Weaving the Fabric of Life
The Kente Cloth is a visual representation of history, philosophy, ethics, oral literature, religious beliefs, social values and political thought in African cultures. This weaving is the dominant concept we use to convey the rich culture and vibrancy of this community.

To truly age in community, the environment must support the changes to the body and mind associated with aging, while providing access to desired activities and services. In addition to housing and nursing care, our community of caring wove together adult day services, elder-friendly town homes, child care services, a Montessori charter school, physical and occupational therapy, pharmacy and retail spaces. A structured community outreach program will be in place to ensure that every resident is presented with a rich tapestry of options. Our environment is much more than a mere link to the community, but rather a way of life. Community occurs naturally–links are inherent.

We established the “Den Mother” concept, to ensure residents have opportunities for daily social interaction and activities. The Den Mother could be a student from the medical or social profession, single mother, or a family member of a resident. In exchange for taking on the role of a live-in Den Mother, these individuals could receive a rent reduction.

Barrier free design goes beyond meeting codes and standards to ensure flexibility and comfort. We incorporated supportive elder features such as simplified wayfinding, reduced travel distances, increased sensitivity to lighting issues, clearances for motorized scooters, and raised planting beds in the garden.

Sustainable design is promoted through the use of materials and applications such as rain gardens, green roofs, geothermal heating, passive cooling, and use of recyclable materials for finishes and flooring. Yet, it is the underlying commitment to this philosophy through activities like recycling, composting etc. that will truly make a difference and sustain the effort.
weaving the fabric of life
Aging & Community
A Senior Living Ideas Competition
age in community | resource & reason

- Housing to support all aging phases, all within the community
- Offers physical and social support
- Safe, secure and vibrant
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goal 1

weaving the fabric of life

age in community | resource & reason

rethinking the family townhouse
links to the larger community | way of life

• Encourage community interaction through:
  • After school option to work with girls and boys club
  • Atrium provides year-round spaces for interaction, including playground area
  • Retail component to bring people there includes pharmacy, coffee shop, and beauty and barber shops
  • Public restaurant doubles as senior meal site
  • Children and adult daycare services for residents and outside community
  • Community room for public meetings and events
links to the larger community | way of life

community view

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Engberg Anderson Design Partnership, Inc.

goal 2

weaving the fabric of life
links to the larger community | way of life

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goal 2

adult day services

child day care
weaving the fabric of life | links to the larger community | way of life

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goal 2

amphitheater
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links to the larger community

way of life

community room

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goal 2
informal social support

architecture encourages behavior

- multigenerational housing fosters relationships among people of all ages
- spaces that encourage interaction
- staff as friend and resource
- the “den mother” - social contract
informal social support | architecture encourages behavior
informal social support | architecture encourages behavior

community caring house

weaving services into the community
barrier free settings | flexibility & comfort

• going beyond ADA accessibility

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goal 4
energy conscious and sustainable

materials and philosophy

• enabling gardens (composting parties)
• storm water management onsite
• ground source geothermal heating & cooling
• material choice and selection
• fixtures & furnishings
• recycling cooperative
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