

THE UNIVERSITY OF HONG KONG 香港大學
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Department of Urban Planning and Design 城市規劃及設計系
Centre of Urban Studies and Urban Planning 城市研究及城市規劃中心

Hong Kong Housing Society Distinguished Lecture Series on
Sustainable Housing Development

Innovative Ideas from the Design of Housing for the Elderly in Northern Europe

Professor Victor Regnier

FAIA

ACSA Distinguished Professor

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Victor Regnier is a teacher, researcher and architect who specializes in the design of housing and community settings for older people. He holds a joint professorship between the School of Architecture and Gerontology at USC. He is also a fellow in the American Institute of Architects and the Gerontological Society. From 1992 until 1996 he served as USC's Dean of architecture.

He has published 6 books on housing for the elderly and received numerous awards for his scholarship. A Fulbright awardee, Regnier received the Gerontological Society's Powell Lawton Award for applied research. In 2007 USC named him as a Distinguished Alumnus and in 2008 he was made an ACSA Distinguished Professor.

He has directed 20 research projects dealing with the social impact of the environment on older people. His research findings have been presented at nearly 200 conferences and over 60 university symposia. As an architect he has consulted on over 400 building projects in 38 states, Canada, Germany and England. In the last decade 50 of his projects have won national/state design awards. Professor Regnier is considered one of the world's leading authorities on housing for the elderly.



Abstract

The long-term care system in northern Europe is truly exceptional. Not only is it entitled, but there is an emphasis on home delivered services making the process more flexible and economical. Purpose built housing (and care provision) is designed to be adaptable as residents age and need more help and assistance. These countries have conceptualized housing and services as separate entities - an approach that dates back 300 years. Housing with services for frail older people has been explored in a range of different housing types. Co-housing, housing for people with dementia, conventional housing in the community and housing with an emphasis on exercise and rehabilitation. Building/housing types like the service house, lean-to housing, and apartments/condos for life bring services and housing together. Many of these solutions are more flexible and encourage self-help and volunteerism. These models are popular with older people and will influence the next generation of service-supportive housing throughout the world.

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