

# Texas Chapter

## Designing User-Friendly Interiors for Aging in Place

By Laura Davis, AIA, IFDA, Texas Chapter President

"Designers who want to get or keep this demanding group as clients must know how they think and be able to design interiors that meet their changing needs without sacrificing style," said Dr. Wilma Hammett speaking to an audience of interior designers in Dallas about characteristics of a growing Baby Boomer clientele.

The IFDA Texas Chapter was honored to host and sponsor Dr. Wilma Hammett, FIFDA in Dallas on October 10, 2012 as she presented "Designing User-Friendly Interiors for Aging in Place." The two hour seminar was featured during the Inspire! event, a continuing education seminar series at the Dallas Design Center. Dr. Hammett spoke to a packed crowd of over 75 attendees at the Baker Knapp & Tubbs showroom.

The topic of working with aging clients was very timely as evidenced by the personal stories shared by those in the audience during Q&A. The attendees were able to temporarily experience age-related changes in vision by donning different glasses while looking at fabric samples. The yellowing of the lens in the eye, for example might explain why an older client complains of a green tint in the paint sample selected. Safety in the home is of particular concern to older home owners. Dr. Hammett commented on specific elements of chair and table design that can affect the comfort and stability of the client.

"Special attention to design details of color, color contrasts, lighting and the selection of furniture, flooring and even window treatments can significantly improve how well baby boomers and the elderly live in their homes," stated Dr. Hammett.

Dr. Wilma Hammett, FIFDA is Professor Emeritus at North Carolina State University where she was an Extension Interior Design/Home Furnishings Specialist for 30 years. Her firm, Design Transitions, provides design-based education/information to design and healthcare professionals, the furniture industry and individual clients. Dr. Hammett is a member of the IFDA Carolinas Chapter and in September 2011 she received the IFDA National Honorary Recognition.



Laura Davis and Wilma Hammett



(LtoR) Paula Ross, FIFDA, National Board Member-at-Large; Dr. Wilma Hammett, FIFDA; Laura Davis, President Texas Chapter; Becky Pipka, Past President Texas Chapter



Laura Davis, Texas Chapter president uses glasses to simulate age-related vision changes



## IFDA WANTS TO HEAR FROM YOU!

You've heard from us - now it's your turn. We love feedback, so please let us know your thoughts on this issue of the IFDA's *Network*. Did you like it? Were the articles of interest and value to you? Is the newsletter too long, too short, or just about right? Do you have any suggestions on articles or issues you'd like to hear more about? We're already planning the next issues, so please let us incorporate your ideas. Just like the IFDA and its members, *Network* is getting better all the time. Direct your comments or questions to Dawn Brinson, FIFDA, IFDA Director at Large and volunteer editor of *Network* at [dbrinson@northstate.net](mailto:dbrinson@northstate.net).

Susan J. Slotkis will be completing her three-year term as Director at Large and Editor of *Network* end of this month. Her editor's hat will be passed on to Dawn Brinson, FIFDA, Director at Large.

Attention VPs of Communications: Attention VPs of Communications, the submission deadline for the winter 2013 issue of *Network* is February 8, 2013.

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