

Comfort in Living

Comfort in the kitchen: An ethnographic user study

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Agenda

▶▶ Method and cases

▶▶ Findings

- ▶ Kitchen living
- ▶ Changing needs
- ▶ Easy access

▶▶ The creative man

Ethnographic fieldwork

▶▶ Interviews

▶▶ Observations

- ▶ How do you use your kitchen?
- ▶ What works/does not work?



Cases

- ▶▶ Sweden, Finland, Lithuania, Latvia and Denmark
- ▶▶ 8 men and women (+ 1 group interview)
- ▶▶ Age 71-94
- ▶▶ All have their own kitchen
- ▶▶ Living alone

Kitchen living: dining in the kitchen



Kitchen living: decoration



Kitchen living: function and aesthetics



Kitchen living: media



Changing needs: cooking



Changing needs: disabilities



Easy access: top cupboards



Housing Accessibility

Methodology Targeting Older People

- Reliable Assessments and Valid Standards

PhD thesis Tina Helle

Easy access: oven



Easy access: pots and pans



Easy access: drawers



Easy access: handles



The creative man



The creative man



The creative man



The creative man



Dish drainers



Microwaves



Medicine and cleaning detergents



Conclusions

- ▶▶ Assistive technology vs. design
- ▶▶ Changing needs → need for flexibility
- ▶▶ New concept: service design?