



SCHEDULE E

Our Home: For All Ages & Stages Of Life
Wednesday, April 19, 17
Information Sheet

Principal Investigator:

Linda Marie Johnson
Masters Student
Department of Human Ecology
University of Alberta
780-263-6712/lmj5@ualberta.ca

Research Supervisor:

Dr. Megan Strickfaden
Assistant Professor
Department of Human Ecology
University of Alberta
780-492-3012/megan.strickfaden@ualberta.ca

Dear Potential Participant:

Why are we doing this study?

This study explores the transitional experiences of older adult couples that are interested in, or have done, renovations to their long-time home to accommodate aging-in-place. Many couples continue to remain in their own home even though they may encounter specialized needs due to the unique physical challenges that happen over the course of a healthy aging process.

We are interested in speaking to couples that have been long-term residents of their present home that they own and who are thinking about or have renovated to create a more age-friendly space.

In the study, we will be exploring why and how a couple embarks on the decision to change their home in order to prepare for aging-in-place. Our aim is to gain knowledge and insight into the transition process these individuals experience during the course of the renovation. The results of this study will be used in support of the Principal Investigator's Masters thesis.

What happens if you agree to participate?

We will ask both you and your spouse to participate in two home walk throughs, two interviews, and the keeping of a journal. Four research meetings will take place in your home, at mutually agreed upon dates and times.

- The Home Artifact Analysis/first walk through will enable the researcher to visit your home, with you present, to independently record their own observations of your home's renovation spaces, features and objects.
- During the Home Owner Guide Tour/second walk through, you will be asked to take a lead role in the examination of your home's age-friendly spaces, features, and objects. We request that you provide your comments on what you consider to be your home's significant age-friendly spaces, features, and objects.



During both walk throughs and the interviews, we ask permission that the specific areas, features, and objects of the home, identified as either non-age-friendly or age-friendly, be audio recorded, photographed or video recorded by the researchers. Audio recordings will ensure that accuracy is maintained. Video recording allows us to capture the physical interaction encountered by the participants as they engage with the non-age-friendly or age-friendly spaces, features or objects.

- During the Life History Interview/first interview, one spouse will be asked a series of questions that examines their life experiences related to their childhood home(s). The spouses may choose who will be interviewed. However, ideally the spouse that has initiated the renovations will choose to complete the interview.
- During the Home Renovation Experience Interview/second interview, you will be asked a series of questions that prompt you to describe, as a couple, your decision to undertaking the renovation of your home. Additionally, you will be requested to share the experiences encountered as you, as a couple, transition(ed) through the process of renovating your home to age-in-place.

The information recorded during the interviews will be transcribed and shared with you.

- You will be asked to review the prepared transcripts with in one week of receiving them and, with the researcher, add or subtract any details of concern. Following each review, the transcripts will be understood to be final.
- Between the first and second interview, the researchers will ask each participant to keep a journal for a period of 24 hours that records any interaction with and personal reflections that arises concerning the renovations spaces, features and objects. As well, any additional thoughts that the participant's feels is of relevance to the study, and relates in any way to their experience, can also be included. All transcripts plus journals will be either dropped off by the researcher, picked-up by the researchers, or sent electronically.
- Additionally, as a couple, you will be asked to share with the researchers your own photographs or materials, of any nature, that you feel would strengthen the researchers data set.

How long will it take?

The researchers have outlined below the time that they anticipate it will take for each meeting. However, it should be noted that in every case but the Home Artifact Analysis/first walk through, the actual length of time taken for the meetings will depend on the nature of your responses.

- The Home Artifact Analysis/first walk through should last approximately one hour.
- We ask that approximately 11/2 hours be set aside for the Homeowners Guided Tour/second walk through.

Ideally, the two walk throughs will be spaced no more than one week apart.



- We ask that approximately 1 1/2 hours be set aside for the recording of one spouse's Life History Interview.
- We ask that approximately 2 hours be set aside for the recording of the couple's Home Renovation Experience Interview.

