

FAIRFIELD



STYLISH,
FUNCTIONAL
& COMFORTABLE

DESIGN CONSIDERATIONS FOR SENIOR LIVING COMMUNITIES

fairfieldchair.com



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Front Cover: Design Credit: BD Studio. Featuring: Palmer Arm Chair, 8749-A2.
Above: Design Credit: StudioSIX5. Featuring: Bryant Counter Stool, 8794-C6.

DESIGNED FOR COMMUNITY AND COMFORT

Today's senior living spaces are all about community, designed to provide comfortable environments for residents to stay active and remain independent while also enjoying a high quality of life. In order to accomplish this, senior living communities must appeal to generations of family, caregivers and staff.

REIMAGINING SENIOR LIVING ENVIRONMENTS

With high expectations for their living arrangements, baby boomers are changing senior living. They're looking for environments and experiences that provide holistic support, with resort-style amenities and communal spaces that offer opportunities to engage socially, encourage wellness and spark joy. Clearly, designing for senior living has come a long way from the institutional decors of the past to include more contemporary, inviting and comfortable furnishings.

Senior living environments must provide spaces that promote mobility while providing easy maneuverability within hallways, shared spaces and living quarters. It's a delicate balance: creating spaces that offer easy accessibility and prevent infection control, but also facilitate social interaction and community engagement.

A PATH TO IMPROVEMENT

Since the pandemic, organizations like the American Society of Interior Designers (ASID) have taken a new look at senior living communities to identify ways to apply innovative design to these spaces, not only to prevent the spread of illness but to maximize opportunities for safe social interactions.

We'll take a closer look at some new ideas, recommendations and guidelines for meeting the unique needs of today's senior living spaces — to help you design healthy, welcoming communities that support both residents and staff.

“This is a population with unique needs and specifications. While it is paramount that all elements within a senior living community provide the safest environment, it is also important that they convey an aesthetic that creates a feeling of home and hospitality.”

- Carie Shingleton
Senior Interior Designer /
Senior Associate, SFCS Architects

THE U.S. POPULATION IS AGING

There are more than **46 MILLION** adults aged **65 and over**.

By 2050, that number is expected to increase to nearly **90 MILLION**.

Today, there are about **1.4 MILLION U.S.** residents living **in nursing homes**.

There are about **26,514** **nursing homes** in the U.S.

More than **810,000** people are housed in **assisted living facilities**.

SENIOR LIVING DESIGN FOR A NEW GENERATION

Fairfield Chair Company has been manufacturing fine furnishings for home, office, and hospitality customers in the U.S. and around the world for more than 100 years. Today, we are a leading brand in the furniture industry, known for our commitment to quality, innovation and timeless design. A family-owned business, our master craftsmanship and fashion-forward designs reflect our commitment to the environment, our community and our customers.

We understand that a new generation of senior housing residents is transforming the way designers create their visions for the interior spaces at senior living communities. From pickleball courts to spas and theaters, residents are pushing for an approach to furnishings and amenities that emphasize activity and wellness.

When specifying furniture for their senior living clients, designers look to Fairfield for our expertise in meeting the requirements of these special environments. Carie Shingleton, Senior Interior Designer / Senior Associate, SFCS Architects, notes that design for senior living environments involves thoughtful consideration of the population's specific needs. Safety is of paramount importance, she says, but furnishings should also fulfill a desired aesthetic, whether for home or hospitality purposes. This requires an understanding of the right balance of support and comfort, for example. Furniture construction, finishes, and fabrics also need to hold up to rigorous use and thorough cleaning, without looking or feeling institutional.

Kelley Hoffman, NCIDQ, Senior Partner, RDG Planning & Design, agrees. She says, "Paying special attention to design features, details and furnishings that do not inhibit, but rather encourage mobility and activity in a



Featuring BD Collection for Fairfield: Warner Leather Dining Chair, F600-04-B, Cooper Dining Table, M201-DT, and Edward Curio Cabinet, 4313-18.

safe manner can foster independence, a sense of safety and security, and ultimately increase one's sense of choice and control."

At Fairfield, our commitment to serving the senior living marketplace is growing to meet these evolving needs. In developing furnishings for senior living spaces, our philosophy is all about designing furniture for living full and active lives. Fairfield Chair is designed to meet the need for furniture pieces that are both residential in style but also commercial in their durability and functionality.

“Fairfield is a very capable and trusted solution provider... Over the years, I have been really excited to see new styles — transitional to contemporary to mid-century modern styles.”

- Kelley Hoffman
NCIDQ, Senior Partner,
RDG Planning & Design



Featuring: Greenbrier Wing Chair, S-7444-01, BenchMade Bench, S-33TF-10, and East Camden Accent Table, 8098-AT.



Featuring: BenchMade Bench, S-33TF-10, East Camden Accent Table, 8098-AT.

