

general principles

6.0 Building Interior - Ambience and Environment

Design Objectives

6.1 Lighting

6.1.1 To maximise natural lighting

6.1.2 To minimise glare and strong contrast

6.1.3 To provide suitable artificial lighting for non-daylight conditions

Design Guidelines

Minimise the need for artificial lighting during normal daylight conditions.

Provide windows in external walls of all rooms where practical.

All bedrooms, lounge and dining rooms should have windows where possible.

Introduce skylights, if possible, to internal rooms or where windows are distant.

Avoid single point sources of bright light, particularly in corridors.

Provide internal and/or external shading, blinds, curtains or other devices to diffuse bright sunlight.

Where possible locate windows so as to provide multiple sources of light.

Ensure that all areas receive the levels of lighting appropriate to their use.

Allow users to manipulate lighting to suit task.

Provide subtle variation in lighting to emphasise the importance of spaces.

Use light fittings of domestic appearance and domestic quality of soft light in resident-use areas.

Avoid harsh commercial lighting solutions in resident use areas.

Allow resident control of personal area lighting which can be easily operated by resident with poor manual dexterity.

general principles

Design Standards and Policies

- 6.1 AS 1680 Interior Lighting
Certification Assessment - Section 6
Lighting/Ventilation

Design Diagrams



6.1.3

Note:

The above recommended references are not exhaustive. The principles of the non-mandatory design standards listed should be adopted, except where in conflict with the Queensland Health Department policies, guidelines, or care models.

general principles

Design Objectives

6.2 Ventilation

6.2.1 To promote effective methods of natural ventilation

6.3 View

6.3.1 To provide views to outside areas for resident appreciation and surveillance

Design Guidelines

Use openable windows for all spaces where possible.

Provide effective cross ventilation, responsive to local climate.

Avoid wind tunnel effects.

Avoid reliance upon artificial ventilation except for sanitary and utilities rooms.

Provide user-friendly window operating mechanisms.

Provide insect screens across all window and door openings.

Fit suitable security screens to window and door openings through which intruders could enter or distressed residents exit.

Position windows in suitable locations and configure frames for standing, sitting and lying residents to take advantage of views of outdoors. Sitting positions include lounge and dining chairs, wheelchairs and semi-reclining chairs.

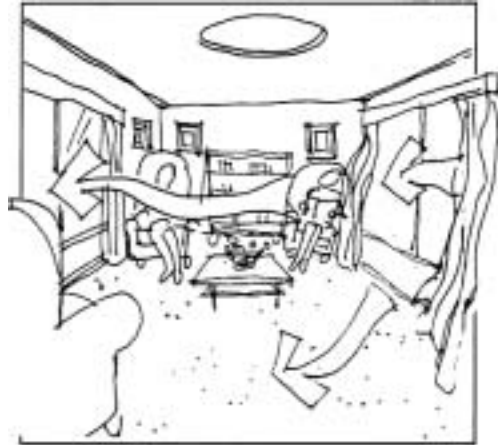
Maximise staff surveillance of resident-use outdoor spaces through careful positioning of windows.

general principles

Design Standards and Policies

- 6.2 BCA
Certification Assessment - Section 6
Lighting/Ventilation
Department of Education, Training and
Industrial Relations (November 1995), **Indoor
Air Quality - Guide**
Workplace Health & Safety Act 1995
Accred Std 4.5 - Occupational Health & Safety

Design Diagrams



6.2.1

6.3.1 Accred Std 3.0 - Resident Lifestyle



6.3.1

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general principles

Design Objectives

6.4 Acoustics

6.4.1 To promote reduced ambient noise levels

Design Guidelines

Reduce noise generated by trolleys and from within sanitary and utility rooms.

Reduce the impact of noisy residents upon others.

Reduce noise generated by the preparation, serving and eating of meals.

Reduce reverberant background noise in common areas.

Use carpet or acoustically absorbent vinyl finishes on corridor and common area floors.

