



Transformational Demographics (1.5 HSW) – Dr. Sherry Ahrentzen, Assoc. AIA

Friday, June 8, 1:30 - 3:00 p.m.

Coined the silver tsunami in the public media, the term "transformational demographics" more accurately describes the oncoming age shift that will occur in countless communities throughout the US and many other countries. By the year 2032, there will be more people over the age of 65 than under the age of 16. All the while, our homes and communities have never been designed or built for such an age tilt. Over the next three decades, architects will need to address the challenges presented by the growing numbers of seniors in their communities, and the spiraling public and private costs associated with that. Are there viable design alternatives that can be embedded, integrated, or re-created in our residential infrastructure, particularly in the suburbs where the challenges to aging are especially significant?

- Assess demographic changes projected for the next three decades, and determine implications for the design of the built landscape, particularly of residential communities
- Recognize health, social and economic impacts of homes and landscapes that are not designed or planned for aging populations and households
- Identify innovative residential types, models and examples that are conducive to aging and multi-generational populations that go beyond conventional retirement communities or skilled nursing care
- Appraise how design solutions for climate change can also enhance living environments for older populations