Ryerson University
School of Interior Design
January 27th, 2020
brainXchange Webinar

Kfir Gluzberg, Professor, Architect
Ilanit Frolov, 4th Year Student
Selin Yasar, 4th Year Student
Ryerson University
Experiential Learning and Community Partnerships

Located in downtown Toronto, Canada

Preparing Ryerson students to be:
- Career ready
- Community ready
- Citizen ready
Introduction

Interior Design Pedagogy & Dementia
Introduction

- Learning objectives
- Experiential learning
- Analyses & Research
- Design Synthesis
- Engagement

Project Client Groups in Toronto:
- brainXchange
- Finding Your Way Initiative
- Alzheimer Society of Ontario
- Alzheimer Society of Toronto
Community of Practice
Interdisciplinary and Interprofessional

The university community has resources to link theory to practice. People with lived experience, policy knowledge and front-line experience were advisors:

● Devin Glowinski, Lecturer, Faculty of Community Services, Ryerson
● Felicia White, Alzheimer Society of Ontario (ASO)
● Tina Krliu, ASO
● Kari Quinn-Humphrey, ASO
Project Importance
Understanding of Disability

Universal accessibility needs to accommodate those with physical and cognitive disabilities.

Many disabilities are *invisible*

Using design approaches to reduce stigma and barriers for those living with dementia

Creating spaces where people can navigate independently and safely
Design Guidelines

Understanding of Client Needs

Being an interior designer or architect is seen as a technical profession.

This project enforces the importance of empathy and understanding the needs of clients and people with lived experience.

Reviewing the safest materials and colour palettes to use for interiors.
Outcomes and Goals
Reducing Stigma

Creating spaces where staff and counselling services are blended.

Clients coming into these offices for programs have shared spaces with clear definition:

- reading rooms / libraries
- seating/cafe areas
- event spaces for gathering

Boundaries are carefully curated and wayfinding provides clear queues.
Program Diagram

Defining client organization & goals
## Program Chart

Defining client organization & goals

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Department/Areas</th>
<th>Quantity</th>
<th>Number of People</th>
<th>Additionally Specific</th>
<th>Furniture and Fixtures</th>
<th>Proximity</th>
<th>Public/Private</th>
<th>Size</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Reception</td>
<td>1</td>
<td>2 Admin Receptionists</td>
<td>seating for 3</td>
<td>Reception Desk, storage cabinets</td>
<td>Atrium, Family Counseling and Cafe Social Space</td>
<td>Public</td>
<td>33.6 sq m</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Private Offices</td>
<td>8</td>
<td>8 partners and counsellors</td>
<td>seating for 8 staff and 8 visitors</td>
<td>desk, storage and 2 chairs</td>
<td>Open Desks, Board room</td>
<td>Private</td>
<td>13.94 sq m</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Board Room</td>
<td>3</td>
<td>seats 18</td>
<td>one room that seats 18 and two that seat 8</td>
<td>long rectangular table, storage and 16 chairs</td>
<td>Open Desks and Media Room</td>
<td>Private</td>
<td>88.7 sq m</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Cafe/Social Space</td>
<td>1</td>
<td>seats 25</td>
<td>flexible open eating space</td>
<td>tables, couches and chairs</td>
<td>Kitchen, Atrium and Collaboration tables</td>
<td>Public</td>
<td>131.1 sq m</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Kitchen</td>
<td>1</td>
<td>2 staff working simultaneously</td>
<td>open kitchen for multiple staff to prepare food</td>
<td>stove top, microwave, fridge and counter space</td>
<td>Atrium, Collaboration Tables and Cafe Space</td>
<td>Public</td>
<td>142 sq m</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Open Desks</td>
<td>60</td>
<td>60 staff members</td>
<td>flexible open cubicle system</td>
<td>desks and file cabinets</td>
<td>Call Room, Board room and Collaboration</td>
<td>Public</td>
<td>557.4 sq m</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Collaboration Tables</td>
<td>3</td>
<td>12 staff members</td>
<td>n/a</td>
<td>long tables and benches for collaboration</td>
<td>Cafe Space, Kitchen and open desks</td>
<td>Public</td>
<td>37 sq m each</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Family Counseling Room</td>
<td>2</td>
<td>2 staff</td>
<td>n/a</td>
<td>4 chairs and table</td>
<td>Atrium, Private offices and media room</td>
<td>Private</td>
<td>13.94 sq m</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Atrium</td>
<td>1</td>
<td>20 visitors</td>
<td>n/a</td>
<td>20 chairs and couches</td>
<td>Reception, Family Counseling and Cafe Space</td>
<td>Public</td>
<td>80 sq m</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Storage Room</td>
<td>2</td>
<td>n/a</td>
<td>n/a</td>
<td>4 storage containers and shelves</td>
<td>Janitors closet and open desks</td>
<td>Private</td>
<td>10 sq m</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Copy Room</td>
<td>1</td>
<td>2 staff members</td>
<td>n/a</td>
<td>copy and printing machine, paper storage shelving</td>
<td>Open Desks and Collaboration Tables</td>
<td>Private</td>
<td>11.5 sq m</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Media/ Presentation Room</td>
<td>1</td>
<td>16 people</td>
<td>n/a</td>
<td>media console and 16 chairs</td>
<td>Board room and open desks</td>
<td>Public</td>
<td>66.7 sq m</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Call Room</td>
<td>3</td>
<td>1 staff member</td>
<td>n/a</td>
<td>1 chair and small desk</td>
<td>open desks, collaboration tables and board room</td>
<td>Private</td>
<td>9.29 sq m</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Janitor Closet</td>
<td>1</td>
<td>n/a</td>
<td>n/a</td>
<td>storage cabinets</td>
<td>Hallway and storage</td>
<td>Private</td>
<td>12.42 sq m</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Washroom</td>
<td>2</td>
<td>6 people at a time</td>
<td>Barrier Free open vestibule</td>
<td>2 gender specific barrier free washrooms</td>
<td>Hallway that connects to each tenants unit</td>
<td>Public</td>
<td>14 sq m</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Bruno, Copp, Grais, Tetelbaun 2018
Site
Research
Site Research

