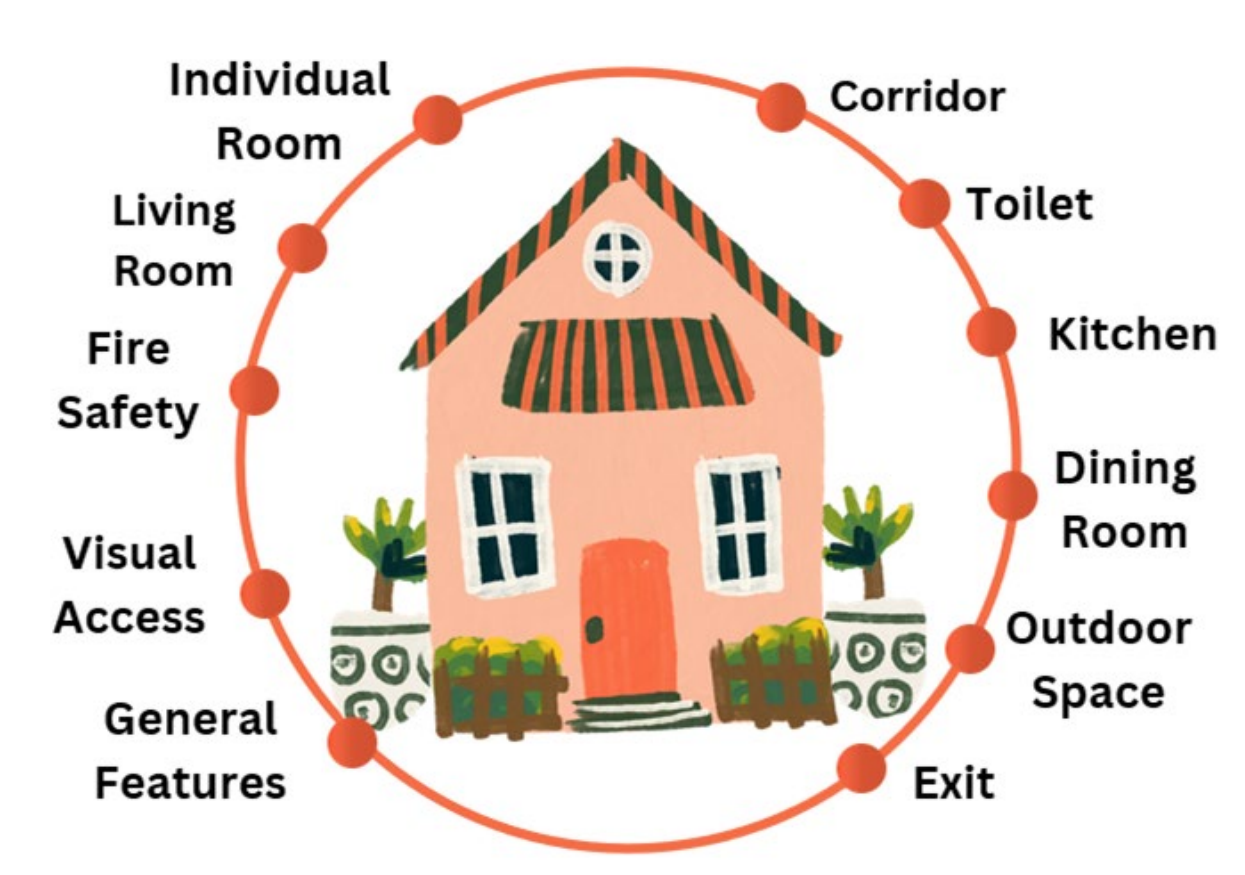


Designing For Dementia: Utilising Case Study Approaches To Explore How The Environment Of Care Homes Can Support Wayfinding And Wandering

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Care homes are extremely heterogeneous in their design; future research investigating behaviours or phenomena influenced by the environment should incorporate detailed environmental descriptions and/or mapping methods to enhance contextual understanding.

INTRODUCTION	METHODS	RESULTS	CONCLUSIONS	REFERENCES
Up to 60% of care home residents with dementia wander; the physical layout of a care home dictates whether they can do so safely and independently. Existing audit tools evaluate environments broadly but fail to map the direct link between physical spaces and walking behaviours. This study developed and applied a novel evidence-based environmental mapping tool across 7 care homes to identify physical features that support or hinder wayfinding	The Wayfind tool design - Derived from prior studies (Van Buuren & Mohammadi, 2002: Griffiths et al., 2024) - Developed by an occupational Therapist and ratified by a multidisciplinary research team - Consists of an 8-item matrix across 11 environmental categories evaluating qualitative design and quantitative layout metrics Multi-case mapping study 7 diverse care homes in England - Led by an Occupational Therapist - Completion of tool, including taking measurements - Typological floor plans of each care home were created from fire plans	High Heterogeneity: Environments blended domestic, clinical and commercial design elements. Restricted Access: 5 homes locked kitchens and laundry rooms, and 3 prevented garden access Corridor lengths: walking routes varied from 24 meters to 67 meters. They often lacked personalisation or places to rest. Visual sightline: Only 3 homes had open plans allowing direct visual access from the living room to residential corridors View the care home layouts below	Modifiable features of the environment can support wandering and orientation, which is important in non-purpose-built settings. Points of interest, personalisation, appropriate signage, lighting, and seat availability are highlighted as effective features that can support wandering. 	Jayasekara, R. (2009). Dementia: Wandering. Evidence-based summaries. Joanna Briggs Institute Van Buuren, L. P. G., & Mohammadi, M. (2022). Dementia-Friendly Design: A Set of Design Criteria and Design Typologies Supporting Wayfinding. <i>HERD: Health Environments Research & Design Journal</i>, 15(1), 150-172. Marquardt, G. (2011). Wayfinding for people with dementia: a review of the role of architectural design. <i>HERD: Health Environments Research & Design Journal</i>, 4(2), 75-90 Griffiths, A. W., Cunha, I., Mikhaylova-O'Connell, Y., Devi, R., Spilsbury, K., & Cherry, M. G. (2024). Exploring the impact of care home environments and culture on supporting residents to 'wander' safely. <i>Aging & Mental Health</i>, 28(10), 1410-1418
				CONTACT  Access to The Wayfind tool and contact details ALZHEIMER'S ASSOCIATION 