



News

Contact:

Robb Deigh
703-401-6339
rdeigh1@aol.com

-- Advisory to Editors --

Vinson Hall Retirement Community, in McLean, VA, Offers Glimpse into the Future of Retirement with One-of-a-Kind “Innovative Model of Living” Apartment

**Suite 238: A collaborative effort between VHRC
And design expert Moira Leite of M.Quinn Designs**

Press preview scheduled for July 29th

McLean, Va. – July 5, 2008 – Boomers take note: Here’s what happens when you take one of the nation’s most innovative retirement communities and pair it up with an award-winning designer who is also an expert in creating living spaces for seniors. You get a glimpse into the future of retirement living.

Over the past few months, Suite 238 at Vinson Hall Retirement Community (VHRC) has been transformed into an “Innovative Model of Living,” an apartment that looks and behaves more like an upscale hotel room than your typical retirement unit. It is the tangible result of an idea that senior living spaces – given the right form, bold design, aesthetics and new technology -- can continue to be highly functional and safe, but provide a major improvement over traditional spaces.

The Innovative Model of Living (IML) is a collaborative effort between VHRC and design expert Moira Quinn Leite of M. Quinn Designs, Inc. Leite, with her “Beautiful Accessibility” concepts, brought to the project over thirty years of professional experience in planning, designing and retrofitting homes to meet the functional needs of her clients while applying elegant design techniques.

The IML suite incorporates what is known in the industry as “universal design” concepts -- from the bathroom to the closet and bed nook to the kitchen. The IML includes an easy access kitchen, specialized low-vision lighting, Murphy bed, step-less threshold doorways, a heated bathroom floor, and beautifully accessible furniture. Also at the IML, AFrame Digital, Inc. will be piloting its unique wireless healthcare monitoring products and services. For example, residents will receive a watch-like device that communicates with staff 24 hours a day. It reports the residents’ whereabouts, detects impact in case of a fall, and can monitor physiological vital signs such as temperature, heart rate and blood

oxygen levels. AFrame has won awards from the National Institute on Aging and the Defense Advanced Research Projects Agency (DARPA) for its innovative technology.

Rear Admiral Kathleen Martin, USN (Ret), CEO of VHRC, said, “The IML comes as a direct response to a clear message from VHRC residents that they want a living environment that allows them to age in place, prolonging their independence and enhancing their quality of life. We’re very excited to provide this wonderful prototype.”

Moira Leite said, “The IML is an excellent example of what can happen when every detail for comfort, safety and aesthetics is considered in building a modern living space for seniors. Special thanks go to Vinson Hall and the many vendors who provided their time and products to really make this a unique showcase.”

Leite, who also donated a multitude of accessories and art work to the project, partnered with several major national vendors who supplied products and concepts that compliment her Beautiful Accessibility design. They include: Dominion Electric, lighting; Kitchen & Bath, kitchen cabinets; Noland Company, plumbing and bath fixtures; Lowe’s, range and microwave; Kayla’s House, wood flooring; More Space Place, a Murphy bed and wall system; Thermo Soft International, radiant flooring material; Mac’s Construction, closet system and remote control blinds; Aframe, electronic monitoring; New American Painting, painting throughout the space; Luminous Environments, electrical and lighting hardware; General Electric, lamps and appliances; Area Access, lift chairs; Cox Communication, entertainment system; and Sherwin-Williams, paint and wall covering..

About Vinson Hall Retirement Community (VHRC)

VHRC is a non-profit continuing care retirement community with a 40-year history of offering a broad range of services, activities and care. In addition to providing state of the art service and care for its residents, VHRC is instrumental in bringing together many of the nation’s experts on aging and healthcare to showcase ways innovative practices and new technology can be of benefit to our nation’s seniors. VHRC is located at 6251 Old Dominion Drive McLean, VA 22101.

About M. Quinn Designs, Incorporated

Founded in 1985, M. Quinn Designs has had experience in residential, hospitality and elder care facilities. Ms. Leite, the president and design principal, is a member of the International Furnishings and Design Association (IFDA), the Illuminating Engineering society of North America (IES), and an Allied Member of the American Society of interior Designers (ASID). She is the recipient of an Edison Award for lighting design, an ASID award for contract design and an IES award for innovative lighting design. M. Quinn Designs is located at 4124 Downing Street, Annandale Virginia, 22003.

More Facts About the Innovative Model of Living

- All features of the IML are designed to be as cost effective as possible. With the exception of built-in items, its components are readily available through retail channels that anyone can access. Leite bought some of the materials at local discount stores and even one or two items on Craig's List.
- The space features nine different lighting techniques with different color rendering – both fluorescent and incandescent - each one specially chosen for its location and its ability to illuminate areas that otherwise might be difficult for people with vision impairments to discern.
- The IML features a “channeling kitchen,” that enables a resident to move food – such as a heavy pot -- to all areas without having to lift it.
- Colors were chosen to ensure that transitions from one part of the unit to another were easily distinguished by someone with limited visual acuity.
- All window shades can be raised and lowered with a remote control device
- All refrigerator controls are in the front of the unit. Only four models of refrigerators are sold in that configuration. It also features a larger freezer space than normal.
- The Murphy Bed that raises out of the way to provide more space
- The room features two power-lift easy chairs that can be raised electronically to enable a person with limited mobility to get up from the chair comfortably.
- A remote-control garbage can opens with a wave of the hand.

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