The interviews, if possible, will be spaced no more than 7 days apart.

- The journaling commitment will ideally occur between the first and second interview we ask that you record over a 24 hour period all the interactions you had, over the course of that day, with your home's age-friendly or non-age-friendly spaces, features, or objects.

Will you be paid for participating in this study?

No, you will not be paid for your time. However, to thank you for your participation, each spouse will receive a \$50 gift card to a restaurant of his or her choice. (\$100 per couple)

What are the benefits and risks of being in this study?

By participating in this study, we hope you will benefit from the positive feelings garnered by assisting the researchers in gathering a better appreciation of the role your home's built environment has had on your decision to age-in-place, and your experiences with the renovation process. As well, it is possible that at the conclusion of the study, the researchers may be able to share with you ideas that they have identified which could potentially improve the way you interact with your home as you age-in-place.

There are few, if any, risks associated with discussing your experiences with a trained researcher. However, should you encounter any questions that make you feel uncomfortable, you can refrain from answering them. Your participation is voluntary and you are free to withdraw from the study at any time. No further information will be collected after the point of withdrawal. You do not have to give a reason for your withdrawal. What's more, it will not affect your affiliation with the University of Alberta. The information collected while a valid consent is in place will be; transcribed, reviewed by the participant and concerns discussed between the participant and researcher. After this date, the information collected cannot be removed from the data set.

What will happen to this research?

Architects, builders, renovators, home product suppliers, and other researchers may possibly use these findings. The overall goal will be to advance the education of students and professionals working in the building and renovation industry, as well as, government policy makers regarding issues that relate to both;

- The impact the built environment of the home has on the changing physical needs of older adults.
- The factors that play a role in the decision process of older adults who decide to renovate their long-time home to better support aging-in-place.



As our population ages, an increasing number of older adults will be choosing to live at home in the coming years. This suggests that numerous couples will face the decision of whether to renovate their homes as they determine their plans to age-in-place. This research may be used to assist others in this decision making process. The goal of the research is to limit the challenges encountered in making the decision to renovate their home to age-in-place, as well as, to highlight the benefits of that choice.

What about confidentiality?

It is your choice whether or not you would like to remain anonymous during the course of the study. The choice of anonymity would include not revealing your name, along with any other identifying information obtained during the completion of the study or in the sharing of the findings. The only constraint to your choice is that if your partner makes the decision that they do not want their identity revealed, you will also be required to remain anonymous. If you wish, you may opt to choose a pseudonym name that will be used to refer to you during the study.

All information will be kept confidential (private), except when professional codes of ethics or legislation (the law) requires reporting. The information from this study will be kept in a secure area (a locked filing cabinet) indefinitely from the date of completion of the study, unless you choose to be completely anonymous then any identifying information will be destroyed after 5 years. However, photographs, transcripts and other written materials will be retained indefinitely, as this data may be used to inform other experts in the industry, as well as, possibly being combined with future research.

The information gathered during this study will be analyzed and included as part of the Principal Investigator's Masters thesis and will be shared in the form of a written document and presentations. You will be invited to attend any presentations that are done locally.

Are you interested in taking part in this study?

If you wish to participate in this research study, please complete the consent form and return it to Linda Marie Johnson.

Contacts for this study

Any questions that you may have about this study may be directed to Linda Marie Johnson; by phone at 780-458-6712 or by email at lmj5@ualberta.ca. You may also contact her Research Supervisor, Dr. Megan Strickfaden, directly; by phone at 780-492-3012 or by email at megan.strickfaden@ualberta.ca.

The plans for this study have been reviewed for adherence to ethical guidelines. If you have any questions about your rights as a study participant contact the University of Alberta Research Ethics Board at 780-492-2615.

Your signature on the attached consent form means that you understand the information being requested of you in participating in this study and that you agree to participate in the study. Please keep these pages for future reference.