



Exchanging Knowledge | Extending Quality Life

**EPSRC**

Engineering and Physical Sciences  
Research Council

# Understanding Domestic Spaces from the Older Person's Viewpoint

## The Bathroom

Gail Mountain  
University of Sheffield



# Design solutions for assistive technology from the 1970's??



# Not a reality until later life



# Left to our own devices photo competition – a way of confronting old ideas

Left To Our Own Devices

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Left To Our Own Devices is a UK-wide photography competition open to everyone, on the subject of older people's experiences with technology.

ENTER  
The competition is now open

GADGETS & GIZMOS

OUT & ABOUT

IN THE HOME

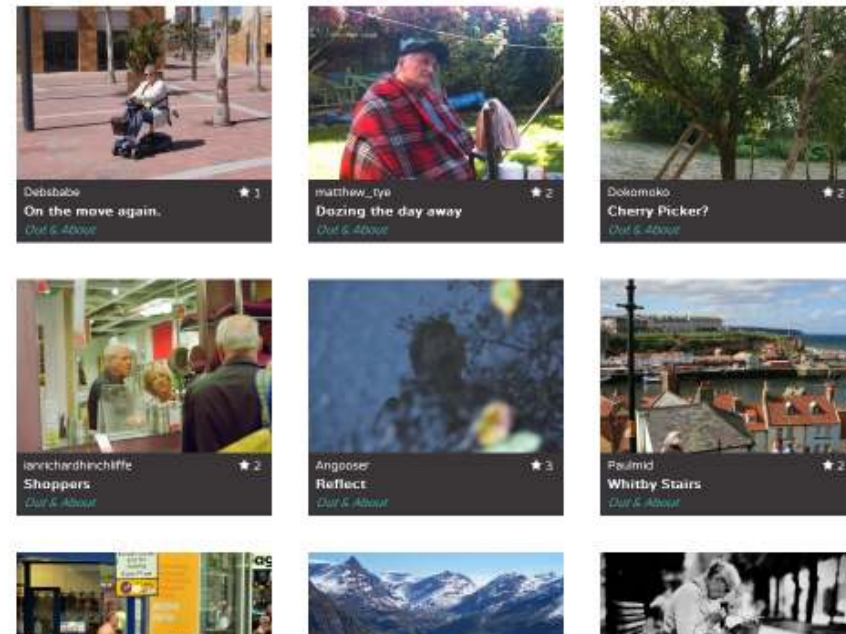
OPEN

Left To Our Own Devices is managed by XT-EQUAL, a national partnership of researchers working to extend quality life for older people and disabled people, in partnership with AgeUK.

Site designed by Q&T The Co.

