Dementia-friendly design: The virtual hospital

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DSDC
• People with dementia over the age of 65 years of age occupy approximately one quarter of hospital beds at any one time
• People with dementia stay for longer in hospital than people who do not have dementia but go in for the same reason
• The longer the hospital stay the poorer the outcome
• (Alzheimer’s Society 2009)
• Improving the experience of people with dementia if they need to be in hospital is vital

• The hospital environment is part of this and we need to pay attention to design
• General hospitals and emergency departments are often designed in a way that makes people more confused and vulnerable

• People with dementia need well designed environments that do not cause them unnecessary disability and stress
• We discriminate if we do not take these needs into account
• Dementia-friendly = friendly for all
• DSDC have lots of information and services to help
• The virtual hospital showcases dementia-friendly design features
Royal College of Nursing (2009)
Commitment to the care of people with dementia in hospital settings

“Principle 5: Environments will be dementia friendly and support independence and wellbeing”
“An environment which helps people with dementia to orient themselves to their surroundings and guide themselves around the ward can provide reassurance, help maintain independence and avert distress” Executive summary of the Report of the National Audit of Dementia Care in General Hospitals (2011) Royal College of Psychiatrists, CCQI, HQIP
The possible journey with dementia
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Design services from DSDC

- Design School
- Bespoke training
- Study days
- Consultancy
- Design audit certification
- Virtual hospital and care home
- Design and technology suite
- Publications and resources
Let’s take a tour........

• [http://dementia.stir.ac.uk/design/virtual-environments/virtual-hospital](http://dementia.stir.ac.uk/design/virtual-environments/virtual-hospital)
Thank you!

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