Evaluating Spaces for Older Adults Experiencing Homelessness: findings from an environmental audit

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Aging in the Right Place PARTNERSHIP | Vieillir au Bon Endroit PARTENARIAT

MISSION OLD BREWERY · McGill · UQÀM · SFU SIMON FRASER UNIVERSITY

Background: Aging in the Right Place

(Lawrence & Low, 1990; Humphries & Canham, 2021)

The Tool

1) The “Exterior of the building”

2) The “Interior of the building

3) The “Residents’ Unit”

4) Concluding rating: Project/ housing complex décor and appearance

+ Secondary Observation

Adapting the Tool

Q 26 (SA-Q26)	☐	☐	☐	Is there signage showing actions taken for COVID-19 safety protocols?

Q 190 (SC-P1-Q190)	☐	☐	☐	Is there a lockable security safe available in the unit/room?

Q3: Describe the quality of public spaces/amenities in the area. How do they support social interaction and public life?

[Observe the type of public spaces located in the area (restaurants, parks, library, banks, religious/ spiritual places, etc.) and whether they are accessible for mobility device users, typoes of uses/activities and users (I.e. age groups) these public spaces support, the extent to which these public spaces are being used, and whether public spaces are even present in the area?]

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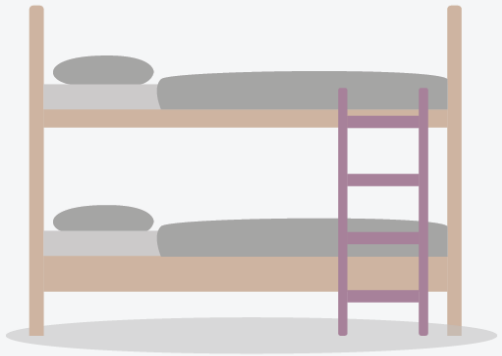
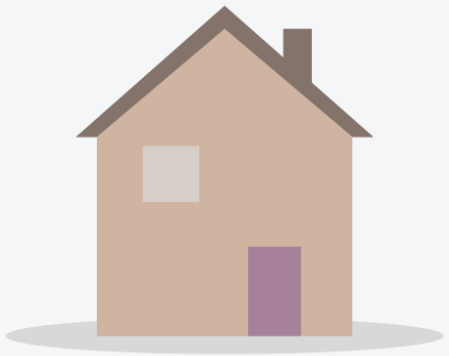
Promising Practice Models

1.



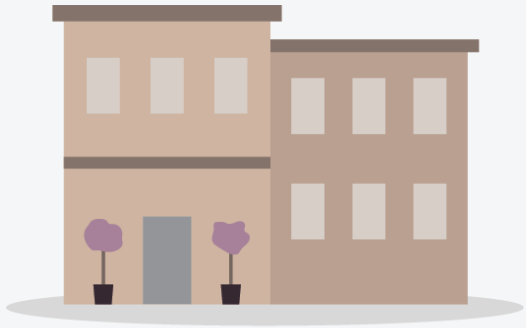
Emergency, temporary, or transitional shelter/ housing with supports

2.



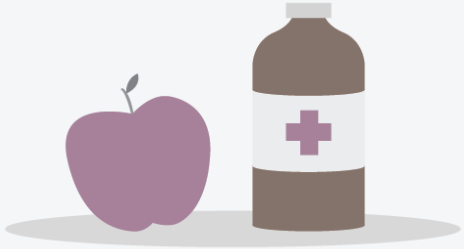
Independent housing with offsite supports

3.



