

### **Three Generation Family Apartment as a Cultural Housing**

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Finding an appropriate housing model to meet the needs of rapidly growing elderly population is one of the major concerns facing the world today. The concept of elderly housing entails a variety of special facilities and services that are not available in traditional housing. Because of increasing elderly population, inadequacy of current housing, the conflict between the government's policy and people's needs, and different sociocultural system, it seemed inevitable that a unique, cultural housing model for the Korean elderly was necessary. There have been growing interests among both professionals and the public in the housing for the elderly. Most of the previous research articles have dealt with various housing problems but stopped proposing a comprehensive plan. A comprehensive research project has been planned to find a uniquely-Korean housing model to promote elderly welfare and alleviate familial and sociocultural conflicts. Data have been collected by literature review, interviews, mail questionnaire survey, and Delphi method. This article hypothesized the three generation family housing as a plausible housing alternative for the elderly in Korea and tried to find empirical evidence to support the hypothesis. The housing model induced from the research is a three-generation-family apartment. The characteristics of the three-generation-family apartment are as follows: 1. Varied unit plans which provide different degrees of privacy for the elderly's, and younger couple's 2. a center for the senior citizens (or elder care center), which provides various services including healthcare services and social activities for the elderly; 3. a family welfare center for residents, providing day-care services, a library, a multipurpose clubhouse and etc. In addition, the overall structure of the apartment complex is geared to promote residents' sense of belonging and attachment to the community. There were substantial empirical support for this new housing type which provided for each generation and the feeling of closeness between the two generation family cultures. Furthermore there is a general and strong agreement among professionals that the three generation family apartment is a promising cultural housing model in Korea, especially for the elderly in Korea