

waters of life

a competition for the design of a bathing space that promotes therapeutic cleansing, adaptation to the aging process, a sense of home.

The Gerontology Program at UNCG invites interior design students from across North Carolina to participate in the first biennial Waters of Life student design competition, part of the annual *Aging is Good Business Summit*. The UNCG Gerontology Program and the competition are supported by Steven D. Bell & Company, the AARP Office of Academic Affairs, Twin Lakes Community, and the Passman Family Foundation.

Context

The concentration of post-World War II population known as “Baby Boomers” is now approaching and planning for their retirement, and the impact on social programs, government benefits, healthcare systems, and the economy and society in general are now becoming realized. Designers need to develop new approaches to and increased awareness of the issues of aging. The Waters of Life design competition is devoted to this purpose.

Bathing and cleansing are activities fundamental to good health and personal hygiene. With aging come new challenges to the ability to maintain these intimate personal habits. Physical infirmities, sensory degeneration, and changing living patterns all contribute to these challenges. More directly, bathrooms are one of the most intensive environments in a home, concentrating building systems in a way that makes them expensive to create or renovate. New ideas for fixtures, material applications, storage systems, physical access, lighting, as these are related to issues of aging, are all encouraged.

The target population for the competitive designs are current “50-something” Baby Boomers whose residential preference is for “**aging-in-place**.” They want to remain in their own homes as long as possible, and your task is to provide them with a prototypical bathroom that can be adapted to their changing needs as they age. The goal of the competition is to engage design students in the expanding economic and social significance of residential housing for an aging society.

Eligibility

The Waters of Life student design competition is open to undergraduate and graduate students currently enrolled in an interior design or interior architecture program in a North Carolina university, college, or community college. Only one entry per student will be accepted.

Entry Requirements

Each entry must include:

- (1) A completed 2007 Waters of Life entry form affixed to the rear of the presentation boards (no identification of student or school should be visible on the front).
- (2) Two 18" x 24" presentation boards, including a statement describing the design concept, specifying its relevance to senior housing and aging in place.
- (3) Entries must be received by December 14, 2007.

Mail or deliver to:

The UNCG Gerontology Program
124 McIver Building
PO Box 26170
Greensboro, NC 27402-6170

Judging

The judging of entries will be based on design innovation, functionality, and the responsiveness to the gerontological context of the aging individual and family. Judging will take place in early 2008 by a panel of nationally-recognized academic and industry leaders. Winners will be notified in February 2008, and an exhibit of all entries will be staged at the annual Aging is Good Business Summit, held on the UNCG campus in April 2008.

A First Prize of \$1000, Second Prize of \$500, and Third Prize of \$250 will be awarded, and a series of Honorable Mentions will be given as well. All winners and honorable mentions will be recognized and displayed at the Aging is Good Business Summit in April 2008.

Jury

- Victor Regnier (Chair), Professor of Gerontology, Andrus Gerontology Center, and Professor and former Dean, School of Architecture, University of Southern California, Los Angeles, CA
- Michael Bateman, President, Bell Senior Living, Greensboro, NC
- Barbara Currie, Director of Customer Experience, John Cavanaugh Company, Greensboro, NC
- Laurie Ringaert, Director, Office of Research, School of Public Health, University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill; former Director, Center for Universal Design, North Carolina State University
- Jim White, Associate, Triad Design, Greensboro, NC

For further information: www.uncg.edu/gro/design

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Entry Form (one required for each entry)

Name _____.

School/Program _____.

Address _____.

Email _____ **Phone** _____.

Verification of Enrollment

I hereby certify that the above student is currently enrolled in our program at the above institution.

Department Chair / Program Director Date

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Received by The UNCG Gerontology Program on _____
Date