Demographics

Frolov, Young, Mostafaei, Brathwaite-Lynch 2018
Site Research

Demographics

OWNERSHIP IN SURROUNDING AREAS

- 28%
- 18%
- 18%
- 13%
- 9%
- 7%
- 7%

CURRENT USE
- Infrastructure Ontario
- The Skyscraper Center
- Canada Post
- Ryerson International
- Ontario Financing Authority
- Eisen Consulting Group
- Learning Tree International

Stores
Art and Design
Beauty & Professional Services
Food & Drink
Professional Services
Health Services
Retail

Frolov, Young, Mostafaei, Brathwaite-Lynch 2018
Site Research

Demographics

For every 100 working-age people, there are 33 dependants. This includes children and senior citizens.

Percentage of dwelling types in Ward 22 (Toronto, Ontario)

Frolov, Young, Mostafaei, Brathwaite-Lynch 2018
Design Research

Project Precedents

HOGWEYK VILLAGE
Just Outside of Amsterdam

Hogweyk Village is a closed, self-contained village, where people with Alzheimer’s and dementia can live independently within the safety of the village walls. The village recreates everyday life, allowing patients to live in their own apartments, visit the grocery store, go to cafes, all while being surrounded by caretakers dressed in regular clothing. Each patient has their own apartment, designed as closely to their past lifestyle as possible. Residence buildings are divided based on their interiors, and are divided into seven lifestyles: Artisan, Christian, Cultural, Goosce, Horney, Indonesian, and Urban.

The Artisan
Homes for proud trade workers, such as plumbers, carpenters, and craftsmen. The atmosphere is homely and cozy, with a solid and traditional layout.

The Christian
Religion is a central part of these residents’ lifestyle, the buildings filled with prayer and religious music, with a more modest and restrained interior.

The Cultural
Art, culture, and literature are very important to the residents. Reading, theatre, museums, and concerts are promoted, and interiors are more refined and cultural.

The Goosce
Posh and upperclass, the Goosce of the Netherlands pay great attention to appearances, preferring classical and tasteful interiors.

The Horney
Caring for family and day to day housekeeping is important to the residents, and interiors are kept tidy and homey, with a warm and cozy atmosphere.

The Indonesian
Tradition, nostalgia, and memories of Indonesia are celebrated in these interiors, as well outside, with trips to the Asian market and the Indonesian Society.

The Urban
Residents are more social and extraverted, wanting to be involved in social outings and gatherings. The atmosphere is vibrant and interiors are more modern.
Design Research

Spatial Considerations

Flooring

Patterned or shiny flooring can become confusing or a perceived danger to those with Dementia and Alzheimer’s, becoming blackholes, puddles, or rough terrain in their minds. Solid coloured, matte finished flooring creates the most comfortable and welcoming environment. Area rugs can become tripping hazards, all flooring must be properly secured.

Doors

Older people and those with Dementia and Alzheimer’s have a more difficult time distinguishing between similar colours, and need three times the contrast between colours than younger people. Spaces such as supply rooms, IT rooms, and custodial spaces can be hidden from impaired users of the space by making them the same as or a similar colour to the wall, while more welcoming spaces such as the showsroom, the VR room, and bathrooms can be easily found with bright, contrasting doors.

Colour Spectrum

Colours appropriate for this specific design include:

- Blue is an intellectual color, it represents trust, logic, communication, and efficiency. Use blue as the primary color in office areas that require focus and mental strain.
- Yellow is the emotional color. It represents creativity, friendliness, optimism, and confidence. Incorporate yellow when you want to stimulate positivity, creativity and happiness.
- Greens provides balance. It represents harmony, nature, and restoration. Green proves to be a great color in offices that require people to work long hours, since it’s the easiest color on the eyes (requiring no adjustment). It’s also a great color to use anytime a sense of balance is top priority, which is why it’s commonly found in medical offices.
- Orange: blends the physical (red) and emotional (yellow), creating a sense of comfort. It is often associated with food and warmth, and is therefore a natural choice in kitchens. When used appropriately, it is also a fun color, making it an option for a casual office lounge.
Synthesis

- Outcomes that synthesize gathered data
- New solutions
- A cohesive vision for a client space that welcomes users living with dementia
Ilanit Frolov, 4th year student, Bachelor of Interior Design, Ryerson School of Interior Design
Find Your Way challenges the way work is defined by proposing a work by learning environment.

