

RESEARCH THEME

XLI Cycle – a.y. 2025/2026

Title of the doctoral research Ageing-Inclusive Placemaking Practices to Re-think Senior Living Facilities

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Abstract

The global demographic shift towards an ageing population presents significant challenges and opportunities, particularly in how we design and operate senior housing facilities. As people grow older, their needs become increasingly complex, extending far beyond physical health to include social interaction, emotional resilience, mental stimulation, and a sense of belonging. Traditional approaches to senior living often fall short in addressing this multidimensional experience of ageing. Placemaking practices—centered on creating meaningful, inclusive, and engaging environments—offer a powerful framework for rethinking these spaces. By fostering connection, dignity, autonomy, and a stronger sense of place, ageing-inclusive placemaking has the potential to significantly improve the quality of life for older adults. This research proposal seeks to explore how such practices can be thoughtfully integrated into the design of senior living environments to support holistic well-being and social sustainability in ageing communities.

Keywords

Ageing, senior housing, placemaking