



Introduction

This book presents the HAIGHArchitects+Designers entry for the Portugal Elderly Home International Architecture Competition

To face aging in a happier and more peaceful way is the challenge of designing elderly homes. Fostering human relations and sharing is key to stimulating seniors to offset the loneliness, insecurity, isolation, and depression associated with old age. The underlaying goal of the echelon project is to address these issues with dignity and respect.



ARCHITECTURE COMPETITION

PORTUGAL ELDERLY HOME*

echelon

an international architecture competition





The Competition PORTUGAL ELDERLY HOME

People are living longer than ever before, as a result an aging population is struggling to find a place to live out their golden years. While there are of course often concerns about healthcare and support, there are a huge number of factors that affect older generations that aren't always considered. Many in the older generation struggle to adapt to lifestyle changes. They're not able to do everything they used to do, they're not working or interacting with their community as much, and of course many will be dealing with the loss of loved ones.

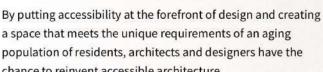
The impact of the COVID-19 pandemic is also being felt, as staff shortages, tighter budgets and new health and safety restrictions make the supply of suitable retirement housing even more limited.

Portugal is one of the most popular countries in the world for retirement living, having ranked 4th in International Living's Global Retirement Index for 2022. In addition to great weather and a combination of stunning coasts, countryside and cities, retirees in Portugal love the country's friendliness and sense of community.

The Portugal Elderly Home competition is tasking participants with designing a retirement home in central Portugal. It will need to be able to comfortably house 60 residents and ten support staff. It should also include several features including a small library, a gathering room, a chapel a kitchen and dining room, as well as a private area which could function as a nurse's room and therapy room for psychological support.

a space that meets the unique requirements of an aging population of residents, architects and designers have the chance to reinvent accessible architecture.

The Portugal Elderly Home competition is a chance for participants to explore how architecture can offer support to those who need it most. How can architecture influence how a person moves through a home? How can it help people to feel safe, comfortable, and independent?







Introduction

An aging population means the demand for suitable housing is constantly increasing. As older generations move out of their homes they o en look for a place where they can be supported yet independent, retaining the freedoms and dignity they deserve while not having to worry about getting help when needed.

The Portugal Elderly Home competition is tasking participants with designing an elderly home in Portugal, one of the most popular countries for retirement in the world.



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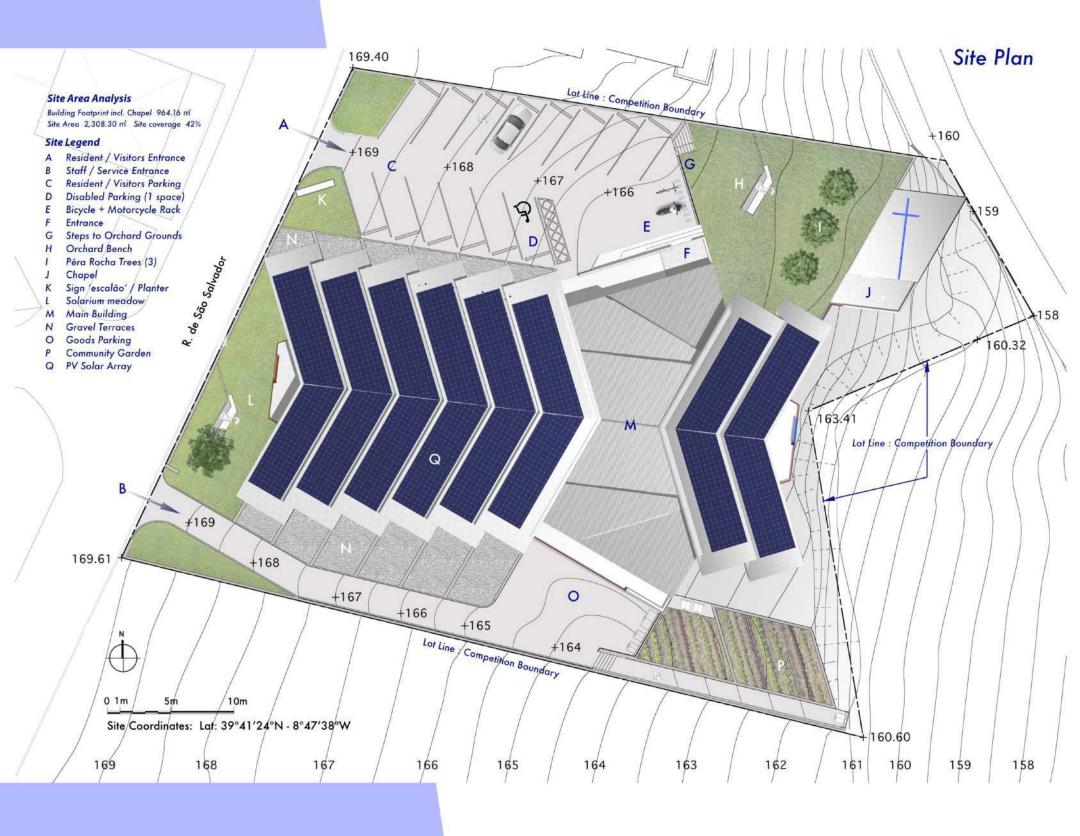
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Site - Views - Plans - Details













