

## **THE LOGIC BEHIND DESIGN**

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Interior Designers use their specialized design skills to design functional and fulfilling interiors. This study used a design thinking model (Dohr & Portillo, 2011) dividing the design process into a six part circle model. Older adult's kitchens are an important part of place identity (Ahn & Hedge, 2011). This study used Dohr and Portillo's model to explore how older adults and interior design students develop kitchen designs for older adults. Interviews with older adults were conducted at three assisted living homes in the southeast. Sophomore interior design students were interviewed at a public university in the southeast. Findings suggest that older adults used empathy and place identity to create kitchen designs. Interior design students' relied on design logic: engagement and innovation. This research highlights how different people think while designing the same product and is important for interior designers and assisted living space developers.