



Factors Affecting Place Attachment and Types of Living Arrangement Preferences for Ageing-In-Place of the Malaysian Generational Housing Consumers in Malaysia

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Abstract: Nearly all older adults prefer to age in their homes and neighbourhoods instead of in an institutional facility. The concept of 'ageing-in-place' enables people to maximise their self-realisation and preferred lifestyle in familiar surroundings or elsewhere. The study aims to provide an in-depth overview of the place attachment factors and living arrangement structure preferences that affect the generations in Shah Alam, Selangor. The main objectives of this study are: (i) to identify the factors affecting place attachment for ageing-in-place; and (ii) to determine the types of living arrangement preferences for ageing-in-place. This study adopts a mixed-method research strategy combining qualitative (interviews with industrial experts) and quantitative (survey questionnaires to the housing consumers) data gathering. The findings from this study reveal four (4) main place attachment factors: (1) Facilities & Amenities; (2) Geographic Location; (3) Physical Environment; and (4) Social & Well-being. The main types of preferred living arrangement for ageing-in-place are; (1) Living alone; (2) Living with parents; (3) Living with spouse; (4) Living with son/daughter; and (5) Living with family members. The research findings are vital, where it can be beneficial to the actors of the development process, including the public and private agencies, to gain more knowledge on the preferences factors for ageing-in-place for a better supply of housing provisions. The housing consumers in Malaysia will benefit from having more housing choices specifically tailored for future ageing life stages.

Keywords: Place attachment, living arrangements, ageing in place, generations

1. Introduction

There is an increasing number and proportion of older people worldwide (World Health Organization, 2015). These evolving trends in ageing require vital policy matters considerations in focussed aspects of the elderly population. The increase in life expectancy as a public health achievement and older people is heterogeneous, and many are continuing to help their families and friends even in their later years (IFA, 2011), which is beneficial for older

people to age in place (Pani-Harreman et al., 2021). The idea behind the policy of ‘ageing in place’ is that living in a familiar environment positively impacts the well-being of older people and contributes to positive experiences in later life (Van Dijk, 2015).

The elderly (seniors) prefers to age in place and live independently for as long as possible (Ismail et al., 2019). Older people are attached to their independence and prefer to live in the Environment with which they are acquainted. The main reason is that independent living contributes to maintaining a sense of self-reliance, self-management, and self-esteem (Milligan, 2009). People deciding to age in place can also be related to the sense of ‘place attachment’ of people towards a particular ‘place’. The term ‘place’ here refers to the housing location where people choose to reside.

Lewis (2017) argues that more attention is needed to understand the ‘views of those who remain living in sites of urban change’. Research on the impact of gentrification suggests that, especially if homeowners, older people are most likely to remain in gentrifying neighbourhoods (Freeman et al., 2016). Gentrification is a process where new neighbourhood residents drawn from a higher social status than the current or previous ones could undermine forms of place attachment (Buffel & Philipson, 2019). Although previous studies observed factors that explain differences in social participation and loneliness, such as personal characteristics, mobility, and the social and physical living environment, it remains a significant challenge to create liveable and healthy social neighbourhoods for the ageing population that prevent older adults from social isolation and feelings of loneliness (Kemperman et al., 2019). Older people or the elderly, as long-term residents in the neighbourhood, are essential to understand the possible responses to gentrification.

Studying the lives of older people in gentrifying areas contributes a vast deal to the broad picture and understanding of people’s attachment to certain places, thus resulting in the research gap for this study. This study aims to provide an in-depth overview of the place attachment factors and living arrangement structure preferences that affect the generations in Shah Alam, Selangor, Malaysia. The main objectives outlined for this study are to: (i) identify the place attachment factors; and (ii) determine the factors affecting place attachment and living arrangements among generations in Shah Alam, Selangor, Malaysia.