West View

PORTUGAL ELDERLY HOME

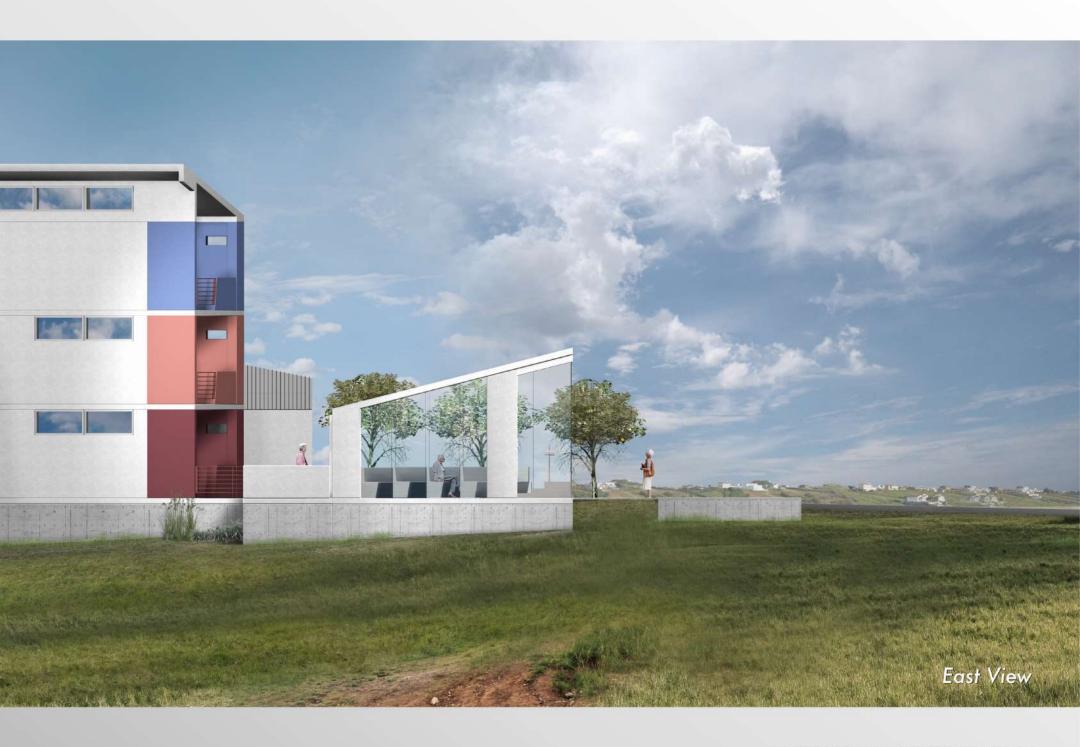












PORTUGAL ELDERLY HOME

echelon1

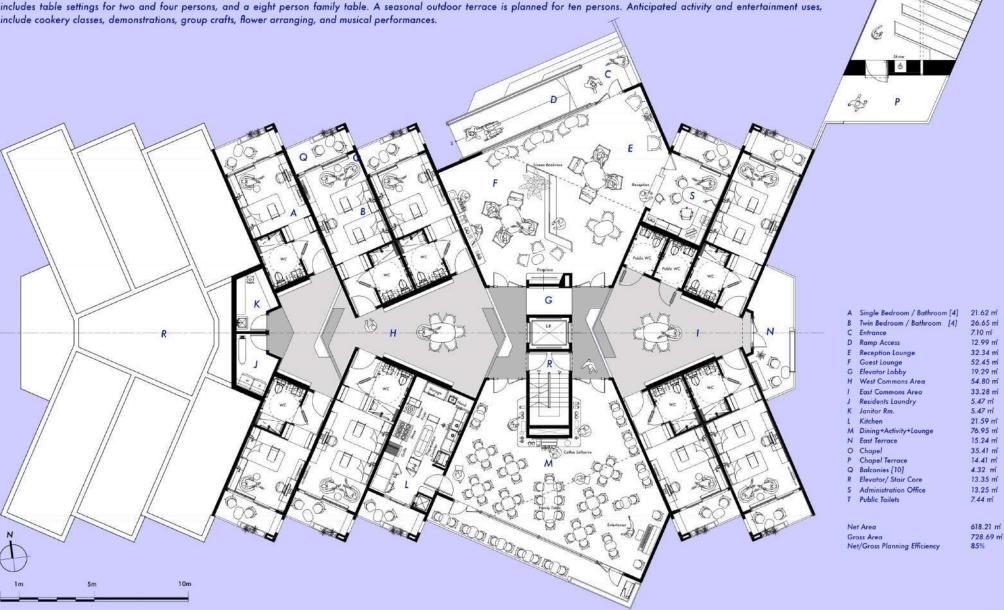
echelon1 is the primary Staff / Service level. Accessed directly from the Lobby [0] and Staff Meeting Area [1] are the Building Managers Office [K], Staff Break Room [A], two Staff Bedroom Suites [C,D] and Staff Bathroom [L]. Service and Goods Entrances [Q] lead directly from the exterior to the Mechanical [G] and Electrical/IT spaces [E], and Laundry [F]. Kitchen Storage [J] and adjacent Kitchen preparation area with lift, add additional support functions to the main kitchen on echelon2.