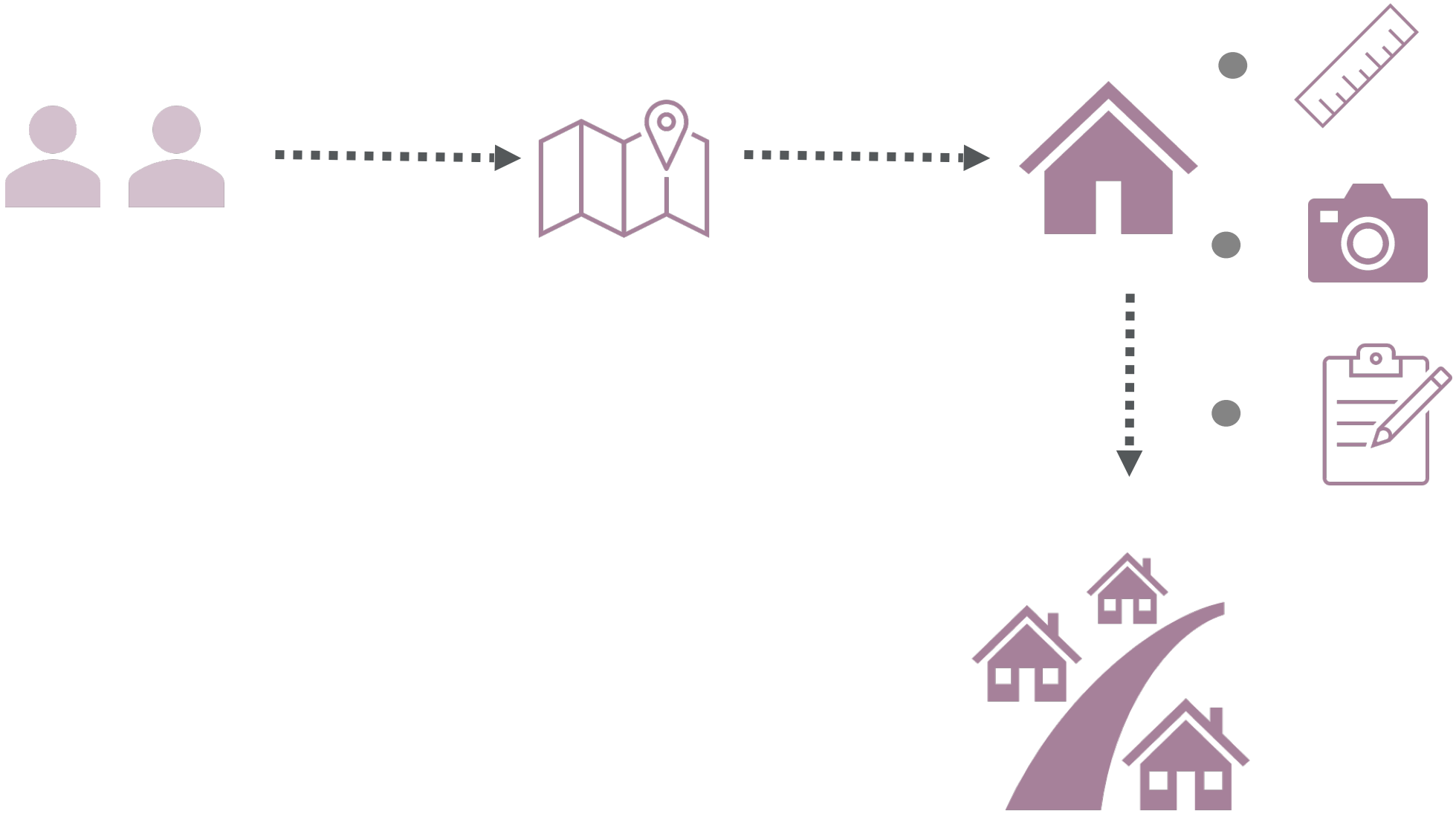
Supported independent housing with onsite non-medical supports

4.



Permanent supportive housing with onsite medical and / or specialized services

Methodology: conducting the audit



Analysis Process

1. Conceptual linkage

2. Weighting the items

Conceptual Linkage Framework Rating	Functionality, Accessibility, Safety & Security, Social Activity, Autonomy & Identity					
SECTION A: EXTERIOR OF THE BUILDING						
	Functionality (F)	Accessibility (A)	Safety and Security (SS)	Social Activity (SA)	No Weighting	Weighting
1. Sheltered from the sun and rain and snow?			X		1	1
2. Is the exterior main entrance adequately lit?	X		X		1	1
2a. How many light fixtures are present?						
2b. How many light fixtures are lit/functional?						
2c. Adequately lit at night for older adults?	X		X		1	1
3. Visible from seating in the lobby?			X		1	1
4. Visible from the station of an employee?			X		1	1
5. Is the entrance barrier free?		X			1	1
6. Is there outside seating in front of the building?	X			X	1	1
6a. Is it visible from the entrance lobby?	X		X	X	1	0,2
6b. Is it visible from a ground floor social space?	X		X	X	1	0,2
6c. Is it visible from the station of an employee?			X		1	0,2
6d. Is it protected from the weather?			X		1	0,2
6e. Is it provided with a view of pedestrians, etc.?				X	1	0,2

