

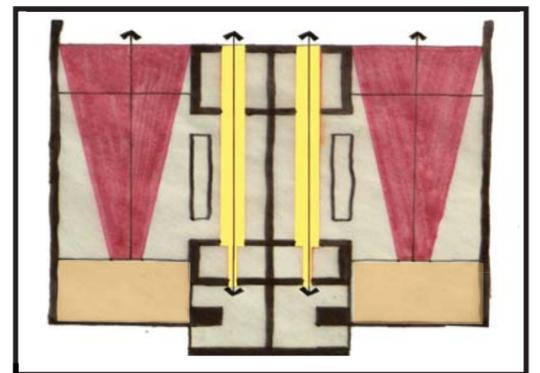
# Healing Sense of Place

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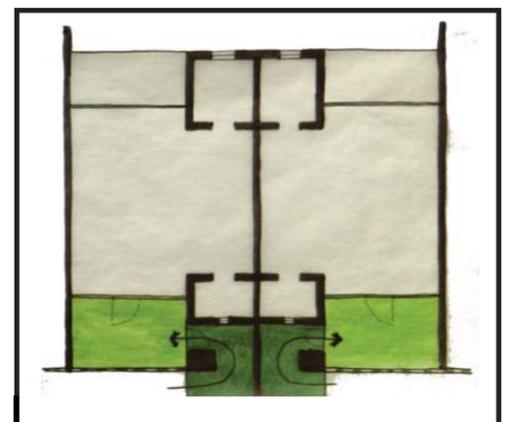
This project is based on the notion that an environment which expresses a healing sense of place can positively affect a person's wellbeing through sensory experiences. Gesler describes the healing environment as being comprised of four main aspects: built, natural, social, and symbolic (Gesler, 2003); which contribute to the character of that environment. A place becomes significant in character when people are able to develop their own sense of personal identity, security, and belonging from that environment (Pred, 1983). Typically, sensory experiences are best achieved through the built environment, as many sanatoriums built during the birth of modernism were designed to effect the senses of the human body (Gesler, 2003). This is a haptic architecture; which recognizes the realms of hearing, smell, and taste, in addition to sight (Pallasma, 1994). Sensory experience is translated through the body, allowing the body to be effected as a result of environment. Healing is achieved through the application of a set of design principles, most of which are used often in design. These principles should be used in conjunction with one another, more substantive than they are typically utilized. The question becomes what are these design principles that make us heal? Once a place has been experienced as healing, occupying that space becomes a desire rather than a necessity. This project will explore what architectural applications can contribute to developing sensory experiences that evoke a healing sense of place, as it pertains to the inter-generational living project in Seattle, Washington.



Amangiri Resort, Canyon Point Utah  
10 miles from nearest city



Framed views of nature or projected views of the sky



The daily ritual is started and ends by crossing the "threshold," which redirects your body and mind.



Social activity provides the opportunity for healing not physically achievable.

Gesler: Aspects of Healing Environment	Aspects of a Healing Sense of Place
Natural: Belief in nature as healer Beauty, aesthetic pleasure Remoteness, immersion in nature Specific elements of nature	Natural: Beauty, aesthetic pleasure Remoteness, immersion in nature
Built: Sense of trust and security Affects the senses Pride in building history Symbolic power of design	Built: Affects the senses Pride in building history
Symbolic: Creation of meaning Physical objects as symbols Importance of rituals	Symbolic: Physical objects as symbols Importance of rituals Symbolic power of design
Social: Equality in social relations Legitimization and marginalization Therapeutic community concept Social support	Social: Equality in social relations Social Support

## Works Cited

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