Thesis Synopsis:

This thesis establishes a foundational understanding of current autism-friendly design approaches and conceptualizes new methods in research and design. Early on in the research an intimate connection between architecture and occupant wellness is established. Which is then applied from the perspective of occupancy driven design tactics. Specifically focusing on people with Autism Spectrum Disorder (ASD), the research constructs an inclusive framework that can be used as a design instrument that guides architectural decision making or as an analytical tool for reviewing precedent studies. Lastly, this framework is implemented in a design proposal that tests and demonstrates applications. An autism-friendly design approach places emphasis on inclusive design practices, evidence-based architecture, intentional spatial construction, and occupant wellness allowing architecture to respond to the intimate needs of occupancy.

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