Utilise low-maintenance absorptive surfaces, eg. acoustic ceilings in areas where acoustic absorption of flooring and furnishings is inadequate.

Select ceiling, wall, partition and door types to minimise the transfer of noise between rooms.

Accessories such as grilles and recessed electrical fittings must not reduce the acoustic performance of ceilings, walls, etc.

general principles

Design Standards and Policies

- 6.4 BCA
 - AS 2107 Design sound levels for building interiors
 - AS 3671 Traffic noise intrusion in buildings
 - Accred Std 3.0 - Resident Lifestyle
 - Accred Std 4.4 - Living Environment
 - Accred Std 4.5 - Occupational Health & Safety
 - Department of Education Training & Industrial Relations - Advisory Standard for Noise 1999.
 - AS 1055.1 Acoustics - Description and measurement of Environment Noise
 - Australian & New Zealand Std 1998
 - Occupational Noise Management - Noise Control Management

Design Diagrams

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general principles

Design Objectives

6.5 Colour and texture

6.5.1 To use colours and textures which impart a comfortable, domestic atmosphere

6.5.2 To promote a sense of well-being through use of mood uplifting colours

Design Guidelines

Choose colours and textures sympathetic with a domestic environment.

Be aware of sensory needs of resident with sensory losses (ie. low vision) in relation to colour and texture of internal environment building, fittings and fixtures.

Note that yellowing of vision in aged people will reduce perception of cream colours and turn pinks slightly brown.

Use different themes, colours and textures to provide subtle delineation of functional areas and accommodation clusters.

Accentuate contrast between colours for the benefit of the visually impaired, but avoid juxtaposition of strong colours.

Colour changes and patterns in flooring should be subtle only to avoid the perception of 'steps' or 'holes' in the floor (especially in dementia care areas).

Ensure that built-in colours compliment loose furnishings.

Use colour for therapeutic effect.

Avoid other than subtle use of black, red and purple.

Avoid large expanses of strong colours (particularly dark blue) in resident use areas, especially bedrooms.

general principles

Design Standards and Policies

- 6.5.1** Accredited Std 2.16 - Sensory Loss
Accredited Std 3.0 - Resident Lifestyle

Design Diagrams



6.5.1

- 6.5.2** Accredited Std 3.0 - Resident Lifestyle

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general principles

Design Objectives

6.6 Finishes

6.6.1 To use durable, easily maintained finishes with domestic character

Design Guidelines

Choose materials sympathetic with a domestic environment.

Ensure that finishes comply with fire safety requirements.

All surfaces must have reasonably low-maintenance cleaning properties.

Finishes in areas prone to damage require special protection or built-in damage-resistant properties.

Damage to walls and doors is typically incurred by the movement of any loose furniture or equipment, most by wheelchair footplates, lifting equipment castors, feet and arms, trolley castors and upper edges and bed heads.

Most damage occurs at corners, doorways, walls against which furniture or equipment is placed and along corridors below handrails.

Damage-resistant wall surfaces include fibrous cement, plywood and laminated plastic.

Coloured plastic mouldings and sheeting are suitable for door jamb and corner protection. Stainless steel is not appropriate for domestic areas.

Pressed metal door frames are ideal and can be given a domestic appearance with the addition of suitable architrave mouldings.

Timber mouldings when fabricated out of hard timber species are moderately damage resistant and can be suitable for handrails and chair rails, etc.

Floor surfaces shall have a slip-resistance appropriate to their use. Highly polished floors are not acceptable.

Vinyl flooring should be commercial type with domestic appearance and welded joints for impervious finish.

Carpet should be of domestic appearance with dense low profile pile, impervious type resistant to spills (including urine). Seal joints. Use a surface which is reasonably trafficable by wheelchairs, trolleys and other wheeled equipment.

general principles

Design Standards and Policies

- 6.6.1 AS/NZS 2208 Safety glazing materials in buildings
- AS/NZS 3661 Slip resistance of pedestrian surfaces
- Accred Std 3.0 - Resident Lifestyle

Design Diagrams



6.6.1



6.6.1



6.6.1

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general principles

Design Objectives

6.7 Furnishings, signage, decoration and art

6.7.1 To provide adequate, conveniently located, functional furnishings of domestic appearance

6.7.2 To ensure that each emergency service is readily identifiable

Design Guidelines

All furnishings should be robust and of domestic appearance in a variety of materials, textures and colours.

