter which low cost wood. There is plenty of room in the kitchen to cook a holiday dinner or a microwave dinner—it's their choice. It allows the resident to reminisce about the past **and** look forward to the future.

### *Combined Design*

### *Memoirs in Light*

The combined design is to take the two core elements from each design, light and memories. The approach was to use those core ideas and manipulate the design to be a space that was filled with light and would also provide the resident with the ability to make it their own through the display of their life. The other core idea upon combination was the budget. What could we build utilizing donated pieces and staying within the maximum allowed budget?

The kitchen was revised to allow for easier access of with pantries and shelves. The wall separating the kitchen was designed with a transom allowing for light to filter into the bedroom and the bathroom. In addition, the entrance to the bedroom was repositioned to allow for the window from that space to also light the living room space. Built-ins were used for the display of the resident's life and for storage. A memory shelf with a display area above was added in the foyer to allow for ease of storage of mail and other items upon entrance to the residence. In addition, wardrobes used from Leslie's design were combined with Jen's design of the bed creating a more versatile bedding arrangement. The combined design allows for the maximization of light along with the display of the resident's life.

*"Not So Big doesn't necessarily mean small. It means not as big as you thought you needed."  
--Sarah Susanka, author of the "Not So Big" series*