3. Percentages

A) PP compared to the maximum potential evaluated by the tool

$$\frac{\text{Weighted score of the PP}}{\text{Weighted baseline score of the tool}}$$

B) PP compared to its own potential

$$\frac{\text{Weighted score of the PP}}{\text{Weighted baseline score of the PP (without N/A items)}}$$

4. Interpretation

Low: Up to 33%
Medium: 34% to 66%
High: 67% and over

Analysis Results

General Results					
	Functionality	Accessibility	Safety and Security	Social Activity	Autonomy and Identity
PP/PP	47%	65%	54%	55%	14,29%
PP/Base	34%	43%	41%	47%	10%

SECTION A: Exterior of the building				
	Functionality	Accessibility	Safety and Security	Social Activity
PP/PP	26%	38%	27%	28%
PP/Baseline	19%	31%	18%	24%

Legend

Low: Up to 33%
Medium: 34% to 66%
High: 67% and over

Findings: different gazes on the environment

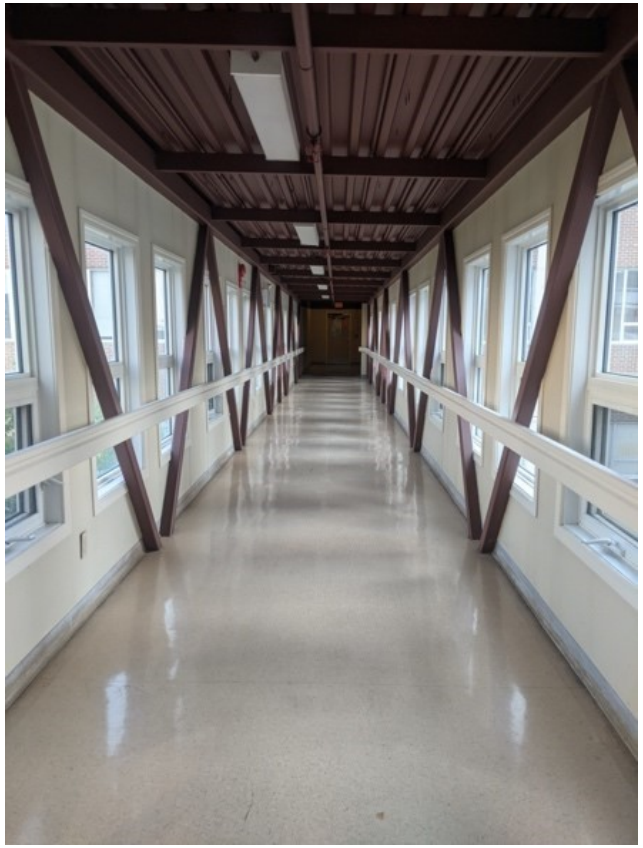
vs

Findings: a different look on the outdoors

“In the back by the benches, right behind the shelter. And then the alley is here. And so you know, we feed the birds... Outside where, where we spent all of our time, I, at least I was probably the one that spent most of the time outside, and uh, feeding the pigeons and, and you know, five o'clock that was feeding time. ”

Findings: a different look on the outdoors

Findings: what can't be seen



“And this is the road that I use that I walk along it and go for walks along this road. It is the hallway between the shelter and the Kerby Center. So today, I already made five circles there and back. And I will do more. and the evening tonight, I will also go for a walk and I will walk the same amount. It’s more about, not not about aging, but about getting more energized because physical activities make you younger and it gives you more energy.”

Findings: what can't be seen

Findings: what can't be seen

Findings: Conclusion

Discussion: Challenges

Discussion: Strengths

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Thank you!

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DISCLOSURE

I have no commercial relationships to disclose.