

GOLDSTEIN MUSEUM OF DESIGN

364 McNeal Hall, 1985 Buford Avenue, Saint Paul, MN 55108

<http://goldstein.design.umn.edu>

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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Smart House, Livable Community, Your Future

February 5 to May 22, 2011

Opening Reception February 4th, 6-8 PM

The first of 70 million Baby Boomers will reach age 65 in 2011. The size and impact of this post-World War II generation will challenge America's resources, communities, and concepts of what it is to be a "senior." An AARP survey quoted in the Wall Street Journal (9/19/09) found that 85% of surveyed individuals age 50+ said they wish to remain in their community for as long as possible.

What does the desire to continue living independently mean for the design of homes for aging Baby Boomers, and for the design of communities? Housing Studies professor Marilyn Bruin and Masters student Jodene Riha will address these questions in the upcoming exhibition, Smart House, Livable Community, Your Future, at the Goldstein Museum of Design (GMD), College of Design, University of Minnesota (February 5-May 22, 2011).

About the exhibition

The home-related needs of aging Baby Boomers are the same as for any age group: a comfortable structure that provides a base for activities and for relationships; an opportunity for expressing one's self through personalized choices of furnishings and objects; safety and security; and a place that provides continuity and "roots." As Boomers age, a home's design, furnishings and tools can accommodate changes that commonly accompany aging.

The exhibition will look like a small, attractive home inhabited by fictional, 65-ish homeowners, Jim and Sarah. Visitors will be encouraged to try out everything they see, starting with a welcoming flat-threshold doorway. Jim and Sarah have renovated their 1960s home so that they can continue to enjoy their active, engaged lifestyle. Visitors can sit in a power-lifted chair, handle easy-to-use-kitchen utensils, scoot around the kitchen on a wheeled chair to try out lower counters, operate an easy-open window, sit in a fully-adjustable desk chair at an ergonomically-designed desk, and observe wall colors and lighting that ameliorate the impact of changing vision. The bath will feature a walk-in



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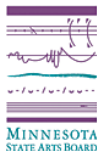
shower and reinforced wall for grab bars. Visitors will learn about a Fall Guard alert system, auto-dispensers for medications, special environmental controls, and tools and technologies that allow Jim and Sarah to do the activities they enjoy and keep them connected to the world.

Through notes between Jim and Sarah and brief videos, visitors will be privy to the challenging decision-making process that the couple went through during the renovation and what they especially appreciate about the design features of their transformed home.

Related educational programming

- **Workshops for three distinct audiences:** A session for *Builder/Designers/Remodelers* about building or remodeling houses or condos to accommodate people as they age; a session for *Baby Boomers and Caregivers* on assistive technologies and how to team up with designers, builders, or remodelers to create homes that support independent living; and a session for *Community Planners/Policy Makers* on transforming communities so people of all ages can enjoy the social, cultural, and natural amenities of community life.
- **Twin Cities Public Television (tpt) partnership:** A 30-minute broadcast focused on the exhibition and its central ideas will also be available to public television stations nationwide.
- **Smart House website:** A go-to source for resource information, downloadable workshop materials, educational modules that will allow website visitors to make decisions about designing a home for independent living, and the 30-minute TPT broadcast.

Financial support for the exhibition includes: Center on Aging, University of Minnesota; Institute of Museum & Library Services; Metropolitan Area Agency on Aging. GMD is supported in part by a grant from the Minnesota State Arts Board through an appropriation by the Minnesota State Legislature and a grant from the National Endowment for the Arts.



In addition to generous sponsorship for specific exhibitions, all GMD programming is supported in part by the Minnesota State Arts Board in cooperation with the Minnesota State Legislature, GMD Members, and the College of Design.



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General Information

The Goldstein Museum of Design (GMD), part of the University of Minnesota's College of Design, supports teaching and research in design through exhibitions, publications, programs, and community partnerships. GMD celebrates diverse cultures through its collections and programs by promoting the appreciation and interpretation of design within social, cultural, aesthetic, and historic contexts.

Visitor Info

GMD Gallery is on the second floor of McNeal Hall, 1985 Buford Ave., St. Paul, MN 55108.

Gallery Hours

The GMD Gallery is open Tuesday, Wednesday, & Friday 10 am–4 pm, Thursday 10 am–8 pm and weekends 1:30–4:30 pm. The Gallery is closed Mondays and all University holidays.

Admission and Parking

Gallery admission is free. Parking is in Gortner Ramp at 1395 Gortner Avenue. The ramp and McNeal Hall are both handicapped accessible.

Public Transit

Route 87 or Campus Connector. For bus information, call (612) 373-3333.

