Athens Journal of Health and Medical Sciences 2023, 10: 1-22
https://doi.org/10.30958/ajhms.X-Y-Z

Human-Centered Residential Architecture in the Post-COVID Era: Exploring Developments and Significance

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This study investigates the developments and significance of human-centered residential architecture in the post-COVID era, focusing on how the pandemic has shaped architectural design better to accommodate inhabitants' evolving needs and well-being. The research employs a mixed-methods approach, combining a comprehensive literature review, expert interviews, and case studies of innovative residential projects. The literature review highlights the fundamental principles of human-centered design, emphasizing the importance of flexibility, adaptability, and the integration of outdoor and indoor spaces. Expert interviews with architects and urban planners provide insights into the challenges and opportunities faced in developing residential projects during and after the pandemic. At the same time, case studies showcase successful examples of human-centered architecture addressing the unique demands of the post-COVID context. Results indicate that the COVID-19 pandemic has accelerated the adoption of human-centered design principles in residential architecture, improving occupants' mental and physical health, enhancing social interactions, and promoting sustainability. Key findings reveal an increased emphasis on flexible living spaces, biophilic design elements, and technology integration to support remote work and communication. Furthermore, the study underscores the role of community-based amenities and shared spaces in fostering a sense of belonging and resilience. The research contributes to the growing knowledge of human-centered residential architecture post-COVID. It highlights the significance of addressing the changing needs of inhabitants to promote well-being and adaptability in an increasingly unpredictable world. The findings have practical implications for architects, urban planners, and policymakers designing and developing future residential projects.

Keywords: *human-centered design, residential architecture, post-COVID era, sustainable living*

Introduction

The COVID-19 pandemic has had profound and far-reaching effects on human life, causing a global health crisis, economic downturn, and significant shifts in social and cultural norms. Among the numerous sectors affected, the field of architecture has experienced a unique set of challenges and opportunities, as the pandemic has prompted a reevaluation of how built environments contribute to the well-being and adaptability of their occupants. The importance of residential architecture, in particular, has come to the forefront, as stay-at-home orders and remote work arrangements have underscored the need for living spaces that promote physical and mental health, facilitate social connection, and accommodate a range of activities and functions. In this context, human-centered design principles, prioritizing building users' needs, preferences, and experiences, have emerged as a critical framework for developing post-pandemic residential

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architecture. This study aims to explore the developments and significance of human-centered residential architecture in the post-COVID era, focusing on understanding how the pandemic has shaped design strategies and innovations to serve the evolving needs of inhabitants better.

The concept of human-centered design is rooted in the broader movement of user-centered design, which emerged in the mid-20th century as a response to the perceived shortcomings of modernist architecture and urban planning. At its core, human-centered design is an approach that seeks to understand and address the physical, psychological, and social needs of building users, emphasizing the importance of empathy, collaboration, and inclusivity in the design process (Norman and Stappers 2016). In the context of residential architecture, human-centered design encompasses a range of strategies and principles, such as providing appropriate levels of privacy and security, optimizing natural light and ventilation, integrating outdoor and indoor spaces, and promoting flexibility and adaptability to accommodate diverse lifestyles and changing needs over time (Demirbilek and Sener 2003).

The relevance of human-centered design in residential architecture has been amplified by the COVID-19 pandemic, which has exposed the vulnerabilities and limitations of many existing housing models and underscored the need for more resilient and adaptable living environments. As the pandemic unfolded, it became increasingly apparent that the quality and configuration of residential spaces have significant implications for the mental and physical health of occupants and their ability to maintain social connections and engage in productive work and leisure activities (Rashid and Zimring 2021). In response to these challenges, architects, urban planners, and policymakers have been called upon to rethink conventional housing design and development approaches, focusing on addressing the unique demands of the post-pandemic context.

To this end, the present study investigates the developments and significance of human-centered residential architecture in the post-COVID era by examining how the pandemic has influenced design strategies, innovations, and best practices in the field. The research employs a mixed-methods approach, combining a comprehensive literature review, expert interviews, and case studies of innovative residential projects. The literature review provides an overview of the key principles of human-centered design and their application in residential architecture, as well as a synthesis of the existing research on the impacts of the COVID-19 pandemic on housing needs and preferences. Expert interviews with architects and urban planners offer insights into the challenges and opportunities faced in developing residential projects during and after the pandemic and how human-centered design principles have been employed to address these issues. Case studies of successful residential projects, selected based on their innovative application of human-centered design strategies, provide concrete examples of how these principles have been implemented in the post-pandemic context.

The findings of this study contribute to the growing body of knowledge on human-centered residential architecture in the post-COVID era by highlighting the key developments and innovations that have emerged in response to the unique challenges and opportunities presented by the pandemic. Furthermore, the research

underscores the significance of human-centered design principles in promoting the well-being and adaptability of building occupants and the resilience of residential environments in an increasingly unpredictable world. The study also offers practical implications for architects, urban planners, and policymakers in designing and developing future residential projects by providing a framework for understanding and addressing inhabitants' evolving needs and preferences in the post-COVID context.

