

Developing Home Modification Solutions through Evidence-Based Research

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Acknowledgements

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- Advisory Council

Funding

Study funded by the US Department of Housing and Urban Development [H-21672 CA]

Introduction

- < 5% of housing stock offers accessibility for moderate mobility difficulties¹
- Issues still exist concerning accessibility due to spatial & structural barriers in residential homes^{2,3}
- Repurposing = adapting problematic fixtures or spaces with others not originally intended for that purpose

Aim: Identify innovative accessible, affordable, & attractive solutions that re-purpose residential fixtures or spaces to improve accessibility for individuals with functional limitations

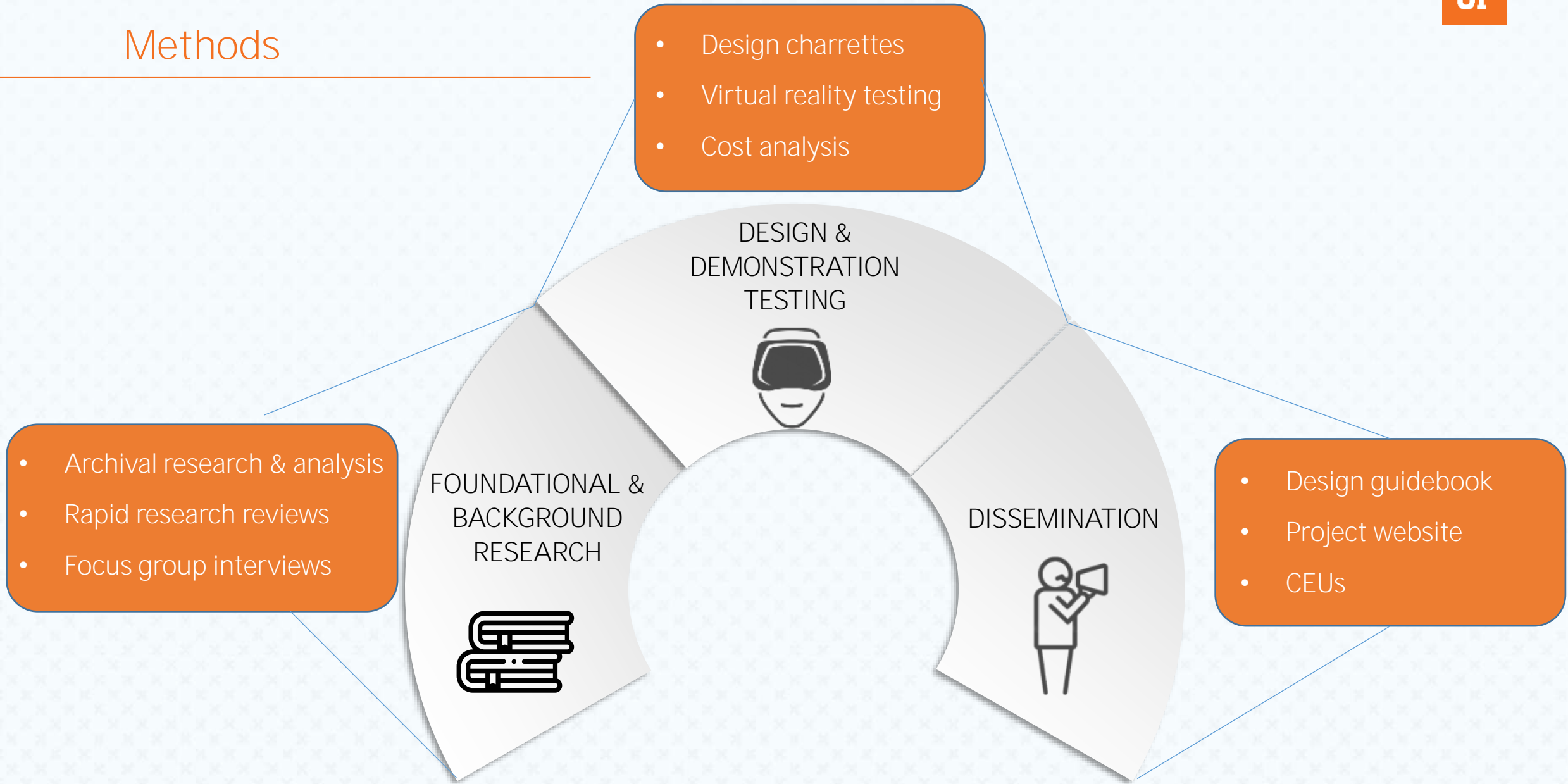
How to repurpose fixtures and rooms to make them more accessible, affordable & appealing?

