Co-Life

Co-living for elderly

Img 1: The elderly enjoying a leisurely evening in the park. An illustrative image of social protection.

Premise

Population ageing - an increase in the proportion of older people in a population.
As one of the most significant social changes of the 21st century, it is predicted to impact all sectors including labor and financial markets, housing, health care and social protection.

By 2050, **the global population aged 60 years or over is expected to double** reaching 2.1 billion. Increased life expectancy and decreased fertility rates mean that **older populations in developing regions are growing at higher rates when compared to those in developed regions**. Estimations project that by 2050, 79 percent of the world's older population will be living in developing regions.

In light of this, how can we as designers recognize the needs of the older generation, with a focus on housing and social protection? How can they be addressed?

Img 2: An image illustrative of the need to prioritize self care.

Consequences

Even though an increase in longevity indicates an increase in the standard of living, population ageing comes with its own pros and cons.

While worldwide estimates of older populations living on their own vary, there has been a significant increase in this percentage, along with a decrease in the percentage of the older generation wanting to co-reside with their children or extended family.

On the flip side studies have also shown an increase in social and health concerns with regard to the older population. With a focus on the psychological well being of the older population who live independently, showing the negative effects of social isolation and neglect of self care needs.

How can we navigate these changes?

Img 3: An image illustrative of the ideal societal perception of the elderly.

Issue

Understanding the need to create a **mutually supportive community**, in which elderly individuals can **live independently, and be cherished for their individual capacity** means that we are well on our way to **question existing social structures**.

In doing so can we **recognize and cater to self care and appropriate housing needs for the elderly** and work towards establishing a community framework of mutual support, **questioning a much wider narrative of how society perceives the elder generation.**

Img 4: An illustrative example of a mutually supportive community.

Brief

Communal living has existed for centuries.Developed out of a need for security, protection and as a solution for sustainable living, co living spaces have always challenged societal norms; creating more diverse communities, breaking away from traditional patterns of society while promoting a shared economy, mostly seen as the go to choice for digital nomads and millenials on the go.

Can such a concept be adapted to the older population as well?

Can senior Co - living spaces offer housing solutions for people over the age of 55, recognizing and catering to self care and appropriate housing needs for the elderly, working toward a mutually supportive community in which individuals can live a life of complete dignity, without the apprehension of social segregation and loneliness.

Design a pattern for a communal living space where age is just a mindset and the elderly can live with dignity and independence.

Objectives

Empathy

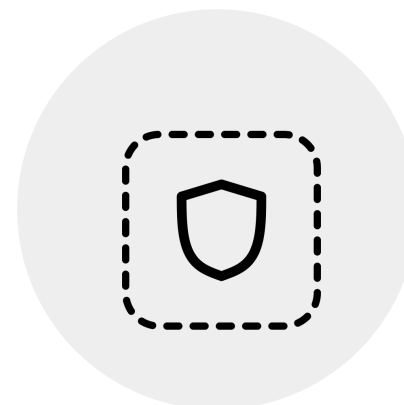A thorough understanding of the user group, focusing on needs and behaviours

Basic Needs

Mobility, natural light and ventilation

The following objectives can be a point of beginning to conceive this design. Participants can assume their own contexts and users before initiating their design process.

A Sense of Community

Contributes positively to the psychological well being of the older population

Safety and Security

Is also crucial for both physical and psychological well being

Img 5: Image illustrative of fact that a lot of the older generation are actively involved in taking care of their family.

User

Often considered a burden, (citing economic reasons) the contributions of the older generation to society can often be overlooked. A significant number of older generations care for the family and friends and are thereby supporting their communities in their own capacities.

In Africa, for example, family support of grandparents play a particularly important role supporting children, as the parent's generation has been strongly impacted by the effects of HIV/AIDS.

In Depth understanding and recognizing user need, patterns and behaviour forms the crux of successful design. In a scenario such as this, paying attention to the smallest of details comes a long way.

Rabat, Morocco - Africa

Seeing rapid growth and change in the past years, Africa is predicted to have the highest percentage change between its young and older populations between 2017 to 2050.

Bordering the Atlantic Ocean, Rabat, Morocco, ranks low on the scale of countries measured worldwide for the comfort and wellbeing of their senior population. With almost a quarter of its population expected to be over 60 by 2050, Morocco has become increasingly concerned about the welfare of its older populations in recent times.

