ABSTRACT

In today’s Singapore, approximately 9.7% of the population or 284,000 citizens are the elderly above sixty years old. It is expected that by the year 2030, one in every four Singaporeans will be over 60 years old. The sheer number of the aged people in the future has great implication on the accommodation for the elderly. There is an increasing number of elderly who prefer to live on their own with their spouse. This is especially so among the younger elderly who are becoming increasingly financially independent from their children.

In Singapore, the only form of special housing for the elderly are either private nursing homes or sheltered homes run by voluntary welfare organisations. Many of these homes are not designed and built with the needs of the elderly in mind. There is a need for a housing form for the majority of the elderly who are middle income earners and wish to live independently. A case study of a HDB project to install fixtures and fittings to one room rental flats show that it is possible to improve public housing to make them to be suitable for independent elderly living. A survey of people above the age of 45 years old shows that most respondents, especially the younger respondents, view that with improvement to their flats, it is possible to make their flats more suitable for elderly living. The younger respondents are also willing to pay for the improvement works. The needs of these young elderly should be recognised and suitable scheme can be implemented to meet their needs.