¹Bo-sher, Chan, Ellen, Karfunkel & Liao (2015)

²Fletcher et al. (2015)

³Helle, Iwarsson, & Brandt (2014)

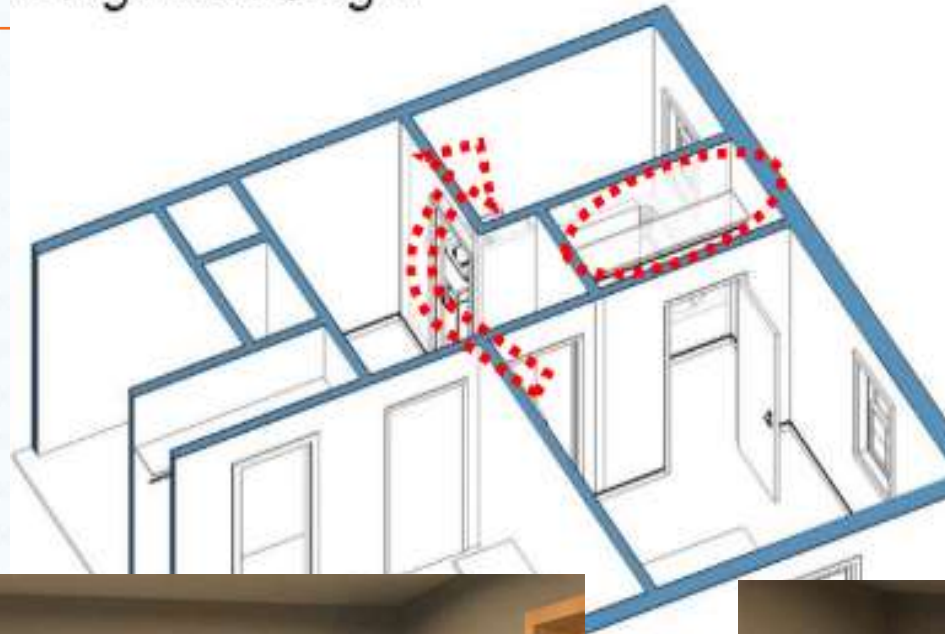
Methods



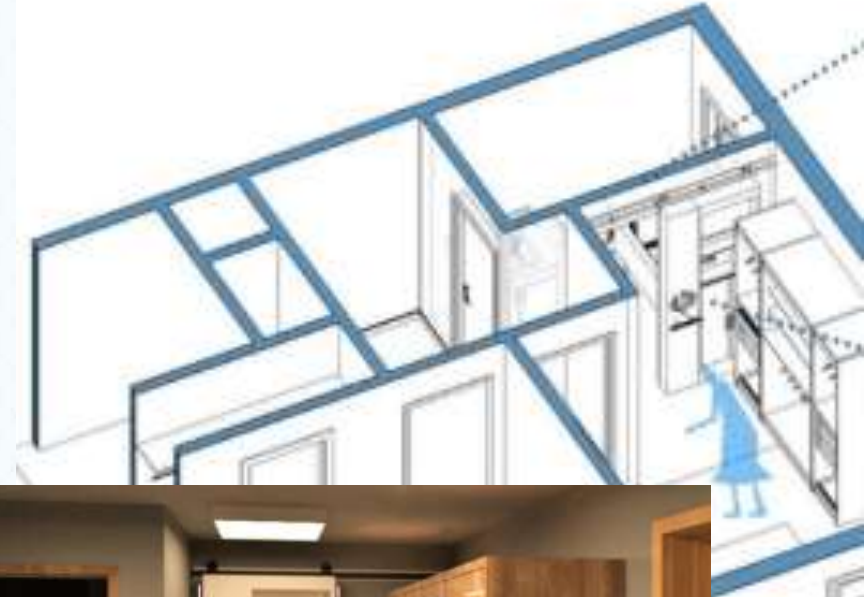
Results

- Repurposed design solutions for
 - bed-to-bath transition
 - kitchen

Original Design



Re-designed layout



Discussion & Conclusion

- Next steps:
 - Continue with dissemination
 - Other contracts & grants from federal agencies
 - Continue interdisciplinary collaborations
- Home modifications increase independence which in turn improves quality of life



Relevance to OT

- Inform practice & research
- Kitchen & bathroom most frequently evaluated & researched spaces
- Low vision: Improve contrast, decrease visual distractions
- Threats to accessibility: flooring, doors, heights (counters/fixtures)
- Collaboration with other disciplines including builders/contractors
- Preference for cost effective & easy to implement solutions (repurposing)
- Professionals prioritize safety & function over attractiveness
 - Vs. consumers often choose function & cost effective over safety
- Client-centered solutions



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