

Living Space Architects with Hilary Lawson, shortlisted scheme for Re-imagine Ageing RIBA design competition, 2013  
The proposed terrace creates new social and community spaces.

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**Living Space Architects with Hilary Lawson:  
Creating a Strong Integrated Community**

A strong community is often the key to the happiness and wellbeing of individuals. When people retire, downsize and move, they are often reluctant to leave behind friends and familiar places. Living Space Architects were keen to explore not only how this potential alienation might be counteracted in their competition entry, but also how a new sense of community might be engendered. The residents are encouraged to come together through the creation of social spaces that inspire a sense of familiarity. Extra consideration is given to the shared open and social spaces. In order to prompt a wider sense of belonging, public places need to function across the community as a whole. This is developed through informal spaces, such as an open square, that offer a chance for those living on- and off-site to meet, socialise and connect. Gardens also provide spaces for recreation and relaxation that can be shared with visiting friends and families.

The scheme has an identity that is distinct while being open and inclusive; it has to be somewhere that all the residents feel that they can belong. A sense of attachment to the locality is created through the scheme's relationship with the landscape and the provision of a curved terrace: the topography of the sloping site is used to connect the houses, taking advantage of views across the nearby town and countryside. The ever-changing views provide a unique aspect for every home. For the older generation, memory is very important. Here design is used to evoke a sense of place encouraging appropriation and security.

