

Abstract English šThe built environment and care-workš by Christa Monkhouse (the powerpoint presentation is too large to upload, for further information please contact monkhouse@eden-europe.net)

Care giving in nursing homes comprises of physical work to support old, frail people in their activities of daily living and to provide medical care. Carers are also expected to make meaning for the residents as the nursing home is their home, residents have no other address. In Switzerland there will be an increasing demand for nursing home beds over the next decades. Existing buildings need to be renovated, enlarged and new nursing homes need to be built. Policy makers and architects appear increasingly aware that home-like features need to be incorporated into the design of care environments in addition to accepted dementia and physical handicap specific design. Care staff are present around the clock in order to undertake body work and provide meaning making. Therefore the physical environment needs to accommodate the physical and material requirements to facilitate this form of work. Little attention has been paid to evaluate how care staff experience the work environment in Swiss nursing homes and how it should be designed from their perspective. A study has been conducted in a newly built garden wing and in the oldest part of an existing older building in a Swiss city. 7 hours observation, 22 short interviews; a focus group and 72 digital photographs were taken to gain an insight into the experiences of care staff within the physical environment. Preliminary analysis of the data indicates there is room for improvement in the physical work environments for care staff to also enable them to