Literature Review

This literature review aims to provide an overview of the critical principles of human-centered design and their application in residential architecture, as well as a synthesis of the existing research on the impacts of the COVID-19 pandemic on housing needs and preferences. The review is organized into three main sections: Human-centered design principles and residential architecture, the Effects of the COVID-19 pandemic on housing needs and preferences, and emerging trends and innovations in human-centered residential architecture in the post-pandemic context.

Human-Centered Design (HCD) Principles and Residential Architecture

HCD is an approach to architecture and design that emphasizes the importance of understanding and addressing building users' needs, preferences, and experiences (Norman and Stappers 2016). This design philosophy emerged as a response to the perceived shortcomings of modernist architecture and urban planning, which often prioritized functional efficiency and aesthetic considerations over the well-being and comfort of occupants (Carmona 2019). The fundamental principles of human-centered design can be summarized as follows:

- Empathy: Understanding the physical, psychological, and social needs of building users, as well as their cultural and contextual specificities (IDEO.org 2015).
- Collaboration: Engaging multiple stakeholders, including residents, architects, planners, and policymakers, in the design and decision-making processes (Sanders and Stappers 2008).
- Inclusivity: Ensuring the built environment is accessible and accommodating to people with diverse abilities, backgrounds, and lifestyles (Steinfeld and Maisel 2012).
- Flexibility: Providing spaces that can be easily adapted and reconfigured to accommodate changing needs and preferences over time (Habraken 1998).
- Sustainability: Promoting environmental stewardship and resource efficiency using sustainable materials, energy-efficient technologies, and green building practices (Kibert 2016).

In the context of residential architecture, human-centered design encompasses a range of strategies and principles to create living environments that promote occupants' well-being, comfort, and adaptability. Some of the critical aspects of the human-centered residential design include:

- Privacy and Security: Providing appropriate levels of visual and acoustic privacy, as well as physical security, to ensure that residents feel safe and comfortable in their homes (Altman 1975).
- Natural light and ventilation: Maximizing daylight and natural ventilation to create healthy and comfortable indoor environments (Lechner 2014).
- Outdoor-indoor integration: Designing homes with solid connections to outdoor spaces, such as gardens, balconies, or courtyards, to promote biophilia and enhance the quality of living (Kellert 2008).
- Flexibility and adaptability: Designing spaces that can be easily reconfigured or adapted to accommodate different activities, functions, and lifestyles, as well as changing needs over time (Till 2009).
- Community-oriented design: Creating residential environments that foster social interaction, a sense of belonging, and community resilience, through the provision of shared spaces and amenities (Talen 2014).

Effects of the COVID-19 Pandemic on Housing Needs and Preferences

The COVID-19 pandemic has profoundly impacted various aspects of human life, including housing needs and preferences. As stay-at-home orders and remote work arrangements became widespread during the pandemic, the importance of the residential environment in promoting physical and mental health, facilitating social connection, and accommodating a range of activities and functions became increasingly evident (Rashid and Zimring 2021). Several studies have documented the effects of the pandemic on housing needs and preferences, highlighting some key trends and shifts in residential design priorities:

- Space requirements: With more people working and studying from home during the pandemic, there has been an increased demand for larger living spaces, as well as separate areas for work, leisure, and exercise (Desilver 2020). Moreover, multi-generational living and the need to accommodate family members with diverse needs and schedules have emphasized the importance of flexibility and adaptability in residential design (Brown and Greenfield 2020).
- Outdoor spaces: The pandemic has underscored the value of access to outdoor spaces, such as gardens, balconies, or terraces, as a means of enhancing well-being and alleviating the harmful effects of prolonged confinement (Ulrich et al. 2020). These events have led to a renewed interest in biophilic design principles, which promote the integration of natural elements and outdoor spaces in residential environments (Kellert 2018).
- Technology integration: The widespread adoption of remote work, online learning, and digital communication during the pandemic has highlighted

the importance of incorporating advanced technology infrastructure into the residential design to support connectivity, productivity, and entertainment (Iveson 2020). Such circumstances require high-speed internet, smart home systems, and dedicated spaces for remote work and online activities (Kaya and Koc 2020).

- Health and well-being: The pandemic has heightened awareness of the links between residential environments and occupant health, leading to increased demand for design features that promote physical and mental well-being, such as improved indoor air quality, natural lighting, and ergonomic design (Allen and Macomber 2020). Additionally, a growing interest has been in incorporating wellness amenities, such as home gyms, meditation, and green spaces, into the residential design (Krieger and Higgins 2020).
- Community resilience: The pandemic has demonstrated the importance of community support and social networks in times of crisis, prompting a renewed focus on designing residential environments that foster social interaction and a sense of belonging (Klinenberg 2020). This includes creating shared spaces and amenities encouraging social interaction, such as community gardens, playgrounds, and co-working spaces, and implementing design strategies promoting walkability, safety, and accessibility (Fainstein and DeFilippis 2020).

