

Fig. 1



Fig. 1 Ethnographic Research  
Fig. 2 Personae  
Fig. 3 Framework

Fig. 2

**Billy and Margaret Molloy Couple, 77 and 75**

**ENVIRONMENT** Medium, detached 2 bed roomed house Sheltered Housing, Urban setting Portlaoise.

- Living here 7 years it is walking distance of all amenities
- House is spotless and a lot of effort is given to the appearance and decoration
- Pain from arthritis recedes when in hotter climates like Spain
- Billy worked as a Sergeant in the Army for 25 years, Margaret was a housewife
- Margaret leads an active life and is involved in various community based activities. She attends a ladies club in town every week (she refuses to call it old woman's club) and likes to knit attend art classes and plays bingo she has many new friends now and her Daughter jokes that she has a better social life than her.

**HEALTH** Alzheimer's, Osteo and Rheumatoid Arthritis, mobility

- Margaret has suffers from Rheumatoid arthritis for 18 years which is getting worse with time needs a hand with everyday tasks like dressing and showering. She takes medication daily for this, doesn't have the strength for opening jars and had to give up set dancing because of arthritis is effected by the cold needs heat on the hottest day.
- Billy suffers with slight Osteoarthritis he suffered a stroke four years ago and has been diagnosed with Alzheimer's last year the family worry about his memory and wandering off, he is getting forgetful and repetitive
- Both have mobility and aids around the house to help them in everyday tasks

**HEATING** Gas fired central heating with electric stove

- Sons brought them an electric stove for the sitting room 3 years ago they only use it when it is very cold or to give the house a boost when the heating is coming on because it uses a lot of electricity.
- They like to put the 'glow' on the fire in the dark nights this is an important focal point in the room as they grew up with an open fire
- Margaret used to love her old range in Dublin, she found it great for boiling her kettle and for its large cooking area but recalls the hassle with cleaning and lighting it.
- Fond stories of cleaning children in tin bath in front of the range on Saturdays. She got rid of it when she turned 65 unable to do all the cleaning

**COOKING** Electric Cooker/Hob and Microwave

- Microwave just for defrosting or heating easy to use because it is at eye level on the worktop.
- Oven: Wants an oven that opens out rather than opens down- hard to bend down, bend knees or reach up with her arthritis. Their oven impossible to clean they don't use the oven sometimes because of this.
- Margaret preps in area beside the hob, Billy has to put the food in the cooker
- Only uses the back two rings on the hob, thinks it's safer that way-splashes from coming off the pans and pots and prevents banging into the handles by mistake
- Uses the hob for making omelettes, sausages, bacon and eggs, boiling potatoes and stews
- Doesn't use the timer on the cooker anymore.
- They think the older residents shouldn't have a cooker as they start fires-Recalls how a resident left a newspaper on top of the cooker hob and started a fire

**OTHER PRODUCTS** Refrigerator, Television, Mobile Phone, Panic button

- Refrigerator: Margaret has to have a chair beside her when bending down to clean the fridge to help get back up again. On one occasion the two of them got stuck on the floor when Billy tried to help her up.
- Son is getting something that would higher the fridge up
- Television: Margaret and Billy don't watch much television mostly current affairs and news at six and nine o'clock.
- Phone: Doesn't like the mobile but family insist on them having one. Her son put her numbers on a piece of paper on the back of the phone because she was finding it hard to use.
- Panic Button: They check the panic button every month
- One of the grandchildren set off the panic button recently

Fig. 3