## Out & About

Gadgets & Gizmos | Out & About | In The Home | Open



<http://lefttoourowndevices.org.uk/>

Closing date for entries 31 January 2012

# Good design to promote health, wellbeing and participation





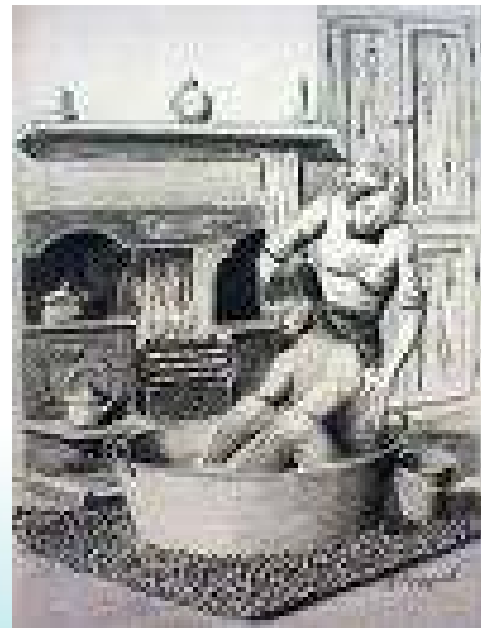
**Naidex**





Salone Internazionale del Mobile





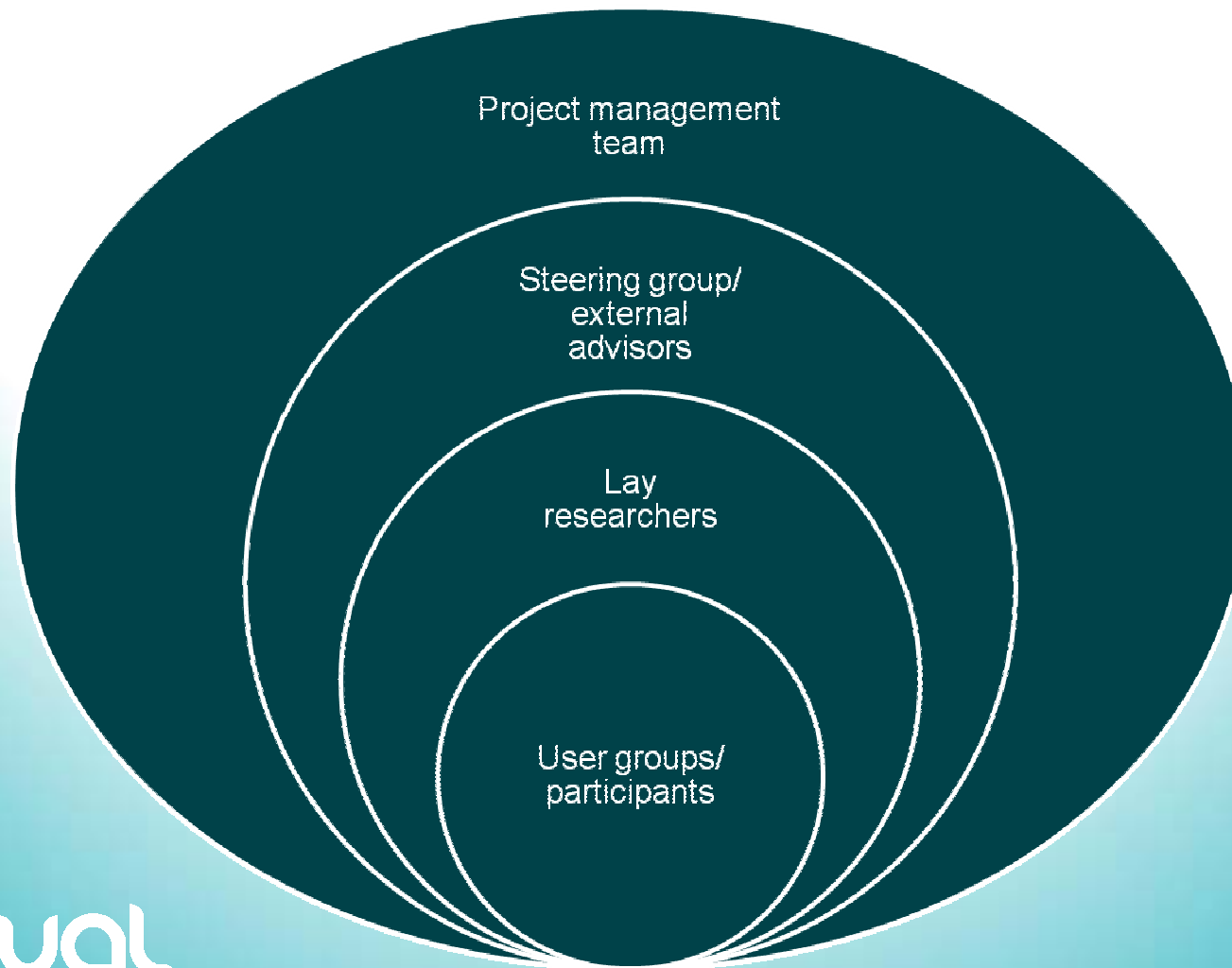
*Paul Chamberlain,  
Gail Mountain,  
Maria Burton  
Heath Reed*





