Abstract

Singapore, like many other developed nations, is facing the issue of a maturing population. Its elderly population is expected to increase from current 8% to 25% in year 2030. They are likely to be better educated and have longer life spans. The country's political stability has allowed for the development of CPF (Central Provident Fund) saving programme - for employed individuals to ensure that they maintain financial independence for their retirement years. However, with age physical mobility is reduced and health deterioration becomes an issue. Thus, this group of people is known as the Third Age.

The current housing stock in Singapore is unable to cope with the growing housing needs of the elderly. Special attention is needed in the areas of barrier-free design, familiarity and security, and that of social interaction with the mainstream society.

The aim of this thesis is to provide an environment where autonomy is maximised in the elderly's daily living. It works on the notion of 'aging-in-place' where it is assumed that many people prefer to stay in the same community for as long as possible. It also aims to bring about the awareness of the need of the elderly to be integrated with the community in general. Different levels of interaction between the privacy of their homes and the public spaces, and the sequential experience of transition from private to public, are important areas of investigation in the project. These issues are to be addressed right at the conceptual stage of design and it begs to differ from projects that have 'add-on' facilities or mechanisms.