

Guest Editorial

Rehabilitation Design

It is with great pleasure that I introduce this special issue of *NeuroRehabilitation* on residential design for persons with neurodisability. I took on this special issue of the journal because I felt it was a very important topic of post acute management of persons with neurodisability regardless of etiology. The field of design for persons with disability related challenges was important to me professionally, in part, because of my own work in post-acute, long term care, and the lack of adequate resources for either reference texts or articles dealing with architectural design issues for persons with neurodisability (aside from those with SDAT). I hope that this special thematic issue of *NeuroRehabilitation* on residential design serves as a “one-stop” resource for individuals interested in serving the housing needs of persons with neurodisability and/or for those making modifications to their own home, either because they have a neurodisability or are taking care of someone with a neurodisability.

The articles in this issue will also serve to inform readers of important web-based resources that can provide further, in-depth knowledge regarding this subject matter. All too often, it had been my experience, not only in the United States but internationally, that post-acute care facilities/residences providing long term care, as well as architects providing design services for families of persons with neurodisability, do not have a full understanding of the relevant design issues necessary to integrate into their plans. Hopefully, this issue of *NeuroRehabilitation* will also serve as a commonly referenced source for architects involved in building design for persons with these types of challenges.

I think we are very fortunate to have secured contributors who are well known within the architectural community for their work in architectural design for special needs populations. Professor Victor Regnier from USC

has contributed an article on “new and emerging building trends” which focuses on European models of design and will likely be of interest to all involved in long term care. Dr. Sharon Joines, from the North Carolina State University, College of Design, has written a nice overview article dealing with the concept of universal design and its application to residential design for persons with neurological disability. She is from Lafayette College. Laura Kiser, OTR and I have written an article providing an overview of practical residential design recommendations for long term neurodisability care following ABI. Dr. Tony Gentry has contributed a very interesting article dealing with “smart homes” which provides a state-of-the-art look at some of the technology current available to facilitate independence in community in a residential setting. Elizabeth Brawley of Design Concepts Unlimited, has authored an article which hopefully will shed light (pun intended) on the topic of lighting design. Dr. Margaret Caukins, of Innovative Designs and Environments for an Aging Society, provides an insightful review of the evidence based literature on long term care design. Lastly, Dr. Sherril York from the National Center on Accessibility at Indiana University shares with us her architectural views on outdoor design relative to accessibility related issues.

We hope that our readers, as well as others who might be interested in the topic of residential design use this issue for the valuable resource that it will surely become.

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