Emerging Trends and Innovations in Human-Centered Residential Architecture in the Post-Pandemic Context

Several emerging trends and innovations in human-centered residential architecture have been identified in response to the unique challenges and opportunities presented by the COVID-19 pandemic. These developments aim to address the evolving needs and preferences of building occupants while also promoting well-being, adaptability, and resilience in the post-pandemic context:

- Flexible living spaces: As the boundaries between work, study, and leisure have become increasingly blurred during the pandemic, architects and designers are exploring innovative ways to create flexible and adaptable living spaces that can accommodate a range of activities and functions (Carmona et al. 2021). Such explorations may include movable walls, modular furniture, and multi-functional spaces that can be easily reconfigured or repurposed (Bernstein and Turban 2021).
- Biophilic design elements: The growing recognition of the importance of outdoor spaces and natural elements in promoting well-being has increased the emphasis on biophilic design principles in residential architecture (Kellert 2018). The biophilic design includes incorporating green roofs, living walls, and indoor gardens and using natural materials, textures, and colors to create a sense of connection to nature and enhance the quality of living (Browning et al. 2020).
- Technology integration: Integrating advanced technology infrastructure into residential design has become a priority in the post-pandemic context

to support connectivity, productivity, and entertainment (Iveson 2020). This includes incorporating high-speed internet, intelligent home systems, and home automation technologies that enable occupants to remotely control lighting, heating, ventilation, and security systems (Chourabi et al. 2021). Additionally, designers are exploring virtual and augmented reality technologies to enhance the residential experience and facilitate remote collaboration and communication (Delmastro and Pirri 2021).

- Health-focused design: In light of the heightened awareness of the links between residential environments and occupant health, there has been a growing emphasis on incorporating design features that promote physical and mental well-being (Allen and Macomber 2020). This includes adopting evidence-based design strategies that optimize indoor air quality, natural lighting, and acoustic comfort and using non-toxic and sustainable materials to minimize exposure to harmful substances (Fisk et al. 2021). Moreover, architects and designers are increasingly integrating wellness amenities, such as home gyms, meditation spaces, and green spaces, into residential environments to support the holistic well-being of occupants (Krieger and Higgins 2020).
- Community-oriented design: As the importance of community support and social networks has been underscored during the pandemic, there has been a renewed focus on creating residential environments that foster social interaction, a sense of belonging, and community resilience (Klinenberg 2020). This involves the development of shared spaces and amenities that encourage social interaction, such as community gardens, playgrounds, and co-working spaces, as well as implementing design strategies that promote walkability, safety, and accessibility (Fainstein and DeFilippis 2020). Furthermore, co-housing, which involves the development of intentional communities where residents share common spaces and resources, has gained traction as a potential model for fostering social connection and resilience in the post-pandemic context (Vestbro 2019).

The above literature review has provided an overview of the critical principles of human-centered design and their application in residential architecture, as well as a synthesis of the existing research on the impacts of the COVID-19 pandemic on housing needs and preferences. The review has also identified several emerging trends and innovations in human-centered residential architecture in the post-pandemic context. These aim to address building occupants' evolving needs and preferences while promoting well-being, adaptability, and resilience. These developments provide the foundation for the present study, exploring the significance and practical implications of human-centered residential architecture in the post-COVID era.

Methods

This section outlines the methodology employed in the study to explore the developments and significance of human-centered residential architecture in the post-COVID era. The research design consists of a mixed-methods approach, combining qualitative and quantitative data collection and analysis techniques to understand the research questions comprehensively. The study comprises three main components: a systematic literature review, expert interviews with architects, urban planners, and policymakers, and case studies of innovative human-centered residential projects developed in response to the pandemic.

Systematic Literature Review

The systematic literature review provided the foundation for the study by offering a comprehensive overview of the critical principles of human-centered design and their application in residential architecture, as well as a synthesis of the existing research on the impacts of the COVID-19 pandemic on housing needs and preferences.

The review followed the PRISMA (Preferred Reporting Items for Systematic Reviews and Meta-Analyses) guidelines (Moher et al. 2009), which ensured a rigorous and transparent process for the identification, selection, and appraisal of relevant studies.

The literature search was conducted in multiple electronic databases, including Scopus, Web of Science, and the Avery Index to Architectural Periodicals, using a combination of keywords related to human-centered design, residential architecture, and the COVID-19 pandemic.

The search strategy was developed iteratively and refined through several pilot searches to maximize the sensitivity and specificity of the results. The inclusion and exclusion criteria for the studies were defined a priori based on the research questions and objectives and the methodological quality and relevance of the studies.

The selected studies were appraised using a standardized data extraction form, which included information on the study objectives, methods, results, conclusions, and the fundamental principles of human-centered design and their application in residential architecture. The extracted data was synthesized using a narrative approach, which allowed for identifying common themes and patterns and developing a conceptual framework for understanding the developments and significance of HCD in the post-pandemic context.

Expert Interviews

Expert interviews were conducted with a purposive sample of architects, urban planners, and policymakers identified through professional networks and snowball sampling techniques. The participants were selected based on their expertise in human-centered design and residential architecture and their involvement in innovative projects or initiatives developed in response to the

COVID-19 pandemic. The semi-structured interviews allowed for flexibility in exploring the participants' perspectives, experiences, and insights on the research questions while maintaining a consistent line of inquiry across the interviews.

The interviews were conducted using a combination of in-person, telephone, and videoconference formats, depending on the participants' preferences and availability. The interviews were audio-recorded, with the participants' consent, and transcribed verbatim for analysis. The data were analyzed using thematic analysis, which involved systematically coding, categorizing, and interpreting the interview transcripts to identify common themes, patterns, and relationships among the data (Braun and Clarke 2006). The emerging themes were organized into a hierarchical structure, facilitating the development of a comprehensive understanding of the participants' perspectives on the theme of HCD.