Site Plan

Located at the junction (of Avenue Mohammed V and Avenue Moulay Rachid), one of the major thoroughfares of the city of Rabat, the site is chosen due primarily due to it being easily accessible from several dense neighbourhoods, and also due to its closeness to several public amenities such as public parks, schools, cafes, pharmacies and multiple other commercial establishments. In choosing the site making sure that it would mean that the seniors would get an opportunity to be an active part of the community.

Area: 49320 m²
Site coordinates: 33°55'25.0"N 6°54'47.0"W
Building Typology: Low - rise (No more than 3 storeys)

Submission

You have to deliver an architectural outcome on the following site, based on the given outlines.

• Recommended number of boards/sheets - 6 boards/sheets. – **[2362px x 3544px]** or **[400mm x 600mm in 150 dpi]** in portrait digital format (JPEG). Minimum 3 boards/sheets & no maximum boards/sheet limit.
• Each image should be less than **15MB**
• You can find the preset PSD, AI and INDD template files in the 'additional resources folder' and here.

This additional resources folder contains: FAQ Questions, High Res maps, Sketchup Model of the site and CAD file of the site plan.

Minimum requisites are Sheets/boards + Cover image containing:

• Site plan (Compulsory)
• Key conceptual sections x 1 (Minimum)
• 3D views x 4
• Cover image/Thumbnail of size 2000 x 1000 px or larger in aspect ratio 2:1.
• Floor plans, images, sketches (if any) can be added to support the entry in the form of additional images.
• Answer 6 FAQ questions in the discussion section as given on the 'additional resources folder'.

+ The team limit for this competition is 4 members maximum.
+ Use exploded views to discuss multi levelled conceptual models better.
+ Ensure that the final sheets which are submitted do not include your name or any other mark of identification.
+ Mention sheet number on corner of every sheet.
+ This is a design ideas challenge only. There is no built commission/realization is associated with the problem
+ Plagiarism of any idea / form / design / image will be disqualified with a notice.

Registration page here: http://competitions.uni.xyz/colife

Submission Deadline: May 12, 2020
Submission closes this day.

Public Voting begins: May 22, 2020
Submitted entries are open for voting.

Public Voting ends: Jun 12, 2020
Voting ends on this date.

Result Announcement: Jun 22, 2020
Result day!

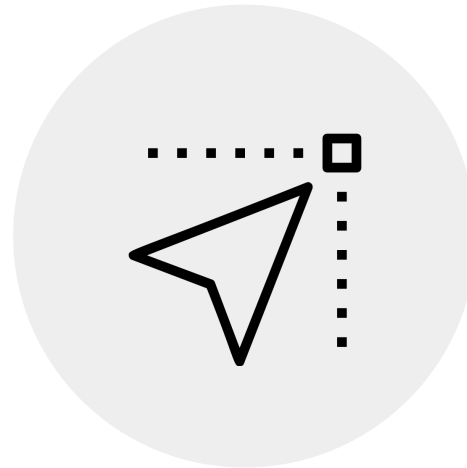# Rewards

Grants of up to a total of **20,000$** can be won on this challenge. Learn more about the full conditions on the competition page here.

Judging Criteria

The entries will be judged by an international jury of the competition on the following criterions:

Presentation
The fundamental to a good entry is a good presentation.

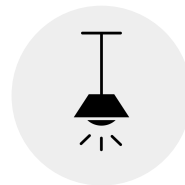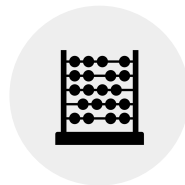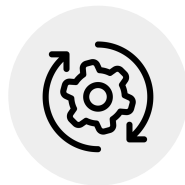### Concept/Idea
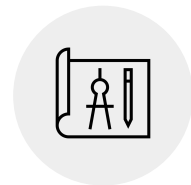Quality of thought and intent in pre-design phase.

Spaces/Programme
How the spaces are calculated and ordered.

Design Output
The final architectural outcome of the solution.

The judging panel can also add other criterions based on their internal discussions - which will be in line with the problem statement. Participants are advised to fulfil above given criterions first in their design.

About

UNYT

Unyt serves as a part of UNI in the realm of **typological discoveries.** It intends to break the fusion of traditional design barriers and methodologies by making it a platform for experimentation. It embarks on mobilizing ideas where creators can elementally question the buildings we create. It is a research initiative dedicated to providing opportunities for designers from all domains to explore ideas that go beyond the restrictions of usual architectural discourse.

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Co-Life

Building an empathetic, **CO**(mmunity) **LIFE**

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