

A compact Italian apartment for ageing people

Research at the Politecnico of Torino (Italy) focuses on the two main challenges for the future: domotics and a proper organization of spaces¹. The plea of older persons to remain living independently in their own apartment is increasingly heard and taken care of. This approach diminishes social costs and increases comfort. Organizing little spaces into a high quality living quarter for older and disabled citizens is a win-

ning solution even in case of the restoration of ancient buildings.

The 'Casa Agevole' model may be considered as a best-case example in Italy. Designed by architect Fabrizio Vescovo² it has been realized in Rome in 2003, in the area of the Clinica Santa Lucia, a private hospital hosting a rehabilitation centre (Figure 1). In only 60 m² surface area are designed an entrance, a living

room, a kitchen, two bedrooms and two bathrooms. This compact model of space organization is completed in all its details and with all the furniture. The main goals of the 'Casa Agevole' are accessibility, easy use of all the parts of the dwelling, psychological comfort and a pleasant ambience even in non-conventional spaces. In the bathroom, for instance, innovative solutions were applied to host all necessary functions comfortably in a space of 100x150 cm² only (Figure 1C, 2).

Everyday problems have been carefully considered and were solved in order to make this house a pleasant space not only for aged or disabled



Figure 1. Layout of the 'Casa Agevole' of 60 m², Rome, Italy (centre) with photographs taken in different rooms designed by letters: A: Toilet and shower facilities; B: Bedroom with the designing architect, F. Vercovo, showing the remote control of one of the beds; C: Bathroom; D: Wardrobe