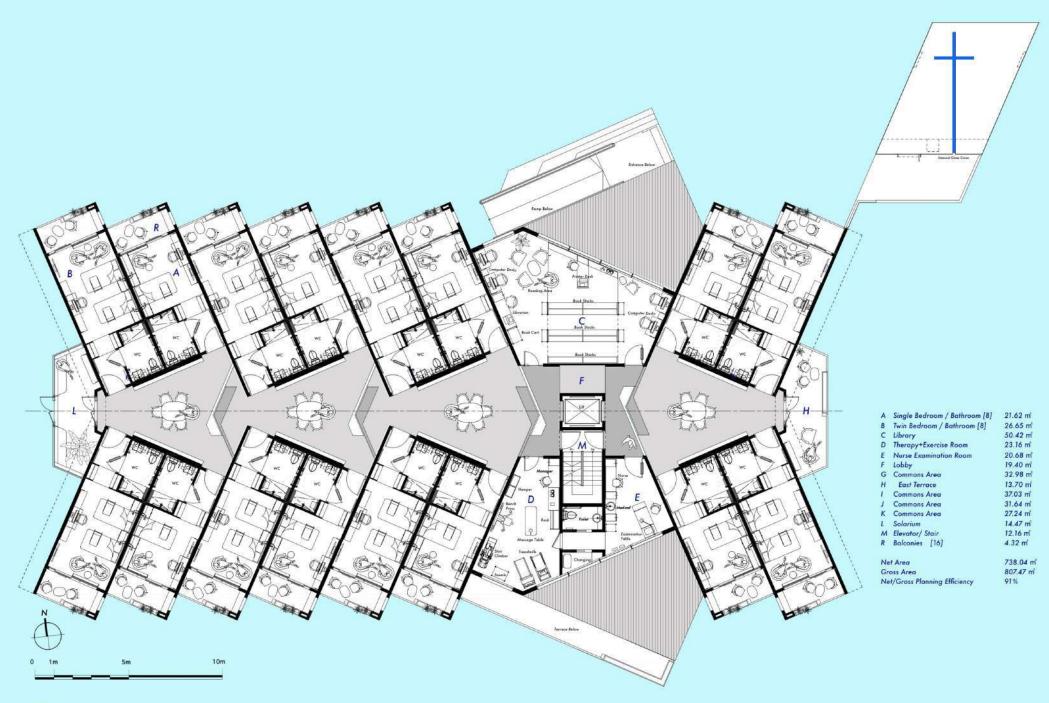
Kitchen Storage [J] and adjacent Kitchen preparation area with lift, add additional support functions to the main kitchen on echelon2. A multidisciplinary team composed of ten operational staff is proposed, including the Administrative Director, Administrative Assistant, Day/Night Nurse, Building Operations Manager, Physical Therapist, Maintenance Staff [2], Kitchen Staff [2], Dining/Activities/Events Manager. 0 19.41 m A Staff Break Room Linen Storage 4.11 m Staff Bedroom 26.19 m D Staff Bedroom 26.19 m Electrical/IT Roo 5.19 m Main Laundry 18.78 m G Mechanical 10.85 m H Staff Lobby 5.71 m Staff Meeting Area 29.19 m Kitchen Storage + Prep 23.15 m **Building Managers Office** 12.52 m Staff WC 3.37 m M Supply Room 5.43 m N Janitor 5.43 m O Elevator lobby 19.41 m P Elevator/ Stair Core 13.93 m Q Circulation Egress 17.46 m R Foundation 256.34 m Net Area Gross Area 297.38 m Net/Gross Planning Efficiency 86%

echelon2

echelon2 is the Entry level for Residents and Visitors. Approached directly from the North parking areas, the Main Entrance [C] and Entrance wheelchair ramp [D] provide accessible entry to the Reception [E] and Guest Lounge [F]. Features and amenities in these areas include Lounge seating, dividing screen with bookshelves, Coffee service, and Fireplace. The main Lobby [G] has full visual and ambulatory connectivity to the Resident Commons areas [H,I,] and the Dining/Activity/Entertainment space [M]. Emphasis in placed on the concept of having commons areas serving clusters of adjacent bedroom suites. Typical to each floor the Lift [R] is designed as fully wheelchair accessible with double access doors from both East and West commons.

The multi-functional Dining/Activity/Entertainment space [M] has a planned occupancy of 60 persons. A full service Kitchen [L] is planned to accommodate daily and special event culinary demands. A self-service counter surrounds the Lift/Stair core [R], and includes an espresso machine, salad bar, charcuterie and dessert case and digital menu display. Dining planning includes table settings for two and four persons, and a eight person family table. A seasonal outdoor terrace is planned for ten persons. Anticipated activity and entertainment uses, include cookery classes, demonstrations, group crafts, flower arranging, and musical performances.



