

Home For Assisted Living



**A Positive Alternative to Provide a Living
For Seniors in Auroville**

Project “Home For Assisted Living”

The Auroville Health Services (AVHS) is planning the construction of a home for seniors who need assistance in their daily lives.

“Assisted Living” in this context means to give the seniors a separate living space to maintain their independence and privacy, yet have social contacts in meetings, seminars, and cultural events and generally to give them opportunities to support each other.

It is meant for people who wish to live together with other Seniors in a collective environment. These people are still fit enough to help each other in a daily living situation, organizing and working together to arrange the lifestyle that they wish to have. For privacy, each person has a separate bedroom with kitchenette and bathroom but shares the communal living spaces. Meals can be taken together or individually. Alarm systems for each room will bring immediate help in case of accidents

In this building AVHS can offer accommodation for 8 seniors in a “First Phase”. Additionally, there are common facilities for resident and non-resident seniors such as cafeteria, a multi purpose hall, a doctor’s consultation cum treatment room, Emergency and short time accomodation as well as rooms for the staff, storerooms and a caretaker flat.

1. Background:

In 2008 AV Health Services conducted its first survey to identify the needs of AV Seniors. At that time there were some 140 people above age 65.

In 2011/12 we conducted a second survey where we found that the need for a senior home was even more critical as there are now approx. 200 seniors.

Now there are some 360 people above age 65 in AV. Many are above 80 and a few 90+.

As people advance in age there is high risk of falls, memory loss and isolation from the community. Living alone becomes both a burden to the individual and at a certain point a danger to themselves and the community.

For some years now AVHS has been helping these seniors in need individually in a “Home Care Service” but with their growing number our staff and resources do no longer allow us to give all the care we would like. In fact even now we do not have enough care givers to meet the demand and we still depend on volunteer Aurovilians, Newcomers and Guests.

Concentration at one location in a “Home for Assisted Living” will make care giving more economical and more effective.

To create a permanent home where residents find an atmosphere of joy, safety, activity and an inspiration for a healthy lifestyle with round the clock care provided as needed. With these concerns in mind AVHS has initiated the building of the “Home for Assisted Living”.

2. Project Description

The building is located between “Arka” with its various health and well being oriented activities and “Mahalakshmi Park”. Access will be from the “Crown Ways” and will be suitable for emergency transportation.

Each senior will have a separate studio flat with kitchenette, bathroom and an alarm system to call a care giver day and night. A trained team will be available 24 hours/day and 7 days/week.

The whole building will be barrier free and wheel chair accessible.

Bathrooms will be designed for wheelchair users with appropriate supports and railings. Rooms for doctor’s consultation, treatment, a multi-purpose hall for yoga/meditation, gymnastics, social and cultural events and movies will be available. A common cafeteria will offer meals and snacks.

These common facilities will also be open for non resident users.

Ground Floor:

Entering the building a large lobby leads directly into the inner courtyard, with cafeteria and multipurpose hall on the right side and storage and utility room on the left.

Four individual rooms are situated opening into the inner courtyard. A wide shaded verandah and pergola invite the residents to enjoy the garden. Also on the ground floor are the doctor’s consultation cum treatment room and a bathroom for public use.

First Floor:

From the entrance lobby a staircase and hydraulic lift lead onto the First Floor. Four more individual rooms are situated over the ground floor rooms, also with a wide shaded verandah. Next to the lift and staircase are a spare room with bathroom for emergency occupants, an office room for AVHS administration, a retiring room for day and night care givers as well as a tea kitchen and bathroom for the staff.