Locate all furnishings in locations to optimise usefulness.

Minimise use of fixed furnishings to allow for flexibility.

Provide a variety of loose furniture to suit various care needs.

All furnishings must be consistent with good workplace health and safety principles for both residents and staff. Staff must be able to easily and safely transfer residents to and from furniture.

Chair selection should consider stability, posture, ease of use and must be easily cleaned, taking incontinence into account.

Curtains and fabrics should emphasise domestic character, be easily cleaned, and where considered a fire hazard, should be made of innately fire retardant material.

All fire safety and other emergency equipment should be appropriately labelled including rooms or cabinets in which they are housed.

Provide clear delineation of circulation routes to emergency exits.

general principles

Design Standards and Policies

Design Diagrams

6.7.1 AS1428

Accred Std 3.0 - Resident Lifestyle
Accred Std 4.4 - Living Environment
Workplace Health & Safety Act 1995
Workplace Health & Safety Regulations 1997
Workplace Health & Safety Code of Practice
Manual Handling 1991
Workplace Code of Practice Manual Handling
of People, 1992

6.7.2 *Workplace Health & Safety Act 1995*

Workplace Health & Safety Regulations 1997
Accred Std 4.5 - Occupational Health & Safety
Accred Std 4.6 - Fire, Security & Other
Emergencies
AS 4083 Planning for Emergencies - Health
Care Facilities
AS 3745 Emergency Control Organisation
and Procedures for Buildings

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general principles

Design Objectives

6.7.3 To ensure that addresses can be easily found within the facility

6.7.4 To contribute to the domestic ambience and well-being of residents by providing suitable decoration and artworks that are culturally appropriate and therapeutic

Design Guidelines

Provide adequate signage to clearly direct residents, visitors and staff, including visually impaired persons to each separate accommodation cluster and administration area.

Minimise the need for signage within accommodation clusters by use of other identification features, eg. colour, finish, decorative mouldings, character treatment, furnishings and artworks.

Identify each resident's bedroom.

Provide subtle signage to identify the various staff-use rooms.

Resident-use signs must be easily legible and have good contrast between darker letters on a light background.

Choose names and symbols that can be easily remembered by users from diverse cultural backgrounds.

Allow for flexibility in the provision of a variety of artworks throughout the facility.

Choose images and themes which generate favourable psychological responses in the occupants of the particular space.

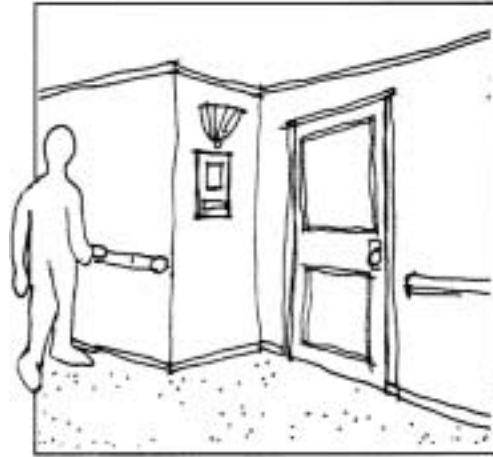
Avoid images or themes which may be offensive to any of the various cultures represented by the residents.

general principles

Design Standards and Policies

- 6.7.3 AS 1428
- AS 2786 Symbols - Health Care in Hospitals
- Accred Std 2.16 - Sensory Loss
- Accred Std 3.0 - Resident Lifestyle
- Accred Std 4.4 - Living Environment

Design Diagrams



6.7.3

- 6.7.4 Queensland Public Art Policy
- Accred Std 3.0 - Resident Lifestyle



6.7.4

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