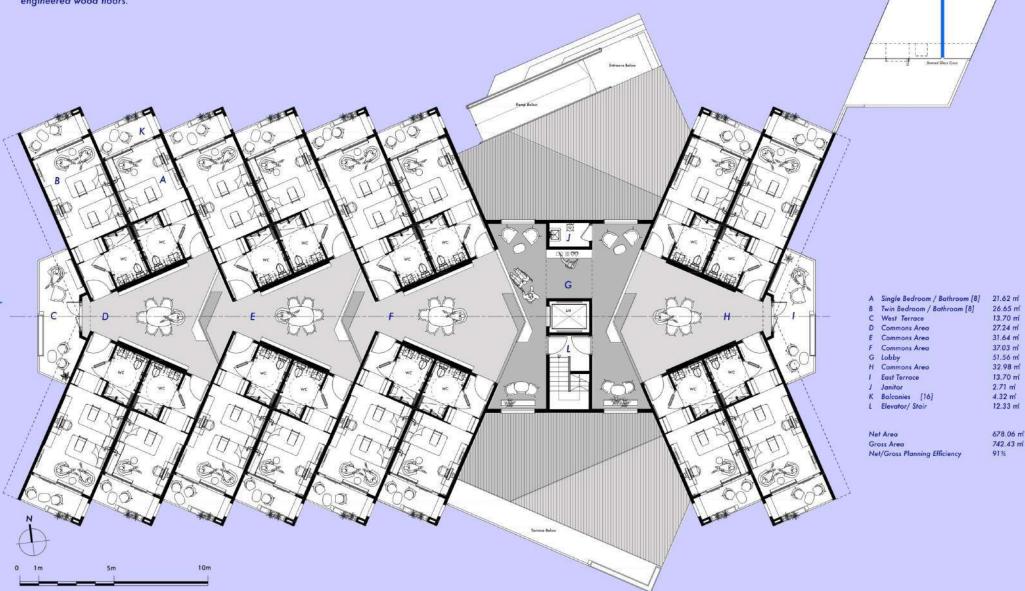


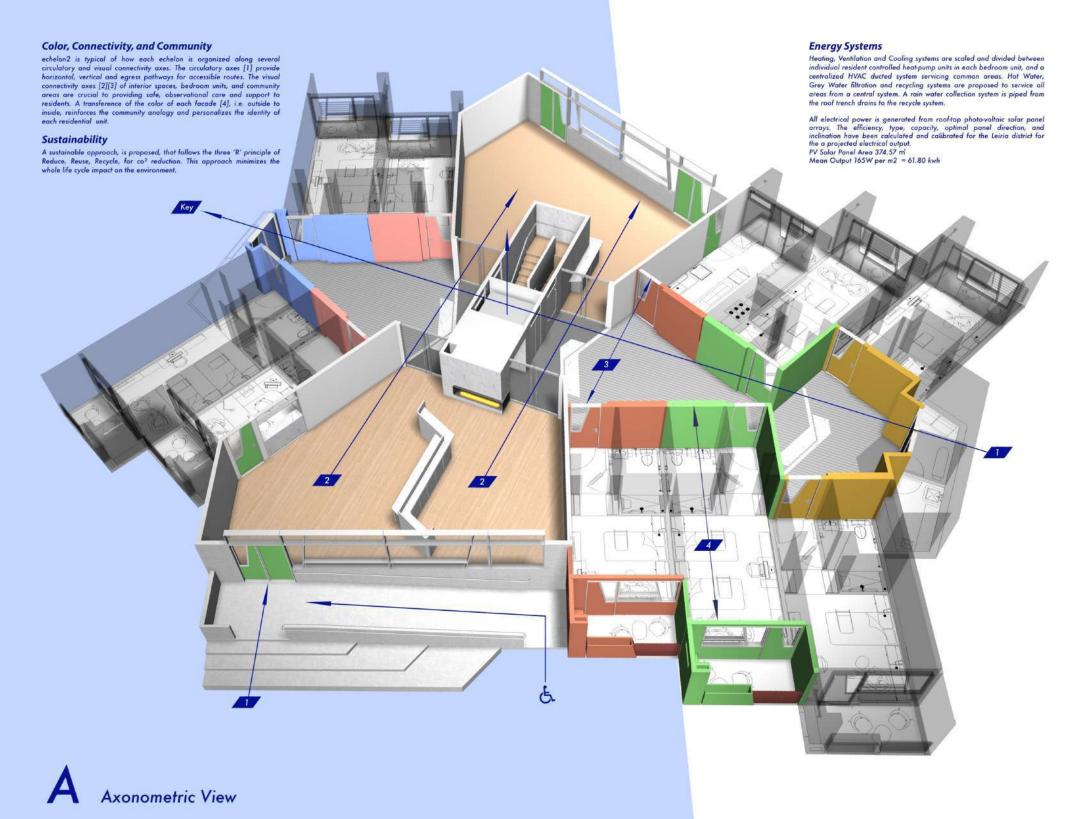
Sustainability and Materials Approach

The Sustainability intent is to embody principles of environmental sustainability comparable to BREEAM guidelines. Specific consideration has been given to material selection, lifecycle costing, and reduction of operating costs and maintenance though integration of new energy technologies.

The exterior materials approach, in addition to the naturally exposed fair-faced concrete wall structures, includes double standing-seam metal roofing and fascias at the public spaces, custom anodized aluminum window and door units and PVDF coated metal railings.

All interior commons, lobbies and circulation areas are defined by a sequence of alternating materials, intended to define thresholds for visually impaired residents. These areas present an opportunity to introduce Portuguese ceramics contrasted with durable low-pile carpet for anti-slip resistance and sound control attenuation. Lounges and Dining Areas have engineered wood floors.





