

MULTIGENERATIONAL LIVING

Manifesto

People migrate from the countryside to the city. This global tendency is also a part of the Danish reality. People want to live in neighborhoods with people in the same segment and this tendency poses huge challenges to the cohesion of society.

We approach these challenges introducing Multigenerational Living as a housing strategy for the next century - a strategy for new neighborhoods or a densification of the existing.

Multigenerational Living does away with the segregation and institutionalization of our society, thus establishing a strong local community for all generations.

The challenges of the demographic change with more people getting older is met by providing elderly people with the social interaction they often lack and therefore seek through welfare services.

By rethinking the zoning and placement of common space and social business within living areas, Multigenerational Living heightens the common social responsibility, enriches people's quality of life and improves social and economic welfare.

The strategy establishes the size of a community that everyone can actually comprehend and be part of. At the same time it provides space for alternative ways of living for the many that have not chosen the traditional family life that has been the key focus of the last century's planning.

To solve global issues we need to focus locally and handle

THE STITCH

Film synopsis

The rapid growth of cities in Denmark and the consequences it has on the human being is dramatized in the film "The Stitch". The anonymity and subsequently loneliness is the result of the segregated life we live in cities today.

The film claims that architecture can meet these challenges when mixing generations. The action takes place during one day in a Multigenerational House.

A thread of yarn is used as a simple metaphor delivering the message of 'stitching' the existing society and the people together; a binding element that makes new textures in the fabric of the city.

The thread takes you through the film and ties the scenes together.

5 typical 'ghettos' are stacked and merged into the new way of Multigenerational Living, to simply explain the way we live today and could live tomorrow.

The House unfolds and it's shown how the specifically programmed common spaces are distributed on every floor to gain a built-in balance between private and common. Characters of different ages are introduced to describe the emotional and tangible relationships that occur between residents.

The Multigenerational House works locally as the anchor point of the community and the film illustrates how activity spaces in the form of a social-economic business push forward the intergenerational learning in the neighborhood.

"The Stitch" is composed of three layers:

1. Drawings and moveable paper dolls as characters put together in stop motion,
2. Voice over of an adult narrator that adds an informative layer to the movie,
3. Music to accompany the story and give background atmosphere.

The style of the film is handmade cartoon; a form of communication that is both evocative and inspirational and can be understood by all generations, including kids. The choice of color, line and texture gives the film a warm and vital visual expression.

The film is pragmatic, honest, informal and funny, a style that make serious subjects graspable in a humorous way. This is emphasized in the last scene that twists the story in a surprising way.....

The story unveiled in "The Stitch" is told in five chapters:

1. Introduction
2. Concept of Multigenerational Living
3. Fragments of life; a sneak peak
4. Back to individuality
5. Outré

this storyboard does not represent the final visual result. it is though a sketch that gives the idea of the stile and the mood that is going to be used in the film.



voice: every day people from the countryside move to the city...
the scene appears from dark.



voice: the city grows and grows...
the camera stays still



voice: ...typically people with the same life-style will tend to create groups and stick together...and live in the same type of house
zoom in-in the city: the "ghetto" areas



the camera scrolls to a building site.



voice: what happens if..."
here an "elderly-house" pop-up



from symbol to person: an old man moves to the new house



the camera stays still
voice:...people of different age start living together?



voice: families, students, elderly, singles under the same roof?

10



voice: how can we stitch all this people together?
a blue thread starts to connect the buildings

11



voice: ...by creating common spaces for specific activities that facilitate interaction between generations.
the thread generates common areas that start to pop-up in the scene

12



voice: "this is a strategy to build new neighborhoods and densify existing cityscapes."
the building appears in one color, as a whole.

13



voice: to solve global issues we need to focus locally and handle complexity with simple solutions...
zoom-out. metaphor : the earth as a ball of yarn

14



cross fading: a kid grasps the idea and catch the ball.

15



a quick overview of the building- highlighting the playroom

16



back to the scene with the ball

17



the camera stays still

18



voice: it's simply fun when a kid and an old play together...

19



voice: often time passes very slowly...
the clock moves slow

20



voice: ...when one is alone and bored.
zoom-out to one of the residents' apartment

21



voice: activities next door stimulate one to get up and get out!
the camera stays still

22



23



voice: the multi-generational house works locally as the anchor-point of the community by providing a space where neighbors can interact with the residents

a quick overview of the building- highlighting the "social-workshop"

24



voice: the ground floor of the house frames different activities. the space provides the opportunity for old craftsmanship and know-how to be transferred to the next generations.

cut to the social workshop from the inside

25



a quick overview of the building- highlighting the roof-garden

26



voice: elders can give life-experience to kids and young-people while sharing activities in the daily-life, for instance gardening.

zoom-out to the roof

27



the camera stays still

28



a quick overview of the building- highlighting the dining-room

29



switch into the dining room.

30



voice: a common meal is much more fun, both to cook and to eat, when you are in good company, and increases appetite.

the camera stays still

31



zoom out: nighttime

32



cut to the family's apartment

33



cut to the couple's apartment

34



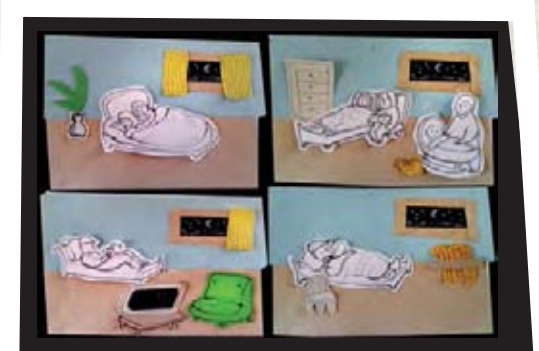
cut to the student's apartment

35



cut to the senior's apartment

36



voice: sharing activities is a choice and one can always retire to their own apartment.

views of the four apartments in the same screen

This picture shows the visual style of the final movie.



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The roof-gardening scene.