2. Literature Review

2.1 The Generations

Generations are distinct population categories that differ based on age cohorts or year born. For example, the elderly (senior) generation or the Baby Boomers generation is a population of 60 years and above. The distinctive year born of this generation are as follows: (i) Baby Boomers - born between 1946 and 1961; (ii) Generation X (Gen X) - born between 1962 and 1976; Generation Y (Gen Y) - born between 1977 and 1999; and Generation Z (Gen Z) - born after 1992 (Ismail et al., 2019). Each generation is unique and associated with different needs and preferences.

2.2 Ageing-In-Place and Place Attachment

Ageing in place (AIP) is an extensive concept open to many subjects and debates. Ageing in place implies the ability to remain in housing as one age. Older adults prefer to stay in their current home and neighbourhood (AARP Public Policy Institute, 2005) and ageing in place is thought to foster place attachment, health, and well-being in later life (Burns et al., 2012). Thus, AIP broadly refers to ageing in one’s home and community as long as possible and delaying any potential relocation to a long-term care setting. Despite the frequent usage of this generic definition, a closer look at the literature reveals that there is no clear consensus on this definition, particularly regarding what is ‘home’ or ‘community’ (Bigonnesse and Chaudhury, 2020) (see Table 1).

However, remaining in the same home and neighbourhood is only optimal for some (Smith et al., 2018). Some elderly will have to move and live elsewhere with family members or in an assisted housing facility due to their inability to live independently. Despite this, the elderly, although unable to age in place in the same house or location, if given a choice to do so, would prefer to age in place with similar vibes of surrounding. This preference was due to having the same sense of place attachment (sense of place) to a specific place where they were used to, although they needed to move to another location or type of housing facility.

Table 1 - AIP definitions by types of setting and types of support and resources

	Private residential settings		Seniors’ supportive housing	
Types of settings for AIP	Dwelling unit one has occupied for decades	Move to a smaller unit in the same neighborhood or community	Independent living	Assisted living, continuing care retirement community
Types of support and resources for AIP	Home modifications, assistive technology, home support services	Accessible home environment, assistive technology, home support services	Accessible home environment, assistive technology, home support services	Some support with activities of daily living, social and recreational services, health care

(Source: Adapted from Bigonnesse and Chaudhury, 2020)

A place refers to a home, neighbourhood, city or community, state, region, or nation (Nanzer, 2004). The attachments to a place could be formed at any level (Bernardo & Palma-Oliveira, 2013). The present study examines the ‘Sense of Place’ (SoP) concerning its seven indicators (Gokce & Chen, 2021) (Fig. 1). The understanding of SoP at different spatial scales has the potential to help designers and planners make appropriate design decisions and benefit place-making. Place attachment is the bond between people and places (Altman & Low, 1992), a function of the physical setting, human activities, and human social and psychological processes rooted in a setting (Stedman, 2002). Place attachment reflects the intensity of the human-place bond through understanding dimensions of dependence, identity, affect, and social bonding (Ramkissoon et al., 2013b; Wynneen et al., 2012).

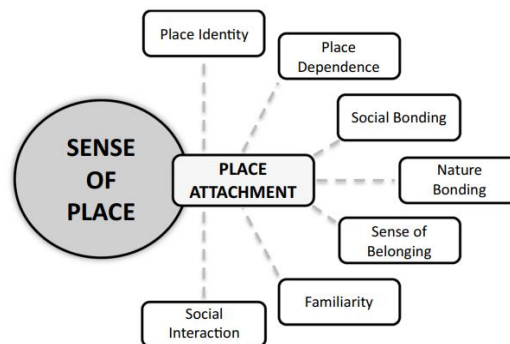


Fig. 1 - The Sense of Place (SoP) Model
(Adapted from Gokce and Chen, 2021)

