

Generation to Generation

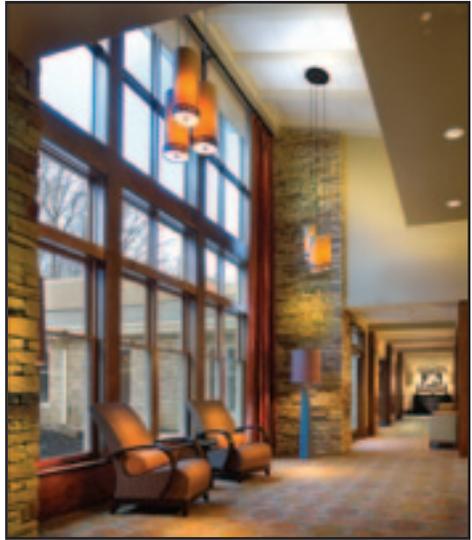
Design matters

Perhaps you have had the experience of entering a medieval cathedral and feeling awestruck, or entering a friend's home and feeling immediately welcomed and at ease. The environments we build do affect our mood and our behavior.

Designing senior-friendly environments

Designing an environment for someone with memory issues is a special challenge. SAGE, the Society for the Advancement of Gerontological Environments, offers these principles of design:

- Provide for physical safety and psychological security.
- Use all aspects of the environment as a resource for healing and improved functioning.
- Focus on the needs and desires of the whole person: social, emotional, spiritual, physical, intellectual.
- Maximize choices and opportunities for individual rights and personal autonomy, including accessibility.
- Generate opportunities for meaningful interactions and relationships among peers, families and staff.
- Create an environment that supports caregivers.
- Harness technology to increase functionality.
- Encourage innovation, diversity of approaches, experimentation and evaluation of outcomes.



Putting principles into practice

The homelike environment of Cohen-Rosen House promotes a healthy lifestyle, dignity and personalization, and is a model for memory care design. The residence is all about making connections, and some of its special features are:

- The design is based on the layering of residents' life stories, and incorporates Judaic traditions and historical continuity.
- Daily life activities take place in an environment that connects residents to each other, their families, caregivers and with nature.

- The large centralized living space is bounded by a window wall, a four-season porch, and views of the landscaped resident courtyard. It offers an aquarium, open bookshelves and two-sided fireplace.
- Outside each resident's room is a large memory box to display items that reflect his or her unique personality and life story.
- A resident can securely explore the large “house” and exterior courtyard or find areas to sit quietly, inside or out, including a Calming Room. ■

Initiatives

The following organizations have honored Cohen-Rosen House and its design team for improving quality of life through innovation in memory care:

- U. S. Green Building Council, which named Cohen-Rosen the first Assisted Living LEED-Silver Certified NC (New Construction) project in Maryland for its environment-friendly features.
- The Design for Aging Review, a joint program of the American Institute of Architects (AIA) and LeadingAge. This recognition includes a juried exhibition, companion book and educational programs.
- The International Association of Homes and Services for Aging, which will feature Cohen-Rosen House at its annual conference in China.
- The Assisted Living Federation of America’s second annual Senior Living By Design awards, published in the November/December issue of *Senior Living Executive*.
- *Environments for Aging* magazine, Citation of Merit, in conjunction with the Society for the Advancement of Gerontological Environments, the Center for Health Design and the International Interior Design Association.

The design team for the award-winning memory center includes architect THW Design, interior design THW Interiors and general contractor Whiting-Turner. Lead donors are Judy and Richard Cohen.

“Perhaps the most meaningful recognition is the selection each family makes when they choose Cohen-Rosen House for a loved one,” says Warren Slavin, President/CEO. To learn more about this unique residence, or to place a name on the waiting list, call 301.816.5050.

PERSPECTIVE

“At Cohen-Rosen House, the quality and connectivity of spaces, unique design of individual resident rooms with large memory boxes, generous use of artwork and homelike feel all contribute to an enhanced quality of life for its residents.”

— *Environments for Aging*, 2013 Showcase issue