“Fairfield is a great partner for SFCS when we are looking for furniture solutions. The quality is wonderful and holds up so well. They pay attention to the anthropometric measurements that are so important for seniors. And they provide the durability and cleanability that is critical for the staff who are responsible for maintaining these important living spaces.”

- Carie Shingleton
Senior Interior Designer / Senior Associate,
SFCS Architects



TAILORED FOR A FULFILLING LIFESTYLE

Fairfield Chair designed specifically for the senior living marketplace, combines the classic and traditional with the Fairfield reputation for expert craftsmanship and an unparalleled understanding of the unique needs of senior living communities.

The result is a comprehensive collection of suitably proportioned design combined with elegant upholstery crafted to meet the unique needs of today's senior living residents and caregivers. The offerings include an extensive selection of pieces that can be configured with solution-oriented options and accessories. Every product in the collection is handcrafted to deliver beautiful and durable furniture solutions.

THE COLLECTION INCLUDES:

- Dining chairs, bar and counter stools
- Chairs, recliners and ottomans
- Sofas, settees and chaise lounges
- Workspace seating and activity tables

Sofas and chairs, while designed to be comfortable even when sitting for prolonged periods should also be designed for easy egression. This requires careful calibration of the optimal seat and arm height, cushion firmness and support. Fabrics, while durable and resistant to repeated cleanings, are designed with elegant and appealing patterns.

(Above) Featuring: Norwood Sofa, 6197-50.

Design Credit: Design East, Medford

Featuring: Dilworth Counter Stool, 5049-C6, Plymouth Side Chair, 8411-05, and Crescent Activity and Dining Table, 4171-86.

“Aesthetically, we want a ‘homelike’ appearance. We yearn to remain independent as long as possible. I believe most people have a desire to live a purpose-driven, independent life in a dignified manner for as long as we possibly can. If we can use design to create environments to help achieve this, I believe we need to do so every chance we get.”

- Kelley Hoffman
NCIDQ, Senior Partner,
RDG Planning & Design





Featuring: Conrad Lounge Chair, S-747C-TH.



Design Credit: Micamy Design Studio. Featuring: Albany Counter Stool, 8720-C6.

GREAT DINING DESIGN IS IN THE DETAILS

The dining experience at any senior living community is an important one. It enhances the sense of community by providing a homelike area in which residents and their families can come together to share a meal and engage. These spaces often serve multiple functions, transitioning to provide opportunities for individuals and groups to gather throughout the day to share a snack, a glass of wine, a conversation, or to play a game. Because of the critical role they play as one of the most important shared spaces, dining areas should be designed with flexibility, safety and social engagement in mind.

DINING CHAIRS

Because dining chairs are often used multiple times throughout the day, they should be extremely durable yet lightweight for easy maneuvering. The design should feature easy-to-clean fabrics, with cutouts in the back or a space between the seat and the back of the chair to make it easier for staff to access. Seat and arm heights should make it easy for senior residents to sit down and stand up easily. When used on carpet, front casters can help residents maneuver easily to move closer to the table.

BAR AND COUNTER STOOLS

Many members of today's senior living communities are seeking to continue the experiences they enjoyed throughout their adult lives. To address this demand, many active senior communities feature inviting social areas that can mimic the experience of sophisticated bars and lounges. Senior-friendly designs for these areas should feature the appropriate counter height, which might be lower than usual to accommodate hip-height stools that are more comfortable for residents. Stools should provide good lumbar support, and the spacing of bar stools should ensure adequate room for residents to access the seat from the side.



“Think of senior living communities as multi-generational, because they are. They have to appeal to everyone who lives there, works there and visits there. Seniors do not think of themselves as seniors — but they do when spaces are not designed appropriately.”

- Dean Maddalena, President,
StudioSIX5



Installation: Eagle's Trace, Texas
Featuring: Gilroy Bar Stool, 6022-06.

(Above) Design Credit: StudioSIX5. Featuring: Palmer Arm Chair, 8749-C4.



Design Credit: New South Home, Charlotte NC.
Featuring: Hayley Arm Chair, 8784-A4.

COMMON AREAS, EXTRAORDINARY EXPERIENCES

From parties and gatherings to intimate conversations, shared spaces are important for the health and well-being of residents. These are the places where everyone can enjoy a sense of community and have fun. While form is important, it is also important to design for function, ensuring appropriate placement of seating and its durability.

CHAIRS, OTTOMANS, LOVESEATS & SOFAS

Seating in high-use, common areas must be sturdy enough to withstand frequent use, yet offer a natural and inviting feeling to encourage residents and visitors to come together for extended periods of time throughout the day. Chairs, loveseats and sofas should include well-designed arms and an appropriate seat height for ease in sitting and getting up. And ottomans can provide an appealing soft element to a space, often doubling for use as coffee tables.

Durability is important. seat cushions need to stand up to continuous use and abuse. Less mobile individuals might sit down hard on the seat cushion, children might jump on it, or a nurse might toss a large tote down.