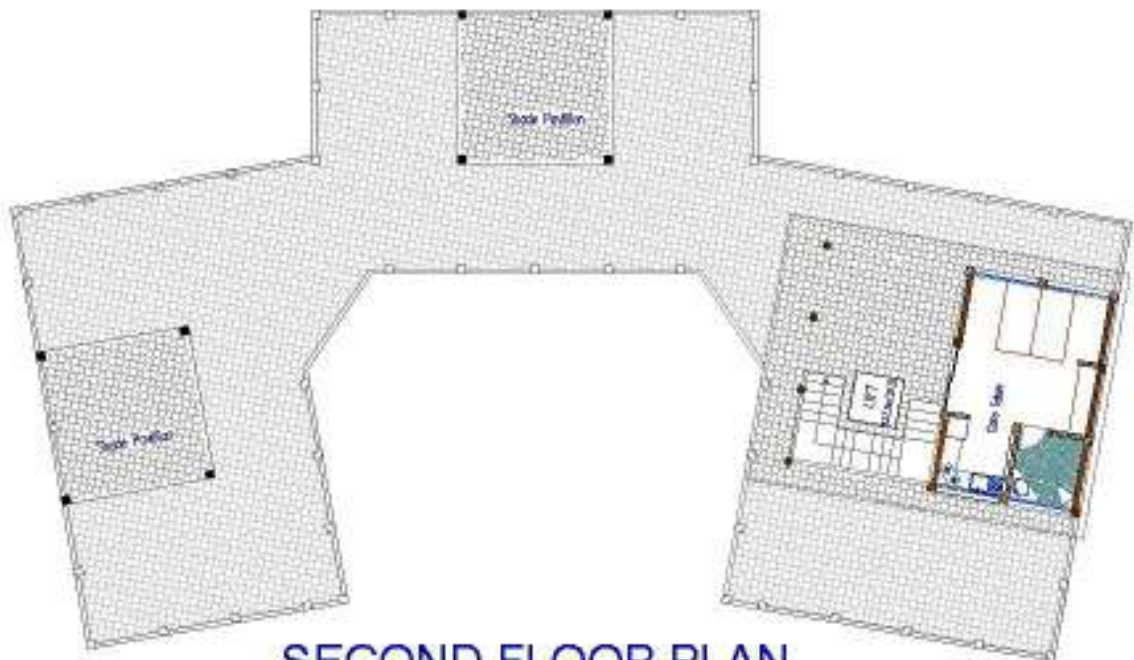
Second Floor:

The second flight of stairs and lift lead to the care taker’s flat with kitchen and bathroom. A large terrace will be a pleasant space for the residents to sit in the cooler evenings. Also the solar water heater and, possibly, the solar panels will be placed here. Two shade pavilions at the ends overlook the Arka garden.

GROUND FLOOR PLAN



FIRST FLOOR PLAN



SECOND FLOOR PLAN

Architectural features and building materials:

The concept of living spaces around a beautifully designed and shaded Inner Courtyard is known to encourage social interchanges between the residents and has been adopted in a number of similar projects. The wide shaded verandah along the rooms invite residents to spend time outside with nature.

All rooms are positioned to minimize disturbance from noise and light .

The building is conceived as a frame structure with wall fillings made of a mixture of waste Styrofoam and cement. This technology has been developed and successfully applied in other buildings by the architect. It is an ecologically sustainable technology using waste material (Styrofoam packaging) in a constructive way. Furthermore it has a very high insulation factor, keeping the interior cool and reducing energy for Air-conditioning.

Shade Pavilions: the shade pavilions will be experimental structures. Supporting pillars will be made of cement concrete but reinforced with bamboo instead of steel. This is an existing technology but so far not tried in Auroville. The roof will be a flat dome made of a Styrofoam – cement mixture (using waste Styrofoam) coated with a waterproofing compound. This roof, if successful , will have a very high insulation factor and could have wide application in Auroville.

Surrounding the building there is a so called “ant channel” filled with water to keep out the creeping-crawling insects. This water body also functions as a first collection- and settlement tank for rain water from the roofs. The overflow will be led into a pond in the inner courtyard which will act as a second settlement tank, besides having a cooling effect on the surrounding air. From the pond the surplus water will be pumped into a storage tank. It can then be used for gardening. Household wastewater will be treated and fed into this tank as well.

The building will have Solar Water Heaters on the roof. Batteries in the large store room will be charged by Solar Panels (Funds permitting!) and from the Tamil Nadu grid, so that there will be always an emergency electricity supply.

4. Financing

The cost for building of Phase I is estimated at 2crores Rupies, (Rs. =20,000,000.- = app Euros 235,000.-)

Some seed money is already available at present.

A substantial amount of money will come from the prospective residents themselves, who are living at present in their own houses which are mostly rather spacious. For these houses the AV Housing Service will contribute an appropriate amount to the project.

Since these funds will most probably not be sufficient to finance the whole project donations are most welcome.



For Tax exemption donations can be channelled through the respective AVI Centers. Please find a list of the Centers at the end.

In the name of all Auroville Seniors our grateful Thanks to all donors!



VIEW FROM ABOVE



VIEW FROM ARKA GARDEN



VIEW FROM MAHALAKSHMI PARK



FRONT VIEW FROM CROWN

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