

Honors thesis

Master of Science in Sustainable Architecture

Abstract

Humanisation and sustainable design of healthcare spaces for individuals with mental disabilities

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by Giorgia Spadaro In contrast to the process of de-personalization of individuals, the last decades have generated a shift in the approach to healthcare, which became more and more centered on the human dimension of the patient. Architecture has a fundamental role in the humanization process of the care. The new environments of healthcare facilities are now focused in the enhancement of the user's wellbeing.

The interest on the topic of the humanisation of healthcare facilities derives from the colaboration with the Dutch firm Équipe voor architectuur en urbanisme, during which I was involved in the design of several healthcare facilities.

The study presented in this work aims to provide a tool which can be used to design user-centered sustainable healthcare facilities for individuals with cognitive disabilities. The research methodology consists of the identification of design strategies, after a comprehensive analysis of the users' needs.

The work is divided into five parts. The first part of the work is a review of the scientific literature of the many user profiles and needs. Then, I examine three case studies and analyze four sustainability assessment methods combining themes, requirements, and design strategies on different scales. In the fourth part of the work, I define a framework of user demands, design requirements and strategies. These have been later developed into a kit of guidelines, which can be used to design common spaces in healthcare facilities for mental disables. In the last part of the work, I test the developed toolkit and apply it to the design process of a psychiatric facility in the Netherlands. The toolkit aims to guide and support the architect during all the different design phases, providing targeted design strategies for new or existing healthcare facilities.

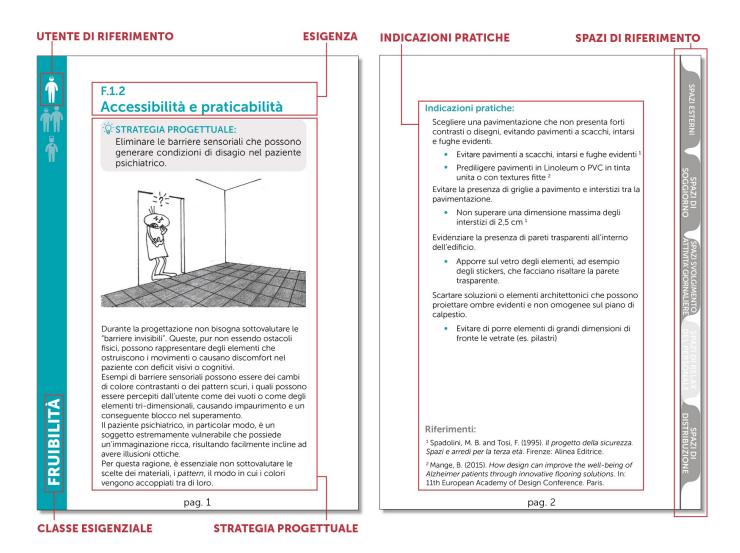


Fig. 1 Design guidelines: sample and guide to reading.

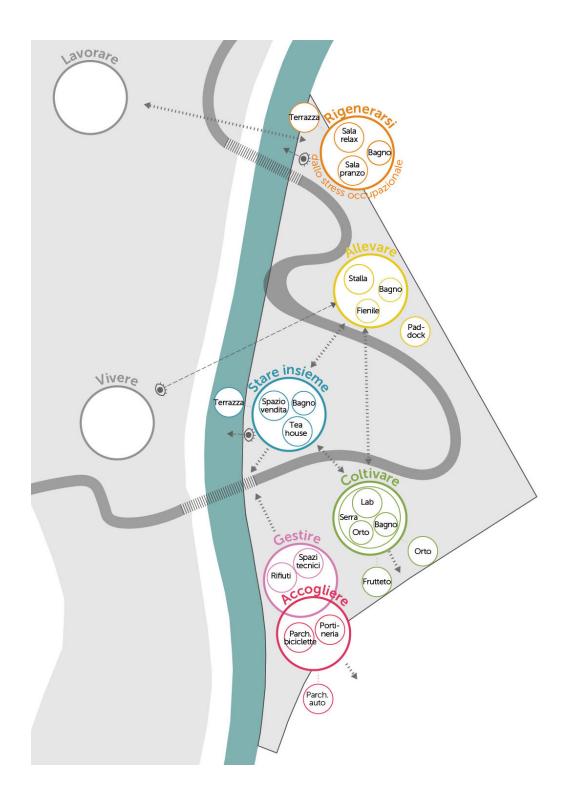


Fig. 2 Meta-project: identification of spaces and activities; analysis of connections and relations.



Fig. 3 Final Master Plan in relation with the expansion plan of Heimerstein psychiatric center.