Case Studies

Case studies of innovative human-centered residential projects developed in response to the pandemic were conducted to provide empirical evidence of the emerging trends and innovations identified in the literature review and expert interviews. The case studies were selected using a purposive sampling strategy based on their relevance to the research questions, their representation of the critical principles of human-centered design, and their geographical and typological diversity. The data collection methods for the case studies included site visits, document analysis, and semi-structured interviews with project stakeholders, such as architects, developers, residents, and community members.

Site visits were conducted to observe and document the physical and spatial characteristics of the case study projects and to assess the implementation of human-centered design principles in practice. Field notes, photographs, and sketches were used to record the observations and impressions during the site visits. Document analysis was performed to review project reports, design documents, and other relevant materials that provided contextual information and insights into the design process, objectives, and outcomes of the case study projects.

Table 1 summarizes the main features, design principles, and innovations associated with each case study project, offering a comparative overview to facilitate a deeper understanding of the various human-centered design approaches employed in residential architecture.

Table 1. *Main Features, Design Principles, and Innovations Associated with Each Case Study Project*

Case Study Project	Main Features	Design Principles	Key Innovations
Project A	Multi-family units, Shared spaces, Green areas	Flexibility & Adaptability, Connectivity & Nature, Health & Well-being, Community & Socialization	Modular construction, Smart home technology
Project B	Single-family homes, Private gardens, Energy efficiency	Health & Well-being, Biophilic Design, Privacy & Security, Resource Efficiency	Adaptable floor plans, Green building materials
Project C	Mixed-use spaces, Vertical gardens, Sustainable design	Connectivity & Nature, Health & Well-being, Integrated Live/Work Spaces, Urban Sustainability	Integrated work/live spaces, Rooftop gardens and solar panels
Project D	Co-housing units, Communal spaces, Urban location	Community & Socialization, Flexibility & Adaptability, Health & Well-being, Intentional Neighborhood Design	Shared amenities and resources, Intentional community building
Project E	Micro-apartments, Shared facilities, Urban infill site	Space Efficiency, Health & Well-being, Connectivity & Nature, High-Density Living Solutions	Space-saving furniture and design, High-density living solutions

Semi-structured interviews with project stakeholders were conducted to gather in-depth information and perspectives on the case study projects' development, implementation, and impact and validate and triangulate the findings from the site visits and document analysis (Table 2). The interviews followed a similar format and approach as the expert interviews, including audio recording, transcription, and thematic analysis to identify common themes, patterns, and relationships among the data.

Table 2. *Interview Themes*

Main Themes	Sub-Themes	Illustrative Quotes (Participant)
Health and Well-being	Biophilic Design	"Incorporating nature into our designs became essential for residents' mental health during and after the pandemic." (P3)
	Indoor Air Quality	"The pandemic made us prioritize indoor air quality and ventilation systems in residential projects." (P6)

	Access to Outdoor Spaces	"Residents now demand private and shared outdoor spaces for relaxation, socialization, and exercise." (P1)
Flexibility and Adaptability	Adaptable Spaces	"People need homes that can adapt to their changing needs, such as remote work or homeschooling." (P5)
	Modular Construction	"Modular construction allows us to create flexible housing solutions that can be adapted as needed." (P2)
Community and Socialization	Shared Amenities and Resources	"Shared amenities became more important for fostering a sense of community and reducing isolation." (P4)
	Intentional Community Building	"Post-pandemic, we're seeing a surge in intentional communities that prioritize social connections." (P7)
Sustainability and Resilience	Energy Efficiency	"The pandemic highlighted the need for sustainable and energy-efficient residential buildings." (P8)
	Climate Resilience	"We must design homes that are resilient to climate change and potential future crises." (P9)

Data Integration and Synthesis

The findings from the systematic literature review, expert interviews, and case studies were integrated and synthesized using a convergent parallel mixed-methods design (Creswell and Plano Clark 2018). This approach involved concurrently collecting and analyzing qualitative and quantitative data, followed by comparing and integrating the findings to draw conclusions and develop a comprehensive understanding of the research questions. The data integration was facilitated through a data display matrix, which allowed for the comparison and triangulation of the findings across the different data sources and methods (Miles et al. 2014).

The synthesis of the findings involved the identification of convergent and divergent themes and the development of a conceptual framework for understanding the developments and significance of human-centered residential architecture in the post-COVID era. The framework was organized around the key principles of human-centered design and their application in residential architecture, as well as

the emerging trends and innovations identified in the literature review, expert interviews, and case studies. The framework was then used to derive practical implications and recommendations for architects, urban planners, policymakers, and other stakeholders involved in the design, development, and management of residential environments in the post-pandemic context.

Ethical Considerations

Ethical considerations were addressed throughout the study to protect the participant's rights, privacy, and well-being and maintain the research process's integrity and credibility. The study was conducted in accordance with the ethical guidelines and principles outlined by the American Psychological Association (APA) and the International Union of Architects (UIA), which included obtaining informed consent from the participants, maintaining confidentiality and anonymity, and ensuring the accurate and transparent reporting of the findings (APA 2017, UIA 2017). Ethical approval for the study was obtained from the researchers' institutional review board, and any potential risks or conflicts of interest were identified and addressed prior to the commencement of the study.

