

Long Life

international student project

While the average life expectancy is still increasing, the lifespan of products, services and information is shortening. While the chances of living to old age are becoming increasingly certain, the future is becoming increasingly uncertain. The idea of a "humanly habitable" space for living in old age is fundamentally missing.

How are advanced societies preparing for the ongoing demographic change? What impact will population aging have on all areas of human life? These questions are becoming a challenge for sociologists, economists, scientists, doctors, philosophers, politicians.

Design, architecture and art in all their types and forms can also help to find possible answers. Some ideas may be feasible tomorrow, others may be visions provoking further thinking. We offer several areas that intertwine and influence with each other:

Long life – dignified and beautiful

Almost everyone wants to live as full an active life as their health and life situation allows. How will society support seniors in active aging and their positive approach to life, what can be the best prevention against solitude and stagnation?

In addition to the search for new business models (social entrepreneurship, etc.) and work models aimed at eliminating discrimination in the labor market (shorter hours, simpler tasks), there should also be a variety of activities and resources to offer a meaningful and attractive life content to the person in the post-productive age.

Longevity also suits things. Aging (materials, forms, concepts), flow and submission to time (with its tendency to „disintegrate“) is a natural – and therefore aesthetic quality. However, the prevailing economic thinking and industrial production strategies are set in the opposite direction, the idea of unlimited economic growth (and the pursuit of marketing new and better products) is strikingly reminiscent of dreaming of eternal youth and denying limits.

Where to look for an alternative to the current model? How to fulfill the idea of sustainability, how to achieve full quality with (voluntarily) limited resources, timeless beauty? Does the solution offer the principles of circular economics and design?

Health

We live more years thanks to science and quality medical care that our ancestors never dreamed of. Good health is undoubtedly one of the main topics of later life.

Higher demands on the health system (more patients = more doctors and medical staff) will likely lead to an even greater emphasis on prevention and personal responsibility in caring for their health, faster detection of diseases with the use of new technologies (online diagnostics – wearable tech, chips in the body, ...).

The patient's remote contact with the doctor becomes more natural.

How can design, architecture or the most modern technologies create suitable conditions and environments that support health and vitality in all their aspects (including, for example, sexual activities, etc.) and thus deepen the quality of life in later life?

Self-sufficiency

Even in old age we want to feel independent, self-sufficient, we do not want to be "a nuisance to anyone". But how to ensure everything necessary for a good life, when the forces gradually run out, how to face loneliness and social exclusion?

Communication technologies can to some extent keep in touch with loved ones and friends and provide the necessary services (including care services), on the other hand they will help identify whether a lonely person is okay. What form of real and virtual space habitable by older people can be offered by new architectural, design and technological solutions?

The term „social network“ can be crucial in the form of local, neighborhood communities seeking mutual help and self-sufficiency. Efforts to live sustainably in a familiar, home environment are also likely to affect the future shape of social services and shared living (most often homes for the elderly today).

What might new urban and architectural concepts aimed at the coexistence of several generations look like?

Adaptability

The life wisdom and experience of seniors are beginning to pass seriously with a flood of information and constant (technological) innovations – they are at a disadvantage to them due to poorer adaptability, powerless, prone to being victims. Scissors between generations are opening more and more, deepening differences can easily lead to misunderstanding and generational conflict.

What are the means to help seniors understand and successfully cope with the rapidly changing world? How to attractively fulfill the appeal to lifelong learning? What might initiatives look like to remove various (not just digital) barriers and promote coexistence?

We believe that creative disciplines can, in their response to many of the above questions, look for interesting answers and contribute through joint efforts to the creation of a satisfied, fulfilled, long life.

Involved fields / considered outputs:

product design, interior design, architecture – aids, furniture, spatial / architectural / urban concepts, ...

digital media design – digital products and services, online use, VR,...

visual communication, audiovision, free arts – communication / artistic reflection on the theme of Long Life

The proposed topics and outputs serve as input inspiration, the purpose of the project is to provoke one's own invention and involvement of new technologies, the search for unexpected views and solutions.