In general, place attachment bonds, while intact, are positively associated with quality of life (Harris et al., 1995), life satisfaction (Billig et al., 2006), and various other dimensions of well-being (e.g., Rollero & De Piccoli, 2010a). Over time, people may develop an emotional attachment to where they live because they have built up memories and meanings about their lives which they do not want to give up (Hillcoat-Nallétamby & Ogg, 2014). People will continue to stay in certain places/or place attached if they satisfy with the place and the environment and move to other places if they are dissatisfied. The framework by Scannell and Gifford (2010a) on place attachment definitions structured these into three dimensions, describing the person’s use of individually or collectively derived place meanings, the place’s geographical scale and physical characteristics, and the psychological processes that comprise the bond, such as effect, cognition, and behaviour. Place attachment forms part of a values home range representing a cognitive map of human space. Individual values reflect different currencies or levels of importance to an individual, which are dynamic concerning time and location (Brown et al., 2015) (refer to Fig. 2).

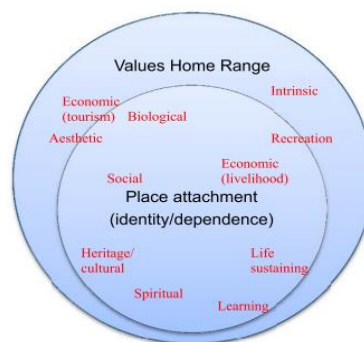


Fig. 2 - Place Attachment Model
(Adapted from Brown et al., 2015)

Place attachment in a broad diversity of place types, such as homes, natural areas, sacred or culturally significant sites, cities, streets, islands, recreation spaces, second homes, and other places (e.g., Droseltis & Vignoles, 2010; Mazumdar & Mazumdar, 2004). However, according to Lewicka (2011), most place attachment research has focused on neighbourhoods, but relatively few studies have compared it across place types. Scannell and Gifford (2017) emphasised the need for the present study to explore how the benefits of place attachment vary by place type.

The place attachment concept focuses on how strongly people feel some sense of connection to a particular place and captures the distinction between the goods and services provided by that place and the emotional and symbolic relationships people form with a place (Williams et al., 2013). On the other hand, Seamon’s framework assumes that place attachment results from the interaction between experience in a place and the meaning-making associated with that experience (Seamon, 2014). His work implies that there are several co-occurring processes related to place

attachment, which include: (1) sensory experience; (2) association of identity with the place; and (3) committing to care for the place, among others. Meanwhile, Aliakbarzadeh et al. (2022) proposed a conceptual model called as the Place Attachment. The dimensions were summarised in a proposed conceptual model (Fig. 3), which comprised 17 subcategories and five main categories: physical attachment, social attachment, economic attachment, psychological attachment, and autobiographical attachment.

Although the broader question about the suite of psychological benefits gained from place attachment has yet to (to our knowledge), some focused explorations have begun to reveal some of its psychological benefits (Scannell & Gifford, 2017). The figure above (Fig. 4) represents a synthesis of how this social and emotional meaning of attachment is structured from the qualitative findings by independent but mutually influencing sub-dimensions: Place attachment is built on housing and neighbourhood (two spaces interconnected by the housing entrance and marked by uses and subjective experience) and is the result of dynamic processes influenced by several dimensions interconnected to a greater or lesser extent.

