A Colourful Future
The importance of colour in the design of dementia specific residential care

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Psychology of Colour

LESLIE HARRINGTON
PSYCHOLOGY OF COLOR

WITH LESLIE HARRINGTON
Everyone’s sense of HOME can be different
Your Individual Space

HOME is where our story begins...
Shared Spaces
Carmen de Lavallade
ACTRESS, DANCER, CHOREOGRAPHER

Photography by Advanced Style
Debra Rapoport
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Photography by Advanced Style
have fun with colour!

Ilona Royce Smithkin
ARTIST

Photography by Advanced Style
Association with a particular colour through personal experience

The feeling I get when I see red is coloured by my experience - it reminds me of my honeymoon...

Our personal and emotional response to colour varies from person to person.
Colour can affect us very differently as individuals and can have such an impact on how we feel and how we respond.
Universal Meaning of Colour
BLUE

Positive:
cool
refreshing
soothing
peace, calm
tranquility
harmony
lowers blood
pressure
Positive/negative reactions depends on the amount of colour used.
YELLOW

Road signs
Success with Wayfinding
The meaning of white in different cultures
As we age, changes affect our vision and colour perception.

'We’re agreed, then. You call them bluebells and I’ll call them daffodils'
The Ageing Eye

• By age sixty the amount of light entering the eye is reduced by about 1/3

• Perceived brightness or intensity of a colour is affected
The Ageing Eye

The ability to adapt from one level of brightness to another slows, which can strain the eye and disrupt balance.
Yellowing of the Lens

Yellowing can affect the perception of viewed colours. Greens and blues for example are harder to differentiate.
People living with dementia:

1. Impaired depth perception
2. Spatial disorientation
3. Altered colour perception
4. Reduced contrast perception
Contrast is the key to vision:
If there is no contrast objects cannot be easily differentiated
Absolutely Fabulous!
To Summarise:

• Psychology of colour, understanding universal, cultural and individual associations to colour and how can you apply these in an individual or shared sense

• The implications and challenges of an ageing eye

• Contrast – the most powerful tool you can put in your toolbox!
Thank you!

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