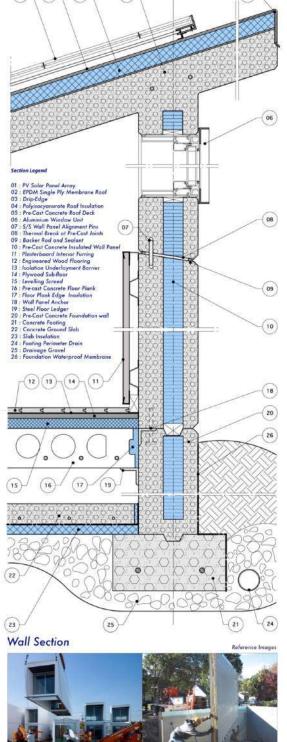
Construction

The selection of precast modular concrete construction, for the echelon project construction method, produces the following positive advantages.

By optimizing the design, advanced precasting technologies, and new concrete material technology, the ultra-high performance concrete (UHPC) delivers superior strength with reduced tolerances, thinner sections. Additionally, this pre-engineered solution reduces on-site construction assembly times.

Precast concretes intrinsic properties are particularly suited to the design of elderly homes, providing thermal inertia, acoustic insulation, fire safety and flame spread compartmentation. Precast concrete also supports a healthy indoor air qualify with no emissions to environment. Versatility in factory production, guided by employing sustainable strategies and the use of local materials, allows for a wide choice of surface finishing, colour selection and custom profiles.