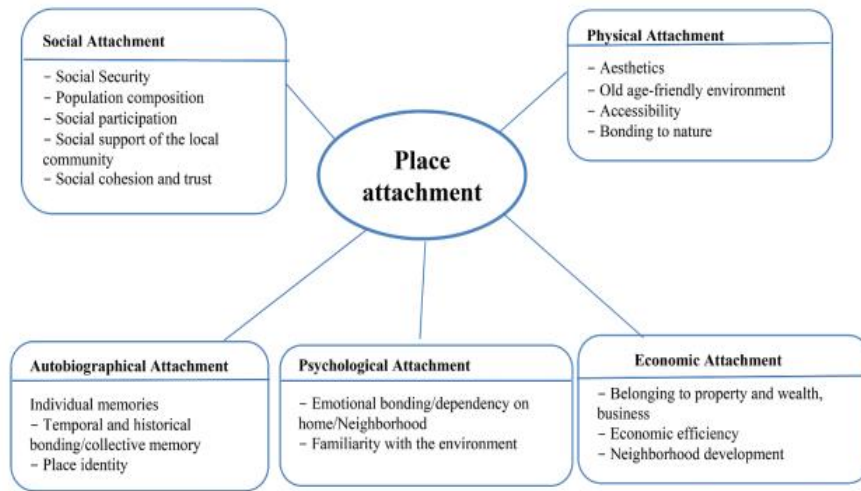


Fig. 3 - Model of Place Attachment Dimensions
(Adapted from Aliakbarzadeh et al., 2022)



Fig. 4 - Factors Influencing Place Attachment in Ageing-in-Place
(Source: Lebrusán, and Gómez, 2022)

3. Research Methodology

This exploratory study employed a mixed-method research strategy combining qualitative and quantitative data gathering. The individual expert survey is part of the initial data collection to provide a comprehensive overview and then followed by the final questionnaire survey to acquire better insight into the issues. The survey findings help to finalise the final concept and features of the place attachment and living arrangement preferences of the multi-generations in the Malaysian context. The population in Malaysia, including the elderly generation, is anticipated to increase continuously. Thus, understanding the needs and preferences of multi-generational place attachment and living arrangements is vital in providing better housing provisions which support ‘interdependency’ between generations. The choice of Selangor as the case study is due to its highest population in Peninsular Malaysia. An area in Shah Alam, which is in Selangor, was studied due to its status as one of the City Councils in the state. It is deemed to still have

more vacant land that is suitable for new housing concepts, such as multi-generational living. This paper will only present and discuss the main quantitative findings of the study.

The study questionnaires were distributed using a Google Forms survey link through convenient and random sampling from the first week of June 2021 to the third week of June 2021. As many as 110 respondents from four (4) main generations of housing consumers were collected. The respondents consist of the Baby Boomers, Generation X (Gen X), Generation Y (Gen Y), and Generation Z (Gen Z). The researcher then analysed all the data obtained using the Statistical Package for the Social Sciences (SPSS) (version 25) software. Four (4) sections in the questionnaire were analysed: Section A - Demographic data; Section B - Current housing details; Section C - Ageing in place and place attachment; and Section D - Living structure of the respondents. This paper will present and discuss some of the study’s main findings, especially on ageing-in-place and living arrangement preferences.

4. Main Results, Findings and Discussions

4.1.1 Demographic Background and Current Housing Details

Table 2 summarises the respondents’ demographic background for this study. The respondents for this study were the housing consumers located in Shah Alam, Selangor, consisting of Baby Boomers (25.5%), Gen X (22.7%), Gen Y (25.5%) and Gen Z (26.4%). Most of the respondents are female (61.8%), followed by males (38.2%) who are married (60.9%) and single (38.2%). The others were divorced/separated (3.6%) and widowed (1.8%). Most of the respondents were in the private sector (36.4%) and self-employed (20.9%), with income levels mostly in the range of RM2,500–RM4,000 (33.6%) and less than RM2,500 (30.9%). For household size, most of the respondents’ household size was 4–6 persons (55%), followed by 1–3 persons (41.8%).

Table 2 - Demographic background

Characteristic	Details	Number of respondents	Percentage of respondents (%)
Generation	Baby Boomers	28	25.5
	Generation X	25	22.7
	Generation Y	28	25.5
	Generation Z	29	26.4
Gender	Male	42	38.2
	Female	68	61.8
Marital status	Single	37	33.6
	Married	67	60.9
	Divorced/separated.	4	3.6
	Widowed/widower	2	1.8
Profession	Government sector	14	12.7
	Private sector	40	36.4
	Student	18	16.4
	Self-employed	23	20.9
	Retiree	4	3.6
Income level	Less than RM 2,500	34	30.9
	RM 2,500-RM 4,000	37	33.6
	RM 4,000-RM 10,000	33	30
	Above than RM 10,000	6	5.5
Household size	1-3 persons	46	41.8
	4-6 persons	50	55
	7-9 persons	8	7.3
	10 persons and above	1	0.9