This ever-evolving centre for discovery is essentially a hub for employees and clients alike.

- Multipurpose work spaces and productive lounge areas.
- This mobile environment encourages working in unconventional ways and supports several educational factors that are vital not only to the employees but to the clients as well.
- Rooms such as the classroom, show room and library perpetuate the idea of learning through work.
- Find Your Way becomes an active hub for both groups of users to interact in a way that is productive and encourages growth.
Research Summary

My design for Find Your Way challenges the idea of what the workplace is defined as. I began by stripping away the initial and traditional office environment and worked backwards by firstly understanding my concept, and then building my design around the idea of work by learning.

It was important for Find Your Way to behave like a community hub, and so it was vital for the design to reflect a communal environment.
Target Market

- Family caregivers
- People living with Alzheimer’s & Dementia
- General public
- Health-care professionals
- Volunteers
- Students studying health care/medicine
Furniture Plan & Reflected Ceiling Plan - Floor 1
Furniture Plan & Reflected Ceiling Plan - Floor 2
Certain things need to be considered when designing for people with Alzheimer's. Felt panels should be used to absorb sound throughout the space. In rooms which produce more noise, such as the copy rooms or class room, acoustic ceiling tiles should be used to prevent noise from escaping those rooms. Carpeting in lounge spaces or conference spaces should also be considered to better absorb excess sound.
Relationship of 2 floors

Upstairs Lounge

Traditional Office

Private Office

Call Room

Reception

Conference
Coffee Bar
Virtual Reality & Classroom

Coffee Bar

Virtual Reality

Lecture Classroom
Lounge Area
By challenging the traditional work environment, Find Your Way is attempting to change the way employees approach their job and changing the way clients with dementia experience life.

- **As a community hub**, clients are able to interact, grow and learn just as much as the employees can.

- **This type of environment fosters clients who feel validated** and have an enhanced sense of self.

- **Find Your Way** can allow people living with Alzheimer’s & dementia to experience a happier and more rewarding way of life.
Selin Yasar, 4th year student, Bachelor of Interior Design, Ryerson School of Interior Design
Concept

- Prelude Is the beginning of a series - this project prioritizes those who live with Alzheimer's or dementia
- Rooms face away from the loudest areas of 1 Dundas West to create a peaceful setting
- Soft colours and indirect lighting create a peaceful setting
- Circulation is organic and uses the existing curvature of the exterior walls
- Collaboration emphasized - gathering spaces allow for all types of working conditions
- Way-finding, fixtures and furnishings consider use and movement, allowing the viewer to experience the space as they choose
Geometry Diagram

The existing geometry of the building was used to create the interior circulation. By using the same oval shape repeated in three different scales, the flow of movement through the floor plan becomes more organic.
Circulation Diagram

The use of green-space or planters along parts of the curved walls, accentuates this circulation. By reducing the angles of the walls in the path of movement, and reducing accessible floor space in the opposite direction of flow, the person is pushed and pulled into the main path of circulation.

The planters also add greenery into the space which can help with stress relief for the staff and increase air quality.
The materials in the design of the Alzheimer’s Society use warm, and soft colours for the floors and walls. The paint and flooring materials are non-reflective and absorb light, in order not to confuse visitors who may have depth perception.

The blue carpeting uses the society’s branding colours to create a vivid path of circulation. The complimentary colours of blue and orange create contrast within the predominately neutral spaces.

The laminate and carpet options which were chosen for this project come from environmentally conscious companies and are very easy to clean for uses in a commercial setting. Laminate in the counselling areas, along with the use of area rugs mimic the setting of a living room in a home. While carpet tile in the open office spaces provide acoustic insulation.
Reflected Ceiling Plans

Warmer lighting in the counseling areas provides a cozy and home-like space. This allows visitors who may be discussing difficult topics to feel more comfortable.

Alternatively, the work areas have cooler lighting to promote productivity and to keep staff alert.

Indirect lighting in the form of dropped ceilings and cove lighting creates an even lighting environment which is essential to those who have Alzheimer’s and depth perception. More direct lighting is provided in areas of gathering.
Reception Area
Program Rooms and Lounge
Breakout Space
Design for Dementia

- Promoting the impact of design
- Dementia awareness in design
- Interdisciplinary design considerations
- Creating space in academia
- Experimentation & testing
- Knowledge creation
- Knowledge sharing - Resources for learning
- Outreach & engagement
- Connect with Ryerson

Averil Copp, 2018
Say hi!
We’re happy to collaborate

Kfir Gluzberg
Professor & Architect
Kilogram Studio, Toronto
kfir@ryerson.ca
kg@kilogramstudio.ca
www.kilogramstudio.ca

Ilanit Frolov
4th Year Design Student
Toronto
ilanit.frolov@ryerson.ca

Selin Yasar
4th Year Design Student
Toronto
selin.yasar@ryerson.ca