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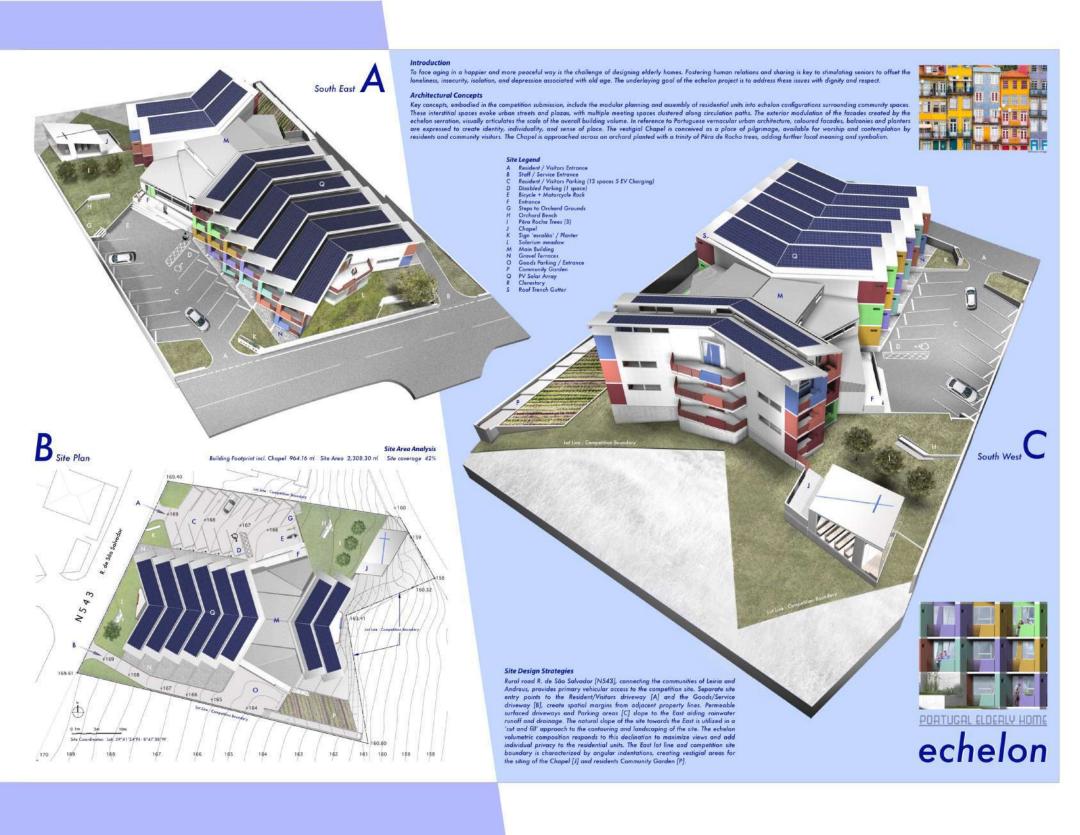
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Competition Presentation Boards



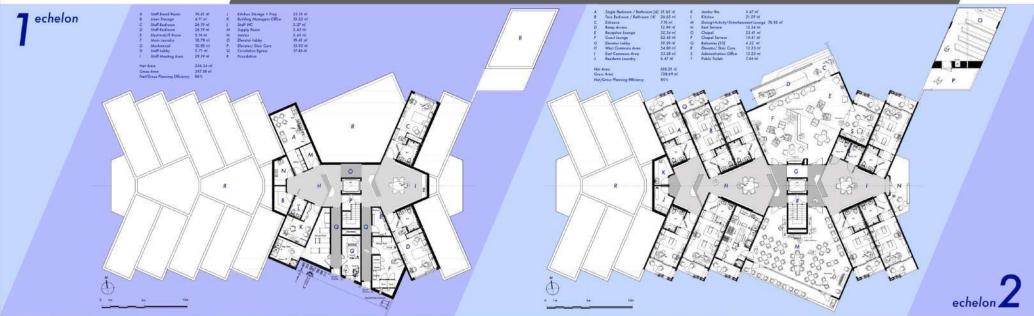




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echelon

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West View

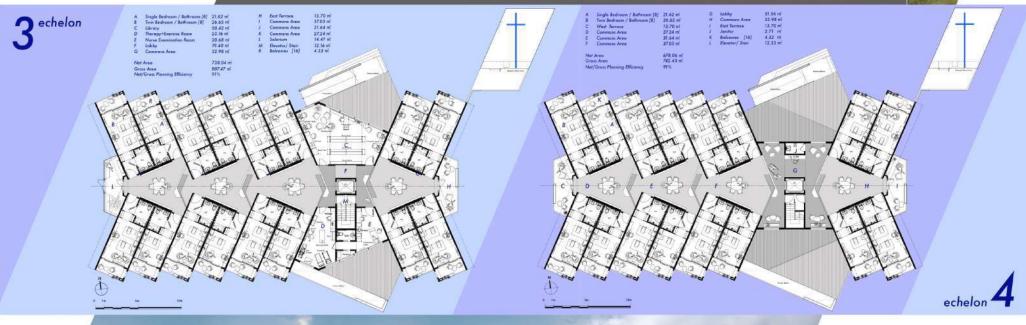
echelon3 + echelon4

Public areas on echelon3 and echelon4 include East and West commons areas each serving clusters of four adjacent bedroom sules. The Solarium [L], on echelon3, engages with the residents possion for nature and plants. Direct connection and access to the West Lawn offers additional autdoor space. The East Terrace presents views across the valley towards Cortes.