Overall, Fig. 5 demonstrates that most of the respondents’ current types of living arrangements were living with spouses (41.8%), followed by living with parents (13.6%). Next, living with a married son/daughter (10.9%) and the least, living alone (5.5%). In detail (Fig. 6), many of the generations - Baby Boomers (38%), Gen X (32%), Gen Y (60.7%), and Gen Z (31%) live with a spouse (husband/wife). For the Baby Boomers, the next highest type of household arrangement was living with a married son/daughter (31%). It shows that the generations prefer to live independently with their spouses for as long as possible, including during their elderly (senior) life stage. The generations who chose to live with their children could not take care of themselves due to the death of their spouses. The following highest current type of household living arrangement of the youngest generation, namely Gen Z, is living with family members (31%). A similar pattern was found in the second highest current type of household living arrangement, which is living with parents; Gen X (12%), Gen Y (14.2%) and Gen Z (28%), which currently live with their parents.

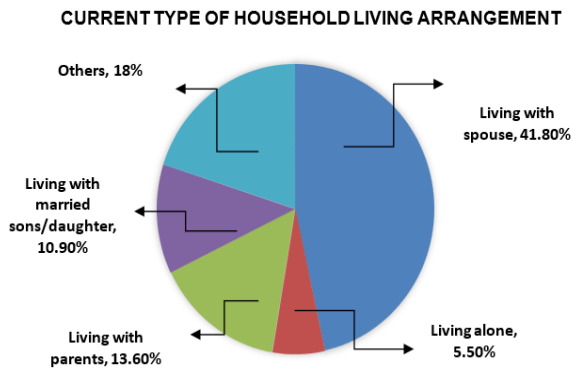


Fig. 5 - Current Types of Household Living Arrangement (Overall)

Generation/ Current Types of Household Living Arrangement	Baby Boomers		Gen-X		Gen-Y		Gen-Z	
	Frequency	Percentage (%)	Frequency	Percentage (%)	Frequency	Percentage (%)	Frequency	Percentage (%)
Living with spouse (Husband and wife)	11	38	8	32	17	60.7	9	31
Living alone	2	7	2	8	0	0	3	10.3
Living with parents	2	6.8	3	12	4	14.2	8	28
Living with married son/daughter	9	31	1	4	2	7.1	0	0
Living with family members	0	0	0	0	2	7.1	9	31
Others	5	17.2	11	44	3	10.7	0	0

Fig. 6 - Current Types of Household Living Arrangement (by Generations)

Living alone was the minor current household living arrangement preference by generations. The least preferred living arrangement of living alone shows that the generations prefer companionship for their current living arrangement, either with spouses or family members. As for older generations (Baby Boomers), living with family members will contribute benefits, such as ‘older-younger generational dependency and assistance’ that will result in psychological benefits in terms of reducing the risk of loneliness feelings by the older generations. The younger generations living with family members will benefit from housing financial expenses between younger and older generations.

4.1.2 Place Attachment and Living Arrangement Preferences

The figures (Fig. 7 and Fig. 8) below show the place attachments and living arrangement preferences of the population in the area overall and in detail by generations (Baby Boomers, Gen X, Gen Y and Gen Z). Fig. 7 shows the preferred area (location) to age-in-place overall. Overall, most of the respondents prefer urban areas (39.1%) to age-in-place, followed by suburban areas (33.6%) and rural areas (27.3%). In detail (Fig. 8), by generation, most of the Baby Boomers prefer rural areas to age-in-place (42.8%). In contrast, Gen X prefers suburban areas to age-in-place. Most of the younger generations - Gen Y (50%) and Gen Z (44.8%) prefers urban area to age-in-place.

