

A study on the relationships between residents' living aspects and constitution of space at group homes for the elderly with dementia

Chief Researcher: Asuka YAMADA (Lecturer, Department of Architecture and Urban Design, College of Science
and Engineering, Ritsumeikan University)

Collaborator: Kazuyuki YAMADA (Department of Architecture, School of Engineering, Nagoya University)

Collaborator: Kyoko IKUTA (Assistant, Graduate School of Engineering, Nagoya University)

Collaborator: Tetsuro YAMASHITA (Associate Professor, Graduate School of Engineering, Nagoya University)

[Synopsis]

Recently group homes for demented elderly people (hereinafter referred as "group homes"), a type of residential care homes for elderly people suffering from dementia, are attracting attention. Group homes are expected to be effective to slow or alleviate the progress of residents' dementia and physical inability, because of the relatively independent living style at small size and homely environment.

Though there is a variety of constitution of space provided among group homes, the relationship between a constitution of space and residents' living aspects, namely, the relationship between private wards and a shared space, or among shared spaces, are not clarified yet. The object of this research study is to clarify the relationship between group home residents' living styles and the constitution of space there, and thus consider what the desirable constitution of space should be offered to group homes.

This study consists of Part I and II.

In Part I, floor plans of group homes by collecting literatures and carrying out questionnaire surveys were firstly demonstrated. Chapter 3 then classified the constitution of space provided at group homes into the "corridor type + mixed type + hall type" and the "integrated type + segment type + division type" from the perspective of the relationship between private wards and a shared space, and among shared spaces. Based on the result thereof, the trends of group home planning were sorted out. In addition, by arranging the result of the questionnaire study, this paper sorted out the merit and demerit answered by managers at group homes that were rebuilt by improvement of general houses. Chapter 4 studied the effects of the constitution of space on the group home residents' selection of the place of staying while giving consideration to their attributions. This was lead by full-day observation researches conducted at six group homes that were rebuilt by improvement of general houses and are of different types of constitution of space. Lastly, Chapter 5 saw the effects of the change of constitution of space on the group home residents' selection of the place of staying by observing the group homes whose constitution of space had changed due to repairs.

Part II examined, based on the observation research at four group homes that were rebuilt by improvement of general houses, what architectural elements, such as the constitution of space and width of shared space, and scales and allocation of furniture, should be, while paying attention to residents' eyes - what they are looking at - and distance with others. Chapter 2 sorted out the residents' living and full-day behavior, and the relationship between the disability degree of ADL or dementia and its influence on behavior. Chapter 3 then classified the residents' behavior into "only conversation," "watch or see," and "inaction," and according to this classification, this paper clarified the characteristics of each type by comparing distance, posture, and eyes with or for others attending there. Chapter 4 suggests, as a conclusion, what space scale and furniture should be provided to decrease inactive state and to promote conversation, and what allocation of residents' sheets should be adopted.