RECLINERS

When it comes to senior living communities, recliners must provide a high level of comfort, as well as safety and ease of mobility. They should feature a weight capacity to suit most users, with a design that makes it easy to sit and rise with little strain on joints. And they should be easy to use, with controls that are easy for residents and staff to manage. Recliners used in private living spaces can be made to smaller scale than those used in common areas and designed to hug the wall to occupy less space, notes Hoffman.

“A loveseat gives the feel of a sofa but provides at least one arm on each end to aid in getting up. We do use sofas in areas where a resident might like to lie down, like a quiet room in a memory care facility.”

- Carie Shingleton
Senior Interior Designer / Senior
Associate, SFCS Architects



Featuring: Sadie Locking Glide Chair, S-7213-LG.

“Universal design applies basic ergonomics that provides dignity to all daily living activities. This means for people of all ages and with physical limitations. Designing successful senior living spaces incorporates universal design into all components of a community seamlessly.”

- Dean Maddalena,
President, StudioSIX5



Design Credit: Micamy Design Studio. Featuring: Lyon Swivel Chair, 1111-31 and Albany Counter Stool, 8720-C6.



Design Credit: Design East, Medford. Featuring: Plymouth Side Chair, 8411-05.

LIVING AND WORKING IN HARMONY

Residents at senior communities want to enjoy living in personal spaces that make them feel comfortable and that reflect their need for privacy and respect. When designing resident rooms, the focus should be on providing functional layouts and products, while also incorporating inviting styles, fabrics and finishes. Just as importantly, staff should have spaces that they can count on for respite and reflection.

RESIDENT ROOMS

Resident rooms should always convey a feeling of hominess to provide residents with quiet and private spaces that they can call their own. Of course, durability is still an important consideration. When choosing furniture for residents of assisted living or memory care households, seek out choices that feel and look residential but function more like healthcare furniture.

STAFF LOUNGES & WORKSPACES

Senior living staff play a critical role in providing care and support for the residents they serve. And the environments in which they both work and relax should be designed to provide as much support for staff as they do for residents. More and more, senior living operators are putting staff lounges at the center of their space planning priorities — with bigger spaces that are easily accessible and include comfortable seating and spaces for dining, often with recreational amenities.

ENTRYWAYS

Shingleton suggests that facility entryways be designed to bring nature in, with inviting designs that provide a “wow” moment — including unique pieces that make the space special while creating a transition between the outdoors and indoors. This could include comfortable all-weather upholstered benches and baskets for umbrellas, for example. These spaces require the same consideration and creativity with designs that are welcoming, accessible and comforting for all residents.

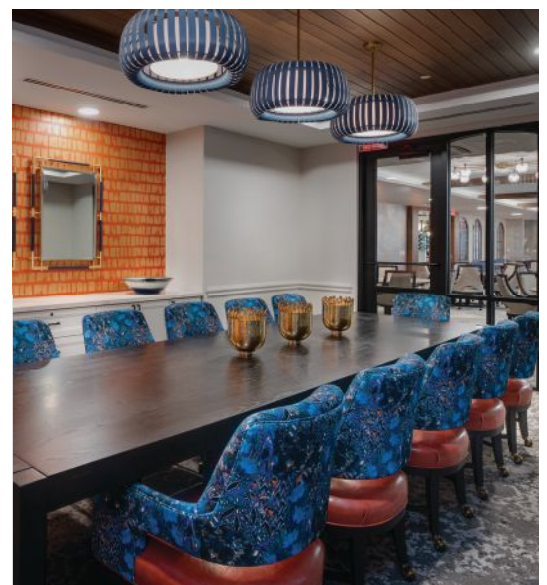
(Above) Design Credit: J&L Interiors
Featuring: Jamie Lounge Chair, 6082-01.

Design Credit: StudioSIX5
Featuring: Josie Arm Chair, 8855-A4.



“We have seen more interest in differing design styles over the last 10 years than ever before. Current residents, prospective residents and their families want to see the same styles in their communities that they see in high-end design publications. It’s important to find go-to lines of furniture that fulfill this need.”

- Carie Shingleton
Senior Interior Designer / Senior Associate, SFCS Architects



“Fairfield’s expertise lives within our ability to blend function with design to create senior living-appropriate furnishings that resonate with today’s styling and aesthetic needs.”

- Dixon Mitchell
CEO of Fairfield



Installation: The Landing Alexandria. Featuring: Palmer Arm Chair, 8749-C2.

YOUR PARTNER IN CREATING BEAUTIFUL SENIOR SPACES

At Fairfield Chair, we firmly believe that collaboration with designers is an essential way for us to create functional and aesthetically pleasing furnishings for the residents and staff at senior living communities. Tell us how you'd like to customize any piece of furniture to fit the specifications of the space with which you are working, choosing the frame materials and sizes and fabrics that meet your precise needs. In turn, we'll provide you with options that can help you create pieces that not only meet those needs, but also are durable, easy to clean, and sustainable.