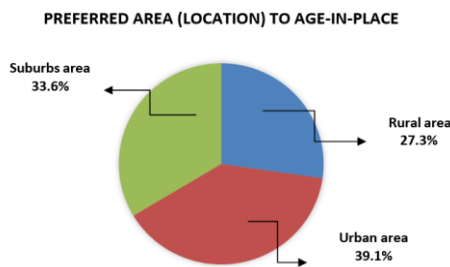


Fig. 7 - Preferred Area (Location) to Age-in-Place (Overall)

Generation/ Area (Location)	Baby Boomers		Gen-X		Gen-Y		Gen-Z	
	Frequency	Percentage (%)	frequency	Percentage (%)	Frequency	Percentage (%)	Frequency	Percentage (%)
Rural area	12	42.8	5	20	5	18	8	27.5
Urban area	8	28.5	9	36	14	50	13	44.8
Suburbs area	8	28.5	11	44	9	32	8	27.5

Fig. 8 - Preferred Area (Location) to Age-in-Place (by Generations)

Fig. 9 demonstrates the place attachment factors of preferences to age-in-place as in overall samples. Most respondents perceived facilities and amenities (49%) as the first essential factors to consider when deciding to age in place. The second important factor was the geographic location (25.4%), followed by the physical Environment (16.4%). The fourth important factor was social and well-being (9%). In detail (by generation) (Fig. 10), Baby Boomers perceived the three (3) as most crucial place attachment factors of preference to age-in-place were social and well-being (28.5%), geographic location (28.5%) and facilities and amenities (17.8%). In contrast, Gen X perceived physical Environment (32%), geographic location (28%), facilities and amenities (24%) as their three (3) most crucial place attachment factors of preference to age-in-place. Gen X regards social and well-being (16%) as their fourth important factor. Gen Y perceived facilities and amenities (32%) as their first important place attachment factor to age-in-place, followed by geographic location (28.5%), physical Environment (21.4%) and social and well-being (17.8%). As for the youngest generation, Gen Z perceived geographic location (38%) as the most crucial place attachment factor to age-in-place, followed by facilities and amenities (34.4%) and physical environment (20.6%). Social and well-being (6.9%) were the fourth important factor of place attachment and age-in-place.

PLACE ATTACHMENT FACTORS OF PREFERENCES TO AGE-IN-PLACE

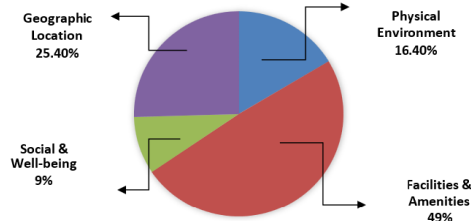


Fig. 9 - Place Attachment Factors of Preference to Age-in-Place (Overall)

Generation/ Place Attachment Factors of Preferences to Age-in-place	Baby Boomers		Gen-X		Gen-Y		Gen-Z	
	Frequency	Percentage (%)	Frequency	Percentage (%)	Frequency	Percentage (%)	Frequency	Percentage (%)
Physical environment	7	25	8	32	6	21.4	6	20.6
Facilities & Amenities	5	17.8	6	24	9	32	10	34.4
Social & Well-being	8	28.5	4	16	5	17.8	2	6.9
Geographic location	8	28.5	7	28	8	28.5	11	38

Fig. 10 - Place Attachment Factors of Preferences to Age-in-Place (by Generations)

Table 3 and Table 4 show the factors considered in the choices for the living arrangement preferences overall and in detail by generation. Overall (Table 3), for living alone, the most crucial reason for the choice of living arrangement is having no problems with activities of daily living (mean score of 2.5455), still being able to live independently and needing no assistance. The following reasons were connected (mean score of 2.2182). The least important factor for living alone was dependency (2.2091). As for living with parents, the most crucial reason for the living arrangement choice made was due to family formation (mean score of 1.9394), followed by responsibility (mean score of 1.9091).

