

## ANDERSON VALLEY ELDERHOME DESIGN DISCUSSION

The Anderson Valley ElderHome Board of Directors and other community volunteers held a design discussion at Roederer Estate Winery on Sunday July 25, 2004. Local Architect and long time ElderHome volunteer Steve Wood began the afternoon session by discussing the concept of Building Programming, which is an attempt to define a design problem and establish all the guidelines and needs on which the design process will be based.

Using a schematic design as a point of departure for discussion, the following ideas emerged from the discussion:

- + Our facility will be adaptable to a continuum of care needs ranging from independent living to assisted living
- + We will consider designing different wings of the building to accommodate a variety of needs, including varying levels of assistance and security
- + We intend to provide primarily for long-term care rather than for brief stays
- + We will develop a flexible design, adaptable to a variety of individual needs, and to the evolution of an individual's needs during their residency. This may be accomplished, for example, by building a variety of room sizes, and providing removable or movable walls in the common/work spaces.
- + We will develop a design which permits expansion and alteration
- + The schematic design needs more staff space including
  - + An examination or treatment room
  - + More common space
  - + Provision for community activities and meetings
  - + Space for exercise

- + A bathing room
- + Individual storage spaces.
- + We will consider non-linear designs, including off-set and open “V” arrangements, to reduce the institutional feel of the structure.
- + It is a priority of design to allow couples/families to stay together, and to encourage visitation of family, friends and community members
- + It is important that the structure be beautiful, and in keeping with its setting in the Valley.
- + “Green” building practices are important to us, including use of sustainable materials, integration of passive solar principles, and thoughtful choices regarding the power source (photovoltaic input with a grid intertie if possible.)
- + As older people are particularly sensitive to temperature, the structure will be designed with in-floor radiant heat, zoned for control in individual rooms, highly insulated and well ventilated, and consideration will be made for air-conditioning in some or all rooms.
- + Lighting will be designed with special attention to the needs of aged residents.
- + We will avoid materials which might trigger chemical sensitivity in residents or staff.

Many design issues cannot be addressed until a site is located. Our preferences for the project site include: space for surrounding gardens; walking distance to downtown Boonville; excess land which might allow expansion, building of individual independent living units, or leasing of land for income; proximity to childcare, health center, senior center, and community functions including churches and fairgrounds. Additional site considerations include adequate parking space for staff, visitors, residents and service vehicles, as well as adequate fire access. Traffic flow and frequency will be important to the facility and its neighbors. And good general relations with neighbors will be essential.

Future design development will take these ideas into account, and the designer will expect the advice and consent of the Board as the design evolves.