Research Statement

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My research examines how the physical environment can support older adults to promote their health and well-being. My scholarship is grounded in environmental psychology and environmental gerontology, emphasizing the significant impact that the physical environment has on people's perception, emotions, behaviors, and judgement. By understanding these relationships, my research aims to contribute to the design of effective and innovative interior environments that enhance the quality of life for older adults.

A key aspect of my research is the role of the physical environment in reducing fall risks among older adults. I have explored various design interventions that can help create safer living spaces, thereby enabling older adults to age in place with greater independence. My studies highlight how specific design elements, such as flooring materials, lighting, and spatial configurations, can either mitigate or exacerbate the risks of falls. By identifying these factors, my research provides valuable insights for designers to create environments that prioritize safety and support the needs of aging populations.

Home modifications are another crucial component of my research on aging in place. I have explored various home modification strategies for older adults. I am also interested in increasing awareness of the importance of home modifications for aging in place, as many older adults are hesitant to consider these changes. By understanding the specific needs of older adults and implementing targeted home modifications, my research aims to facilitate greater independence and improve the quality of life for individuals aging in place.

Another significant focus of my research is the integration of smart home technology. I have investigated the use of in-home monitoring technologies and smart home lighting systems as tools to enhance safety and well-being for older adults. By exploring these technologies, my research aims to bridge the gap between traditional design interventions and modern technological solutions, ultimately creating more supportive living environments for older adults.

Interdisciplinary collaboration is a critical component of my research. I firmly believe that advancing my understanding of how the physical environment affects human behavior and health requires a multidisciplinary approach. I have collaborated with experts from fields such as occupational therapy, computer science, gerontology, community and regional planning, and architecture. These collaborations have enriched my research, allowing me to explore unique perspectives and develop more comprehensive solutions to the challenges faced by older adults in their living environments. In my previous institution, I had the opportunity to participate in large-scale, interdisciplinary projects that address complex issues related to aging in place.

Ultimately, my research aims to improve the quality of life for older adults by creating supportive physical environments that enhance their independence and well-being. By focusing on the intricate relationship between individuals and their environments, I strive to contribute to the development of interior spaces that are not only functional but also promote health and happiness for aging populations.