

ALEXIS DENTON, AIA

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467 Vermont Ave.
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Utilizing my expertise and experience as an architect and gerontologist, I focus on rethinking, improving, and designing the physical environment for an aging population. My career is dedicated to creating senior living communities that are invisibly supportive, pushing the industry toward innovative models, and creating joyful and engaging environments. After primarily focusing on programming, planning, research, and teaching, my goal has evolved to use my background as a lens to expand our understanding of creating inclusive environments for people of all backgrounds, ages, and abilities.

Education

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| MA | University of Southern California
Gerontology, 2012 |
| MArch | University of Southern California
Architecture, 2010 |
| BA | University of California, Berkeley
Architecture, with high honors, 2003 |

Awards

Building Design + Construction (BD+C), 40 under 40, 2017
Healthcare Facilities, George Pressler Under 40 Award, 2016

Professional Experience

Resilient Environment, LLC:

Principal (2022 – Present)

- Consultant to owners and architects, providing design review, master planning, strategic planning, programming, and planning

Perkins Eastman:

Associate Principal and Associate Practice Leader, West Coast Lead (2020 – 2022)

- Principal in Charge of select projects
- Conducted thought leadership and research initiatives
- Provided strategy and vision for the West Coast senior living market

SmithGroup:

Principal & Senior Living Strategist (2016 – 2019) Planner & Project Manager (2011 – 2016)

Designer & Planner (2003 – 2008)

- Principal in Charge of select projects
- Programmer and planner for all senior living projects nationally
- Conducted thought leadership and research initiatives
- Provided strategy and vision for the senior living market

University of Southern California, Davis School of Gerontology

Teaching & Research Assistant, Doctoral Student (2009 – 2011)

- Lectured students in gerontology, social work, and architecture on the social and behavioral effects of the environment, home modifications, and housing and community design for an aging population
- Published articles in peer-reviewed journals after conducting research in environmental gerontology

Teaching Experience

University of Southern California

Guest Lecturer, Davis School of Gerontology, 2018 - present

- Gerontology 504 – graduate course on Current Issues in Aging Management; lecture focusing on environmental gerontology

Teaching Assistant, Davis School of Gerontology, 2010-2011

- Gerontology 505 – graduate course on social and behavioral consequences of design averaging 20 students per semester; students came from gerontology, architecture, and social work
- Lectured on theories of environmental gerontology, graded papers, and led site visits

Art Center College of Design

Guest Lecturer and Jury Member, 2010

- Theories of Environmental Gerontology guest lecture for “Aging Desires” design studio

Publications (Select)

“Senior Living: Living Smaller and More Engaged” in *The Pandemic Effect, Ninety Experts on Immunizing the Built Environment*, Princeton Architectural Press, forthcoming 2023.

“Four Themes, Nine Trends in Senior Living,” *Multifamily Design and Construction*, 2021.

“Aiming for Net Zero Senior Living,” *Environments for Aging*, 2019.

“Getting Better with Age” (interviewed), *Architect Magazine*, 2018.

“Higher Calling: Meeting the Demand For Multistory Senior Housing” (interviewed), *Environments for Aging*, 2018,

“Now & Then: 20 Years of Senior Living Design” (interviewed), *Environments for Aging*, 2018.

“A Gerontological Framework for New Senior Living Models” in *Houses for Aging Socially, Third Place Ecologies*, University of Arkansas Community Design Center, Oro Editions, 2017.

“A New Take on Old - How one architect is trying to push senior living alternatives into the mainstream,” (profiled), *Architect Magazine*, June 2016,

“Contemporary Senior Care Models: Looking forward to the next 10 years in China”. *Urbanism + Architecture* (UA), 2014, China

“Exploring the American and Japanese CCRC and its Future in China,” *Architecture & Technology* (AT), 2014, China

“Comparison of Barriers and Facilitators in Developing NORC Programs within Two Alternate Communities,” *Journal of Housing for the Elderly*, 2010. Peer-Reviewed.

“Ten New and Emerging Trends in Residential Group Living Environments,” *Neurorehabilitation*, 2009. Peer-Reviewed.

Presentations (Select)

“Climate Resilient Senior Living,” *Environments for Aging*, 2021

“Developing a Vertical and Connected Life Plan Community,” *LeadingAge*, 2019

“Designing Wellness Focused Environments,” *LeadingAge California*, 2019

Anticipating Tomorrow’s Older Residents, *SPUR*, 2018

Design for Aging Review, Post Occupancy Evaluations, *LeadingAge*, 2017

Design for Aging Review Awards, Jury Chair, *LeadingAge*, 2016

Designing for an Aging Population, Invited Session Moderator, China Healthcare and Senior Living Design Debate, 2015

Designing the Elder-Friendly Acute Care Environment, *Healthcare Design*, 2013

Professional Affiliations

American Institute of Architects (AIA)

AIA Design for Aging Advisory Group, Past Chair

Environments for Aging, Editorial Advisory Board Member

Licensed Architect, California (C33270)