HOME ADAPTATION – AN EXTENSION OF ELDERLY INDEPENDENCE IN
SINGAPORE

by

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Abstract

Home Adaptation for extending the elderly independence in housing apartments is a concept yet
to be thoroughly utilized in Singapore though there is evidence of a need for such a design
concept, in a greying population of land scarce Singapore.

In this study, the writer forwards some arguments, which point to the need for such a concept
development. Studies of this design concept have been made with references to successful
Home Adaptation in the United States and United Kingdom. Desirable adaptive features and
design considerations for Singapore housing apartments have been proposed in this study
according to local building regulations.

The proposed development of Home Adaptation is based on the Universal Design concept and it
includes incorporating features and design considerations, which can assist the elderly as well as
persons facing diminishing abilities in daily activities, to achieve independent living within their
existing housing units.

Universal Design concept is an approach to design that incorporates products and building
features and elements, making housing units usable by more people at little or no extra cost.
Desirable features and design considerations proposed for Home Adaptation are done with the intention of enabling users and professionals to adopt Home Adaptation conveniently within housing apartments in Singapore. The desirable features and design considerations proposed are no means exhaustive, as further studies will be required with the changing needs of society.

Home Adaptation design concept in this study is projected from points of view from both the users as well as professionals involved in planning and designing for the elderly housing. With this study, users and professionals will have a clearer understanding of Home Adaptation and measures used in this design concept for extending the elderly independence in Singapore.

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