Accessed directly from the echelon3 Lobby [F], the Library [C], Therapy + Exercise [D], and Examination [E] areas take into account key provisions for elderly use. These include clear lines of sight for resident monitoring, appropriate privacy and inter-connectivity between therapy and examination areas, Interior lighting is proposed to create an even ambient and soothing interior atmosphere. Durable low-pile carpet is proposed for anti-slip resistance and to enhance sound control and transmission.

Library planning provides amenities for internet and computer use, a coffee and reading area, writing desk and printer. Accessible low height bookstocks and aisles are wheelchair compliant.





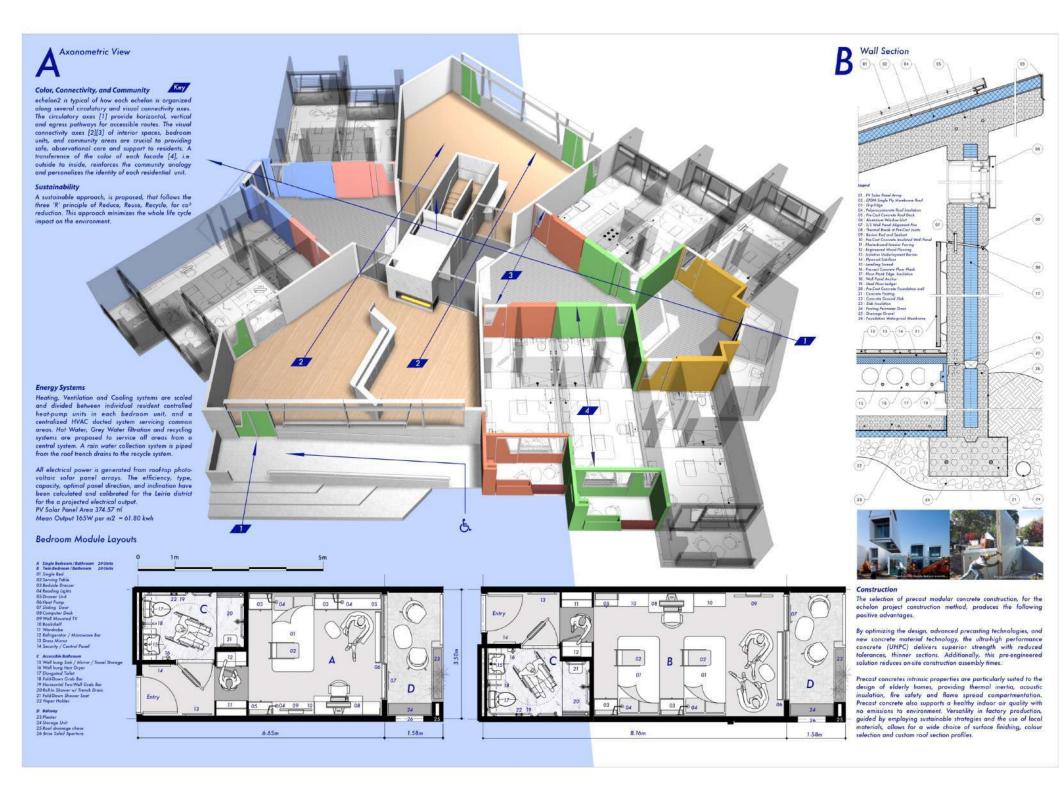


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The HAIGHArchitects+Designers studio was founded in New York in 1985, by Paul Haigh and Barbara H.Haigh. The practice is recognized as a leading multi-disciplined architecture and design firm for its portfolio of award winning projects. The studio has completed projects for a wide variety of cultural and commercial clients in the United States, Italy, United Kingdom, France, Japan, and Australia.

