ELDER-FRIENDLY DESIGN EVALUATION  (Choose A OR B)

DUE: Tuesday March 30, 12:00 noon  PRESENTATIONS: Wednesday March 31 in class

Option A. Elder-Friendly Restaurant Assessment:

Your assignment is to be a restaurant critic. Unlike the typical restaurant critic, you will not focus on the food! Instead, you will evaluate two restaurants with respect to their elder-appropriate design. An elder should accompany you. How is the lighting? Acoustics? Seating? Would your grandmother have difficulty reading the menu?

Option B. Elder-Friendly Grocery Store Assessment:

Option B is similar to Option A, but focuses on two grocery stores. You will go grocery shopping with an older adult and evaluate the design of the store. How is the signage? The shelf heights? Are some tasks difficult for your companion? Is the lighting sufficient? Do the finishes cause glare?

Visiting the Establishments

- You will visit two restaurants or stores (local or not) with one or two older adults.
- Find an elder “partner” for at least one of your two visits.
- As when food critics or inspectors visit, the establishments will not be told in advance.

The Evaluation...

1. Is based on: a) your own assessment of the environment, b) what you have learned through the readings (on syllabus and additional reading) & lectures and c) insights & experiences of the elder who accompanies you.
2. Must consider a variety of design, ergonomic, and accessibility issues including lighting & acoustics; signage/ font; anthropometrics, seating; design / height of tables & shelves, etc.; legibility; wheelchair access, etc. in relation to the mobility, strength, sensory and other changes associated with aging.
3. Must include 1 or more Environment & Aging theories in the write-up of each establishment to frame your discussion and illustrate your points, and you must cite at least 5 articles.

The Write-Up  (limit 10 pages total)

1. Review / Evaluation (2-3 pages / venue)

Please present the results of your evaluations in an orderly & engaging manner (ideally with headers & subheaders). This write-up might be a hybrid between a restaurant critique or design critique and a governmental inspection report. What are the positive and negative design features? Why? Be explicit, and provide illustrations or photographs to enhance your evaluation. You might include a description of your elder assistant, including any physical limitations or sensitivities.

2. Design Recommendations (~2 page / venue)

Propose design modifications for each establishment. This could be a mock letter to the restaurant or grocery store from the “Ithaca Committee on Elder Design.” Be convincing about the importance of the design issues and the modifications you propose. You may refer to the evaluation in your letter. Remember to include theory(ies). Cite & explain the literature to strengthen your case!