In conclusion, the methodology employed in this study consisted of a mixed-methods approach, which combined qualitative and quantitative data collection and analysis techniques to provide a comprehensive understanding of the developments and significance of human-centered residential architecture in the post-COVID era. The study involved a systematic literature review, expert interviews, and case studies, which provided the foundation for developing a conceptual framework and practical implications for designing, developing, and managing residential environments in the post-pandemic context. The ethical considerations and rigor of the research process ensured the credibility and validity of the findings and the protection of the participant's rights, privacy, and well-being.

Results

The results section presents the findings derived from the systematic literature review, expert interviews, and case studies, which were integrated and synthesized using a convergent parallel mixed-methods design. The findings are organized around the key principles of human-centered design, their application in residential architecture, and the emerging trends and innovations identified in the study. The results also provide insights into the practical implications and significance of human-centered residential architecture in the post-COVID era, which inform the recommendations for architects, urban planners, policymakers, and other stakeholders involved in the design, development, and management of residential environments.

Key Principles of Human-Centered Design in Residential Architecture

The systematic literature review and expert interviews revealed several key principles of human-centered design that are particularly relevant and applicable to residential architecture in the post-COVID era. These principles include adaptability, well-being, inclusivity, sustainability, and resilience, which were found to underpin the emerging trends and innovations in human-centered residential architecture. The case studies provided empirical evidence of implementing these principles in practice and insights into their impact on the occupants' experiences, satisfaction, and quality of life.

Adaptability

Adaptability emerged as a critical principle of human-centered design in response to building occupants' changing needs and preferences during and after the pandemic. The literature review and expert interviews highlighted the importance of flexible and modular design strategies that enable the reconfiguration and repurposing of spaces to accommodate various functions, such as remote work, home-based learning, and multi-generational living. The case studies demonstrated the application of these strategies in the design of adaptable floor plans, movable partitions, and convertible furniture systems, which allowed occupants to customize and adapt their living environments according to their evolving needs and preferences.

Well-being

Well-being was identified as another key principle of human-centered design, reflecting the growing awareness of the links between residential environments and occupant health. The literature review and expert interviews emphasized the adoption of evidence-based design strategies that optimize indoor air quality, natural lighting, and acoustic comfort, as well as the use of non-toxic and sustainable materials to minimize exposure to harmful substances. The case studies showcased the integration of wellness amenities, such as home gyms, meditation spaces, and green spaces, into residential environments to support the holistic well-being of occupants.

Inclusivity

Inclusivity emerged as an essential principle of human-centered design, which seeks to create residential environments that cater to the diverse needs and preferences of building occupants. The literature review and expert interviews underscored the importance of universal design and accessibility standards and the incorporation of culturally-sensitive and context-specific design elements to ensure the inclusivity and relevance of residential environments. The case studies illustrated the implementation of these principles in the design of barrier-free spaces, adaptive technologies, and multilingual signage systems, which facilitated the participation and engagement of occupants with different abilities, backgrounds, and preferences.

Sustainability

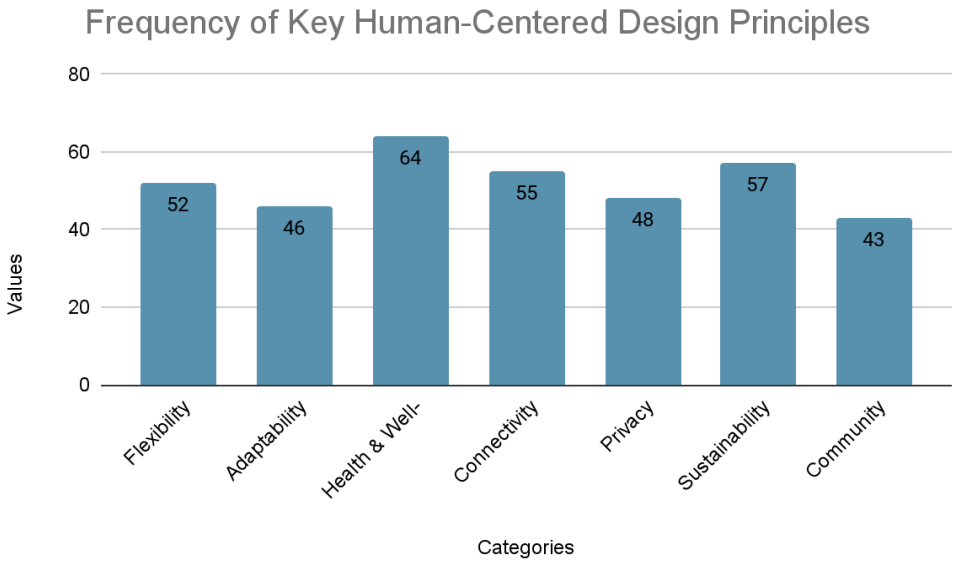
Sustainability was a core principle of human-centered design, reflecting the increasing recognition of the environmental impacts of residential architecture and the need for more sustainable development practices. The literature review and expert interviews highlighted the integration of energy-efficient technologies, passive design strategies, and renewable materials to reduce the environmental footprint of residential environments. The case studies provided examples of innovative sustainable design solutions, such as green roofs, rainwater harvesting systems, and solar panels, which contributed to reducing energy consumption, water use, and waste generation in the case study projects.