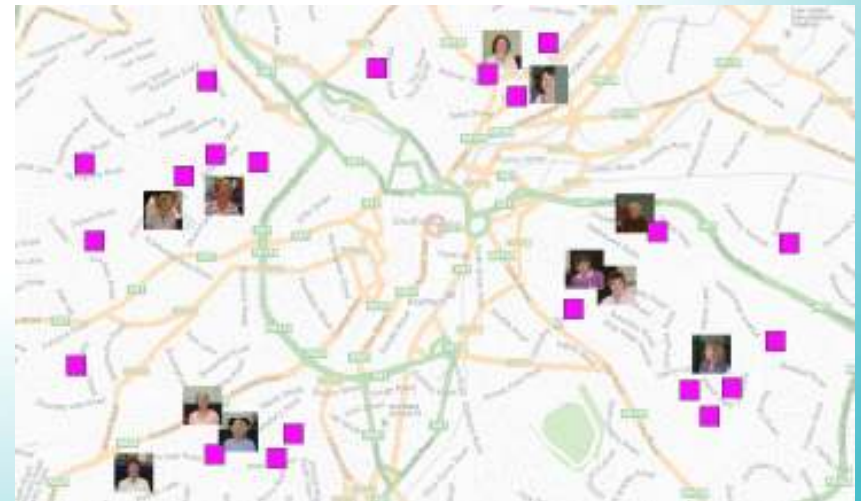
*Spa or function  
Fun or fear?*

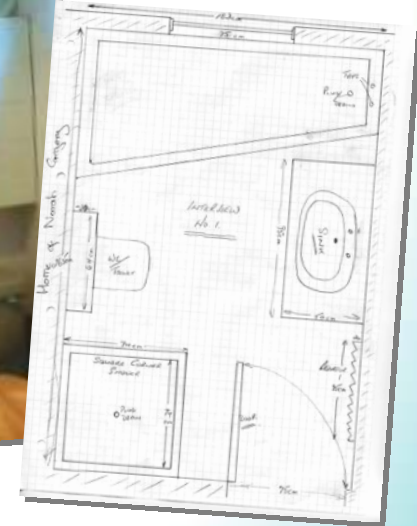
# The Future Bathroom Project



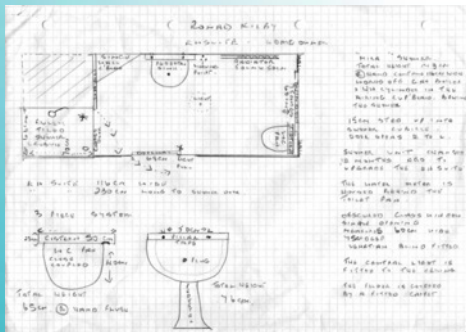


Comm





'if I'd known what



Mr. Torva Bickner 0114 230 1520  
 Would still like to be involved if  
 more in future phase  
 Difficult getting to site

Future Bathroom Project  
 Home visit record and checklist

Visit structure	Visit checklist
	Have you contacted the research team to let them know you are going? <input type="checkbox"/>
	Has the person you are visiting read and understood the information sheet? <input type="checkbox"/>
	Has the person you are visiting completed the consent form? (2 copies) <input type="checkbox"/>
A	Name of interviewer: Jennifer Allison Name of person being visited: Torva Bickner Address of person being visited: 60 Moorbank Rd, Sandgate, Salford S10 5TA Date: 26.1.24 Time interview start: 10:40
	Ask if it is OK to record the conversation. <input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
	Is the audio tape recorder working? <input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
B	General observations What kind of home is it? (rural/semi-detached/terraced, or other) <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Semi-detached What age is the house? <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Built 1950 When was the existing bathroom fitted? Not fitted or updated 1949

# Emergent issues

*The house you are in at 65 is probably the one you will want to be in at 85 but a lot happens to you in those 20 years. It's a time of great physical changes. The bathroom has to be very adaptable.*

*We had all this equipment provided by social services....it was a real pain because it's difficult to clean...the grandchildren... They couldn't use the loo when all this stuff was on....unsightly....well she never uses it.*

# More examples

*Social services have been very kindly...given me an electric bath lift and I'm very grateful...it's not ideal.*

*I'd like some sort of grab rail that wasn't a permanent attachment....I was thinking things in an aeroplane seat where they go down flat but when you press the button they come up so that they are not stuck out permanently for anyone using the wash basin and catching themselves.*





Devel





# Good design is fundamental

- Useful – usable- desirable





*Prototypes and design concepts at stage of detailed development and further user trials*

Development of portable toilet (in collaboration with Speechly) supported by funding from the Engineering and Physical Sciences Research Council (EPSRC) as part of a grant for the development of a range of assistive technologies (2012)

Development of portable toilet for people with shorter limbs (in collaboration with Speechly)

supported by



# So what about our own later life?



What are our expectations?

It's a personal agenda