

# Understanding ageing research for age-friendly urban practitioners

Anne Dye & Alex Tait RIBA Research &  
Sophie Handler, Age-Friendly Manchester, MICRA

*‘...the general advancement of Civil Architecture, and for promoting and facilitating the acquirement of the knowledge of the various arts and sciences connected therewith...’*





Silver Linings – the active third age and the city - [www.buildingfutures.org.uk](http://www.buildingfutures.org.uk)



- Call for evidence – 450 items
- Themes & introductions
- Workshop – research gaps and expert insight
- Alternative age-friendly handbook
- Research symposium
- Insights from older architects
- Engaging designers and students

		Design approach / knowledge area		
		Health & wellbeing	Inclusion	Sustainability
Project	Residential	118	109	103
	Healthcare	43	36	19
	Non-residential	18	37	11
	Outdoors	29	35	4
	Community	47	44	20
	Master-planning	20	25	6



Knowledge introductions by experts from practice and academia

- Call for evidence – over 450 items
- Themes & introductions - issues from the experts
  - i. Equality in use for all
  - ii. Greater 'personalisation' in healthcare
  - iii. Out of date mental health buildings
  - iv. one million people living with dementia by the year 2025
  - v. 'enabling' rather than 'assistive' technologies.
  - vi. Daylight provision
  - vii. Interaction with the wider community.

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- Themes & introductions – key learning
  - viii. Diversity within the aging population.
  - ix. Outdoor spaces help maintain identity.
  - x. Attractive outdoor places - heart of our urban centres
  - xi. ‘joined-up’ thinking about getting around
  - xii. Neighbourhood Plans – community participation
  - xiii. Commitment of older people to the areas in which they live
  - xiv. Older people creating communities, and running town centres.



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  - i. Sustainability
  - ii. Non-residential spaces, particularly retail
  - iii. Practice based research
  - iv. Community participation – though often cited by introduction authors as significant.

AN  
ALTERNATIVE  
AGE-FRIENDLY<sup>©</sup>  
HANDBOOK\*

\* FOR THE SOCIALLY ENGAGED  
URBAN PRACTITIONER

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  - i. Mapping, auditing, fixing, borrowing, collaborating
  - ii. Facts and taboos, *what ifs?*, and a checklist
  - iii. Fixtures, fittings and facilities
  - iv. Urban actors, collaboration, participation & co-design



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  - i. Case studies from inspirational design
  - ii. Engaging architects and academics in the same discussion
  - iii. Learning from leading experts in age-friendly research





Inspirational projects for older people







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- Insights from older architects
  - i. Deep understanding of the profession, designing for & with older people
  - ii. Caring for older people & their own changing needs
  - iii. Social engagement stories for young architects

Literature  
review

Theme  
introductions

Links to  
guidance

Case studies

Insights from  
me to you

Research gaps

Student  
network?



# Outcomes

- Designers better equipped to advise clients and create places
- Future cohorts prepared for collaborative participation
- Practitioner engagement with academic research and community

Anne Dye, RIBA Head of Technical Research

[research@riba.org](mailto:research@riba.org)

[www.architecture.com/ageingresearch](http://www.architecture.com/ageingresearch)

[@AnneDyeResearch](https://twitter.com/AnneDyeResearch)