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Housing adaptations for healthy ageing: conceptual, theoretical, and practical approaches

This editorial introduces a special issue of the International Journal of Building Pathology and Adaptation (IJBPA). The special issue focuses on housing adaptations for healthy ageing by looking at the conceptual, theoretical, and practical approaches. Housing adaptation is an intervention to modify permanent physical home features to reduce environmental barriers and restore independent living. Adaptations promote independence, make it easier and safer for disabled and older people to live in their homes, and bridge inequalities, leading to a fairer society. It also restores confidence, dignity, self-respect, and their rights to accessible and adaptable housing. As the aged population is currently at its highest level in human history, healthy ageing and independent living are crucial for the elderly and people with disabilities. Ageing in place, a global concern, presents diverse challenges across different countries, each met with unique solutions.

Against this backdrop, in 2022, we proposed launching a special issue on housing adaptations for healthy ageing: conceptual, theoretical, and practical approaches. The aim is to explore the global community's best practices/experiences in housing adaptations for healthy ageing across the globe. We encouraged the contributors to share the best practices worldwide, promoting independent living, the use of technology, the influence of stakeholders, promoting housing adaptation through building design and technologies, and promoting conceptual, theoretical, and practical advances.

The published papers within this special issue span various countries and delve into diverse topics such as design applications, energy renovation, innovative technology, and practical solutions for both the public and private sectors. Ten high-quality research papers were submitted during the call for papers, with a rigorous peer review process resulting in the acceptance of six outstanding contributions. These accepted papers cover a range of themes, including the application of technology, streamlined housing adaptation processes, the significance of energy renovation, evolving architectural designs, drivers and barriers of home modifications supporting healthy ageing, private residential design in Sub-Saharan Africa, smart home suitability indicators, and the development of housing adaptations register with user matching functionalities.

We sincerely thank the editors, Dr Mark Shelbourn and Professor David Proverbs for providing the opportunity to examine this very important area of research. We are also grateful to the authors who made scholarly contributions and the reviewers who contributed immensely to maintaining journal quality standards. The special issue allows us to engage in extensive discussions on housing adaptation from a conceptual, theoretical, and practical point of view. It serves as a platform to discuss the best practices and the use of innovations in assistive technology in delivering housing adaptations for elderly and disabled people. We anticipate that the special issue will raise awareness of modern advances in the theory, concepts, policy, governance, and best practices in housing adaptation. The special issue will also serve as an intersection and means of knowledge sharing and inspire connections among scholars and practitioners who generate and support global housing

adaptations. We hope this special issue will offer readers new perspectives, ideas, and novel approaches to address the challenges and opportunities arising from housing adaptation. Finally, we would like to acknowledge the Emerald Publishing team for their support and effective logistical assistance in making this special issue a success.

Guest Editors: Dr Adekunle Sabitu Oyegoke, Prof. Saheed Ajayi and Dr. Wusi Zhou