



KEY POINT SUMMARY

OBJECTIVES

The objective of the literature review was to focus on the relationship between the architecture and wayfinding for people with dementia and substantiate the results through interdisciplinary interpretation.

Wayfinding for People With Dementia: A Review of the Role of Architectural Design

Marquardt, G., 2009 | *HERD: Health Environments Research & Design Journal*. Volume 4, Issue 2, Pages 75-90

Key Concepts/Context

Wayfinding in medical facilities is difficult without proper orientation and visual cues. It is especially more challenging for people with dementia who struggle to remember where they have been. This study was based on the review of available literature on wayfinding for people with dementia in nursing homes.

Methods

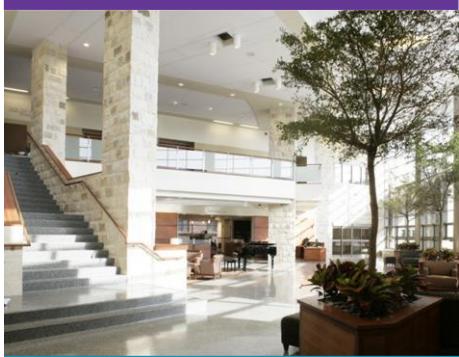
No specific research methodology was discussed by the author.

Findings

The analysis of the Time and Motion study data showed that the nurses spent most of their time on other activities and not on patients. The results showed that patient contact assessment was only at 7.2% and patient care activities at 19.3%. Initial data did not show that the architecture influenced the nurses' movement or activities. They spent most of their time at the nurse station at 38.6% and patient rooms at 30.8%. For this study the data analysis showed that spatial properties of nurse assignments had a predictable impact on the patterns of nurse movement through the facility. Nurses with particular assignments made more visits to patient rooms and nurse stations. Specifically, two movement strategies were identified by the analysis: a high frequency of short trips and fewer longer trips. Increased frequency of trips to patient rooms may contribute to more time spent in patient care, leading to better health outcomes but also to exhaustion among nurses.

Limitations

The study was based solely on literature review without actual data collection.



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Design Implications

The author provided a culmination of research on wayfinding for people with dementia and recommended the guidelines listed above to design a friendly environment. Further investigation is needed to understand the relationship between the architecture and human behavior as well as the operational space requirements of nursing homes.

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