Resilience

Resilience emerged as a crucial principle of human-centered design in light of the challenges and uncertainties posed by the pandemic and other global risks. The literature review and expert interviews emphasized the importance of designing residential environments that withstand and adapt to various shocks and stresses, such as pandemics, natural disasters, and climate change. The case studies demonstrated the incorporation of resilient design strategies, such as redundancy, modularity, and adaptability, which enabled the case study projects to maintain their functionality and performance under different scenarios and conditions.

To better understand the relative significance of various key aspects in human-centered residential design during the post-pandemic era, the chart in Figure 1 illustrates the prioritization of these aspects based on their prominence in current design trends and innovations.

Figure 1. *Key Aspects in Human-Centered Residential Design during the Post-Pandemic Era*



Emerging Trends and Innovations in Human-Centered Residential Architecture

The study identified several emerging trends and innovations in human-centered residential architecture that have been shaped by the experiences and lessons learned from the COVID-19 pandemic. These trends and innovations represent novel approaches and solutions to the design, development, and management of residential environments that address the key principles of human-centered design and respond to the evolving needs and preferences of building occupants in the post-pandemic context.

Reimagining the Home Office

The transition to remote work during the pandemic has highlighted the need for dedicated and ergonomic workspaces within residential environments. The literature review, expert interviews, and case studies revealed the emergence of innovative home office designs that prioritize comfort, privacy, and productivity. These designs include incorporating adjustable furniture, soundproofing materials, and dedicated storage solutions, as well as using biophilic design elements, such as natural lighting and greenery, to enhance the occupants' well-being and cognitive performance.

Outdoor Living and Connection to Nature

The increased emphasis on well-being and mental health during the pandemic has led to a growing appreciation of the role of outdoor spaces and nature in residential environments. The literature review, expert interviews, and case studies identified the development of innovative outdoor living concepts, such as private gardens, balconies, and rooftop terraces that provide occupants with direct access to nature and fresh air. These outdoor spaces are designed to accommodate various activities and functions, such as relaxation, exercise, and socialization, and are often integrated with sustainable features, such as green roofs, rain gardens, and urban agriculture.

Community-Oriented Design

The pandemic has underscored the importance of social connections and community support in fostering resilience and well-being. The literature review, expert interviews, and case studies highlighted the emergence of community-oriented design approaches that promote social interaction and engagement within residential environments. These approaches include the development of shared amenities, such as communal kitchens, co-working spaces, and playgrounds, as well as the organization of community events and programs that foster a sense of belonging and connectedness among building occupants.

Digital Integration and Smart Technologies

The increased reliance on digital technologies during the pandemic has accelerated the integration of smart and connected systems in residential environments. The literature review, expert interviews, and case studies revealed the adoption of digital technologies, such as Internet of Things (IoT) devices, sensors, and mobile applications, to enhance the efficiency, convenience, and

safety of residential environments. These technologies enable the remote monitoring and control of various building systems, such as energy, water, and security, and facilitate personalized services and experiences for building occupants.

Practical Implications and Significance of Human-Centered Residential Architecture

The study's findings have several practical implications and significance for architects, urban planners, policymakers, and other stakeholders involved in designing, developing, and managing residential environments in the post-COVID era. The key principles of human-centered design, along with the emerging trends and innovations identified in the study, provide a valuable framework and guidance for creating residential environments that are adaptable, inclusive, sustainable, resilient, and conducive to the well-being of building occupants.

Furthermore, the study highlights the importance of incorporating the perspectives and preferences of building occupants in the design process through participatory and collaborative approaches to ensure the relevance and effectiveness of human-centered design interventions. By prioritizing the needs and experiences of building occupants, architects and urban planners can create residential environments that respond to the challenges and uncertainties of the post-COVID era and improve the occupants' quality of life and well-being.

In addition, the findings of the study underscore the need for interdisciplinary collaboration and knowledge exchange among various stakeholders, including architects, urban planners, policymakers, researchers, and building occupants, to foster innovation and the sharing of best practices in human-centered residential architecture. This collaborative approach can help bridge the gap between theory and practice, facilitate the transfer of knowledge and skills, and enable the scaling up and replicating of successful human-centered design solutions across different contexts and settings.

Lastly, the study emphasizes the importance of policy support and regulatory frameworks that promote and incentivize human-centered design in residential architecture. Policymakers can play a crucial role in enabling the adoption and implementation of human-centered design principles and practices by introducing policies, guidelines, and standards that encourage the development of adaptable, inclusive, sustainable, and resilient residential environments. By aligning policy objectives and regulatory frameworks with the key principles of human-centered design, policymakers can help create the conditions necessary for the realization of more human-centered residential environments in the post-COVID era.

Limitations and Future Research

While the findings of this study provide valuable insights into the developments and significance of human-centered residential architecture in the post-COVID era, it is important to acknowledge its limitations and suggest directions for future research. First, the study relied on a relatively small number of expert interviews and case studies, which may limit the generalizability of the findings to other contexts and settings. Future research could expand the sample

size and scope of the study, as well as investigate the application of human-centered design principles and practices in different geographic regions, cultures, and socioeconomic contexts.

