

The care platform: Transforming Spaces for Unseen Caregivers

In Phase 3, I adapted the concept of caregiving within the domestic environment, inspired by the Maison Bordeaux platform, and tailored it for an elderly-centric setting. The focus is on independence, safety, comfort, and efficiency while integrating caregiving and housekeeping roles. Modular elements, dynamic scheduling, and efficient circulation ensure a balanced and adaptable living environment, enhancing the quality of life for elderly residents while supporting caregivers and housekeepers.

Domesticity, traditionally confined within the home, extends beyond its boundaries, influencing broader urban spaces. It is not only about where we live, but how we inhabit and personalize spaces, shaping our experiences. This project merges domesticity with caregiving, a perspective shaped by my experience caring for elderly family members. Caregiving became central to my identity, as I helped with hospital visits, navigation, and overall well-being, which deepened my understanding of care within the home environment. I sought to expand this concept into urban and architectural design.

In Phase 1.2, I analyzed Maison Bordeaux, designed by Rem Koolhaas for a wheelchair-bound client, emphasizing accessibility, flexibility, and empowerment—qualities that aligned with my perspective on elderly care. The architecture acts as a caregiver, adapting to the needs of residents. I analyzed circulation, private versus public spaces, and mobility-enhancing structural elements, drawing parallels to my own caregiving experience.

Building on these insights, Phase 2 involved designing a modular cart for the housekeeper—an often-overlooked role in domestic design. Maison Bordeaux focused on the resident, but the housekeeper's needs were not directly addressed. I reimagined the platform elevator as a multifunctional space to support both the housekeeper and the resident. The modular cart, with adjustable seating and resting areas, provides comfort during domestic duties and ensures the housekeeper's well-being, while the architecture, as a care receiver, is maintained through their efforts.

Phase 3 expanded the caregiving role to all household members. The platform from Maison Bordeaux was adapted for an elderly-centric environment, prioritizing independence, safety, and comfort. Modular elements and efficient circulation were added to create a balanced, adaptable living space. The platform elevator, initially for the elderly resident, was reimagined to serve the needs of all residents, offering security, comfort, and independence. This approach fosters a holistic caregiving environment, with each floor of the house tailored to its inhabitants' needs.

Throughout each phase, the roles of caregiver and care receiver evolved. In Phase 1.1, the elderly were care receivers, with me as the caregiver. In Phase 1.2, the architecture served as the caregiver. Phase 2 saw the housekeeper supported by the modular cart, while the house became the care receiver. In Phase 3, the platform elevator became a universal caregiver, adapting to the needs of all residents. This approach redefines domesticity, embracing caregiving as a fundamental aspect of design and promoting a sense of community and well-being for all inhabitants.