

Kirsty A. Bennett Architect FRAIA

B Arch (Hons)

Grad Dip Ger

BD (Hons)

Registered Architect (Vic)

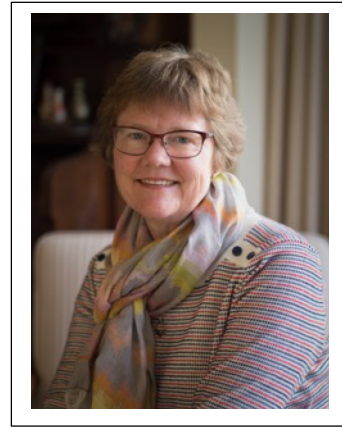
Fellow RAlA

Senior Academic Consultant, Dementia Training Australia

*Design Associate, Dementia Services Development Centre,
University of Stirling*

Co-author ADI World Report 2020

PhD Candidate, Swinburne University



Kirsty Bennett is an architect with over 25 years of experience designing for older people and people living with dementia. Kirsty's architectural career has focussed on designing small scale residential environments which are enabling and empowering. She has pursued her commitment to improving the design of environments for older people through architectural practice, writing, research and speaking engagements.

Kirsty has been responsible for the design, documentation and construction of many small scale residential aged care facilities for older people and people living with dementia in different parts of Australia. Kirsty has worked with Indigenous communities in many parts of Australia, and is a co-author of the Indigenous Aged Care Design Guide. Over the years, Kirsty has spent much time with people living with dementia, their families, staff, and managers of residential aged care facilities, seeking to understand the issues they face.

Kirsty is the co-author of a number of environmental assessment tools, including the EAT, Indigenous EAT, EAT-HC, EAT-DFC and the EAT Acute Care. She has written or co-authored a number of publications on designing for people with dementia, including Dementia Training Australia's *Environmental Design Resources*, and has had projects featured in publications by others. The *Environmental Design Resources* are the key resource for the new Aged Care Quality Standard 5.

Kirsty is a co-author of the recently published Alzheimer's Disease International World Report 2020 on the Built Environment 'Design, Dignity, Dementia: Dementia-related design and the built environment'. This report was awarded the inaugural 'Outstanding Contribution to Global Knowledge' prize at the 2021 European Healthcare Design Congress.

Kirsty has given guest lectures at Swinburne University, RMIT and the University of Melbourne to architecture and interior design students undertaking undergraduate and postgraduate courses. Kirsty has undertaken a number of study tours in Australia, Europe, Japan and Canada, meeting with older people, staff and architects to explore design and management issues. She has been a keynote speaker at international conferences, and has presented papers and workshops on designing for people living with dementia in Australia and overseas.

Kirsty is the founding manager of Dementia Training Australia's national Environments Service and is currently a Senior Academic Consultant in DTA's Environments team. She has recently taken up an appointment as a Design Associate in the Dementia Services Development Centre at the University of Stirling Scotland. Kirsty is currently enrolled in a PhD at Swinburne University exploring the topic: 'What role can design play in encouraging older people in residential aged care to have greater physical contact with outdoors?'