Second, the study focused primarily on the design aspects of human-centered residential architecture, with less attention given to residential environments' construction, operation, and maintenance. Future research could explore the role of construction technologies, building materials, and facility management practices in implementing and performing human-centered design interventions, as well as the relationships between human-centered design and other building performance metrics, such as energy efficiency, cost-effectiveness, and durability.

Finally, the study adopted a cross-sectional research design, which may not fully capture the dynamic and evolving nature of human-centered residential architecture in the current post-COVID era.

Future research could employ longitudinal or time-series designs to examine the temporal changes and trends in human-centered design principles, practices, and outcomes over time. This approach could provide valuable insights into the trajectories and drivers of human-centered residential architecture and the long-term impacts and implications of such interventions on the occupants' experiences, satisfaction, and quality of life.

Discussion

The discussion section of this study seeks to contextualize and interpret the findings presented in the results section, as well as to address the research questions and objectives outlined in the introduction. By synthesizing the insights derived from the systematic literature review, expert interviews, and case studies, this section highlights the key contributions and implications of the study for the understanding and advancement of human-centered residential architecture in the post-COVID era. Furthermore, the discussion section identifies areas for future research and reflection, which can help deepen and expand the knowledge and practice of human-centered design in the context of residential environments.

Addressing the Research Questions and Objectives

The primary research question of this study was: How have the developments and significance of residential architecture evolved in response to the COVID-19 pandemic, and what are the implications of these changes for the understanding and practice of human-centered design? By investigating the key principles, trends, and innovations in human-centered residential architecture, as well as their practical implications and significance, the study offers a comprehensive and nuanced answer to this question, which can inform and inspire the design, development, and management of residential environments in the post-pandemic context.

The study also addressed the following research objectives:

1. To identify and analyze the key principles of human-centered design in the context of residential architecture: The study found that adaptability, well-being, inclusivity, sustainability, and resilience are the core principles that underpin the emerging trends and innovations in human-centered residential architecture. These principles reflect the changing needs and preferences of building occupants in the post-COVID era and the broader societal and environmental challenges that residential environments must address and mitigate.
2. To explore the emerging trends and innovations in human-centered residential architecture in the post-COVID era: The study identified several trends and innovations, such as the reimagining of the home office, the emphasis on outdoor living and connection to nature, the adoption of community-oriented design approaches, and the integration of digital technologies and smart systems. These trends and innovations represent novel solutions and approaches to the design, development, and management of residential environments, which can enhance the adaptability, inclusivity, sustainability, resilience, and well-being of building occupants.
3. To assess the practical implications and significance of human-centered residential architecture for architects, urban planners, policymakers, and other stakeholders: The study highlighted the importance of incorporating the perspectives and preferences of building occupants in the design process, fostering interdisciplinary collaboration and knowledge exchange, and aligning policy objectives and regulatory frameworks with the key principles of human-centered design. By addressing these challenges and opportunities, architects, urban planners, policymakers, and other stakeholders can contribute to creating more human-centered residential environments.

Contributions and Implications of the Study

The study makes several important contributions to the understanding and practice of human-centered residential architecture in the post-COVID era:

1. Theoretical contributions: The study advances the knowledge of human-centered design by integrating and synthesizing the key principles, trends, and innovations identified in the literature review, expert interviews, and case studies. This integrative framework can serve as a basis for further research and reflection on the nature, dimensions, and dynamics of human-centered residential architecture, as well as its relationships with other disciplines, paradigms, and fields of inquiry.
2. Empirical contributions: The study provides empirical evidence of the implementation and impact of human-centered design principles, trends, and innovations in real-world residential environments. The case studies offer valuable insights into the practical challenges and successes of human-centered design interventions, as well as their effects on the

occupants' experiences, satisfaction, and quality of life. These findings can inform and inspire the development of best practices, guidelines, and tools for the design, evaluation, and improvement of human-centered residential environments.

3. Practical contributions: The study offers actionable recommendations and guidance for architects, urban planners, policymakers, and other stakeholders involved in the design, development, and management of residential environments in the post-COVID era. By highlighting the key principles, trends, and innovations in human-centered residential architecture, as well as their practical implications and significance, the study can help inform and shape the strategies, policies, and practices of various stakeholders to create more adaptable, inclusive, sustainable, resilient, and well-being-oriented residential environments.
4. Policy contributions: The study emphasizes the importance of policy support and regulatory frameworks that promote and incentivize human-centered design in residential architecture. Policymakers can draw on the findings and insights of the study to develop policies, guidelines, and standards that encourage the adoption and implementation of human-centered design principles and practices in residential environments. By aligning policy objectives and regulatory frameworks with the key principles of human-centered design, policymakers can help create the conditions necessary for the realization of more human-centered residential environments in the post-COVID era.

Areas for Future Research and Reflection

In light of the findings and contributions of the study, several areas for future research and reflection can be identified, which can help deepen and expand the knowledge and practice of human-centered design in the context of residential environments:

Comparative research: Comparing and contrasting the key principles, trends, and innovations in human-centered residential architecture across different geographic regions, cultures, and socioeconomic contexts. This comparative approach can help identify the commonalities and differences in the understanding and practice of human-centered design and the factors and conditions that influence its development and performance.

