

# Living and Sustainability: An Environmental Critique of Design and Building Practices, Locally and Globally

**1. Paper / Proposal Title:** Critique of Built Environment practices in care and extra care settings for people across the ageing lifespan.

**2. Format:**

*Written paper*

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**5. Abstract (300 words):** The design quality of the built environment is key determinant of the environmental, social and economic wellbeing of urban and rural areas that affects quality of life. Sustainable practices in the built environment require a new way of doing things; a way which reduces environmental impact and promotes economic and social sustainability. Social capital, which constitutes the social bonds and norms and acts as the 'glue that holds societies together' is fundamental to the social sustainability of communities. The design and form of cities, towns, neighbourhoods and individual

buildings have significant implications on social capital as they affect the way people interact and bond with each other and the sense of community. The building forms of supported housing and care homes also impact on social capital. The paper evaluates negative and positive contributions to social capital in rural care and extra care homes in Lincolnshire, based on findings from a series of workshops and individual interviews with stakeholders and end-users. These are juxtaposed to findings from a socio-spatial analysis of the first ever dementia village, at Netherlands. The paper identifies exclusionary building practices, which could impact on how residents interact with each other, with staff as well as their personal and social network including families. These exclusionary mechanisms that certain typologies might foster, eventually might endanger fragile bonding and bridging capital. This combined to the growing evidence that supports the high importance of social capital for rural communities, generates the need for socially sustainable and inclusive practices that prevent resources from being allocated to newly built 'ghettos'. That could be achieved by revisiting and investing in existing village hubs, especially in those almost abandoned villages in deprived rural areas all over Europe and revitalise them as socially inclusive communities, active in the silver economy.

#### **6. Author(s) Biography (200 words each):**

**Dr Primali Paranagamage** is a Senior Lecturer in Architecture, University of London. Primali has a strong interest in socially responsible design that links research with practices related to the built environment. This interest has led to theoretically informed practice, funded research, publications and projects in Design for health and well-being - including older people's housing, rehabilitation of street children, resettlement of slums and shanty dwellers and mixed income communities. Recent research projects have investigated the challenges and scope for the developing housing prototypes for the well-being of older people in Lincolnshire, the role of the built environment in developing social capital of communities in marginalized areas, metrics and models for whole life sustainability assessment and a book on good practice guide for creating and sustaining mixed income communities.

**Dr Evangelia Chryssikou** is a Marie Curie fellow at the Bartlett School of Architecture UCL and registered architect. She is also coordinator of an EC European Innovation Partnership on Active and Healthy Ageing (EIP on AHA) commitment and stand-in coordinator on D4 Action Group. Her research on therapeutic environments and architecture has received prestigious international awards (Singapore 2009, Kuala Lumpur 2012, Brisbane 2013, Birmingham 2014, London 2014). Applications of her research on mental health, accessibility and mental health, autism, healthcare facilities sustainability, social inclusion, healthcare, welfare and wellness facilities, medical architecture innovation, medical tourism planning in several countries of the world (UK, France, Belgium, Greece, Middle East, etc.). Parallel activities in architecture include

teaching at medical and architectural schools in Athens, London (MARU) and the Middle East, research, involvement in research schemes and advisory for professional bodies. She has also advised the Hellenic Secretary of Health and she is the author of the new national guidelines for mental health facilities in the community. Additionally, she is the author of the book 'Architecture for Psychiatric Environments and Therapeutic Spaces', a healthcare architecture editor, reviewer, active member of several professional and scientific associations and a TED-MED speaker. She is also Member of the Board at the Scholar's Association Onassis Foundation.