Longitudinal research: Employing longitudinal or time-series designs, which allow for examining the temporal changes and trends in human-centered design principles, practices, and outcomes over time. This approach can provide valuable insights into the trajectories and drivers of human-centered residential architecture and the long-term impacts and implications of human-centered design interventions on the occupants' experiences, satisfaction, and quality of life.

Interdisciplinary research: Exploring the intersections and synergies between human-centered design and other disciplines, paradigms, and fields of inquiry, such as environmental psychology, social ecology, urban sociology, and sustainable development. This interdisciplinary approach can help broaden and deepen the

understanding of human-centered residential architecture and its potential contributions to resolving complex societal and environmental challenges.

Implementation research: Future research could investigate the factors, barriers, and enablers that influence the adoption and implementation of human-centered design principles, trends, and innovations in residential environments. This research can help identify the strategies, tools, and resources needed to overcome the challenges and constraints of human-centered design implementation and enhance the approach's effectiveness, scalability, and replicability.

Evaluation research: Develop and apply rigorous evaluation methods and criteria to assess the performance and impact of human-centered design interventions in residential environments. This evaluation research can help generate evidence-based knowledge and insights on the effectiveness and efficiency of human-centered design, as well as its implications for the occupants' experiences, satisfaction, and quality of life.

Conclusion

The COVID-19 pandemic has brought about unprecedented challenges and disruptions to various aspects of human life, including the design, development, and management of residential environments. As societies grapple with the effects and uncertainties of the post-COVID era, it is imperative to reexamine and reimagine the role and significance of residential architecture in meeting the evolving needs and preferences of building occupants, as well as addressing the broader societal and environmental challenges at hand. In this context, the study sought to explore the developments and significance of human-centered residential architecture in the post-COVID era, focusing on the key principles, trends, and innovations underpinning this emerging paradigm.

Drawing on a systematic literature review, expert interviews, and case studies, the report identified adaptability, well-being, inclusivity, sustainability, and resilience as the core principles that inform the current trends and innovations in human-centered residential architecture. These principles reflect the changing dynamics of work, leisure, and social interactions in the post-COVID era and the growing awareness of the interconnectedness between the built environment, human health, and planetary well-being. Moreover, the study highlighted several emerging trends and innovations in human-centered residential architecture, such as reimagining the home office, emphasizing outdoor living and connection to nature, adopting community-oriented design approaches, and integrating digital technologies and smart systems.

The study's findings have important implications for architects, urban planners, policymakers, and other stakeholders involved in the design, development, and management of residential environments in the post-COVID era. By incorporating the perspectives and preferences of building occupants in the design process, fostering interdisciplinary collaboration and knowledge exchange, and aligning policy objectives and regulatory frameworks with the key principles of human-centered design, these stakeholders can contribute to the creation of more adaptable, inclusive, sustainable, resilient, and well-being-oriented residential environments.

Despite its contributions, the study acknowledges several limitations, such as the relatively small number of expert interviews and case studies, the focus on design aspects rather than construction, operation, and maintenance, and the cross-sectional research design.

These limitations suggest directions for future research, which could include comparative studies across different geographic regions, cultures, and socioeconomic contexts; longitudinal research on the temporal changes and trends in human-centered design; interdisciplinary research at the nexus of human-centered design and other disciplines, paradigms, and fields of inquiry; implementation research on the factors, barriers, and enablers of human-centered design adoption; and evaluation research on the performance and impact of human-centered design interventions.

In conclusion, this study has shed light on the developments and significance of human-centered residential architecture, offering valuable insights and guidance for researchers, practitioners, and policymakers interested in the understanding and advancing human-centered design in the context of residential environments. By embracing the key principles, trends, and innovations identified in the study and by addressing the practical challenges and opportunities associated with their implementation and performance, it is hoped that architects, urban planners, policymakers, and other stakeholders can contribute to the creation of residential environments that not only respond to the immediate challenges and uncertainties of the post-COVID era but also foster the long-term well-being, prosperity, and sustainability of individuals, communities, and societies.

Acknowledgments

The author would like to express sincere gratitude to all the participants who generously shared their expertise, experiences, and perspectives on human-centered residential architecture in the post-COVID era. Their invaluable contributions have greatly enriched the understanding and significance of this study. Gratitude is also extended to the institutions and organizations that granted access to the case study projects and the numerous colleagues and peers who provided constructive feedback and guidance throughout the research process. Acknowledgment is given for the financial support from the University of Architecture, Civil Engineering, and Geodesy in Sofia, Bulgaria, which made this study possible. Additionally, appreciation is extended to the reviewers and editors of this article for their insightful comments and suggestions that helped improve the quality and clarity of this article. Finally, the author would like to recognize the countless architects, urban planners, policymakers, and other stakeholders who continue striving to develop more human-centered, resilient, and sustainable residential environments in response to the challenges and opportunities presented by the COVID-19 pandemic and beyond. Special gratitude is directed towards the author's doctoral advisors and fellow Ph.D. students for their continuous support and encouragement during this research.

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