Table 3 - Mean, the standard deviation for factors affecting place attachment by types of living arrangement (Overall)

Living Arrangement	Likert scale					Mean	Std. Deviation
	Strongly agree	Agree	Neutral	Disagree	Strongly Disagree		
1. LIVING ALONE							
Level of dependency	26	48	27	4	5	2.2091	.97769
Connectedness	24	51	25	7	3	2.2182	.93241
Problem with the activities of daily living	12	41	46	9	2	2.5455	.86349
2. LIVING WITH PARENTS							
Responsibility	49	36	17	3	5	1.9091	1.05400
Family formation	44	42	17	2	5	1.9364	1.01617
3. LIVING WITH SPOUSE							
Aging of householders	38	47	23	0	2	1.9364	.84893
Physical needs	42	47	19	0	2	1.8636	.84024
Geographic relocation	34	53	20	0	3	1.9727	.86161
4. LIVING WITH MARRIED SON/DAUGHTER							
Marital/familystatus	12	35	51	10	2	2.6091	.86836
Support system	15	49	38	5	3	2.4091	.88094
Health and wellbeing of the elder	18	57	27	7	1	2.2636	.84242
5. LIVING WITH UNRELATED FAMILY MEMBERS							
Cultural differences	10	33	52	9	6	2.7182	.92995
Community involvement	11	33	54	5	7	2.6818	.93781
Career	26	46	27	4	7	2.2818	1.05910

As for the living arrangement for living with a spouse, the vital factor affecting their place attachment was due to geographic relocation (mean score of 1.9727). The vital factor aligns with the Model of Place Attachment by Aliakbarzadeh (2022), which shows that economic efficiency and neighbourhood prospect of development are prime factors of place attachment. This preference factor also shows that for married respondents, living alone with their spouse was mainly due to the convenience of being nearer to the workplace to reduce commuting costs. The most important reason for choosing to live with a spouse was to age-in-place together with their spouse (mean score of 1.9364).

The main reason for living arrangements with a married son/daughter was marital status (mean score of 2.6091). This reason shows that those who choose to live with their spouses before, once the children are married, choose to continue living together with their married son/daughter in the house mainly due to the advantage derived from the support system (2.4091) between generations. Thus, the support system is a vital place attachment factor for multi-generational living arrangements. The support system here clearly demonstrates the interdependency role between older and younger generations, which can also contribute to the good well-being of the elderly; this is achievable through multi-generational living arrangements.

The last choice of living arrangement refers to living with non-related family members (mean score of 2.7182). The main reason for the choice of living arrangement was due to cultural differences. The willingness to live with non-related family members with cultural differences shows that in urban areas, such as Selangor, people have no problem and accept the concept of 'co-housing' or living with unrelated family members with different racial backgrounds.

However, the choices of living arrangements of unrelated family members come with norms of limitation of not living with unrelated of different genders. This norm applies especially to the Muslim community.

Table 4 - Mean, the standard deviation for factors affecting place attachment by types of living arrangement (by generations)

Generation Factors	Baby Boomers		Gen-X		Gen-Y		Gen-Z	
	Mean	Std. deviation	Mean	Std deviation	Mean	Std deviation	Mean	Std deviation
1. Living Alone								
Level of dependency	2.1786	.86297	2.0800	.75939	2.6071	1.34272	2.0000	.92582
Connectedness	1.9643	.74447	2.1600	.80000	2.5000	1.07152	2.1724	1.03748
Problems with the activities of daily living	2.8571	.80343	2.4400	.71181	2.5357	1.03574	2.3448	.85673
2. Living with Parents								
Responsibility	1.6429	1.09593	1.6000	.70711	2.3571	1.19301	1.8966	.93903
Family Formation	1.6429	1.09593	1.7600	.72342	2.4286	1.16837	1.8621	.87522
3. Living with spouse								
Ageing of householders	1.7500	.75154	2.0000	.64550	2.0000	1.15470	1.8621	.74278
Physical needs	1.5714	.69007	1.9200	.64031	2.0000	1.12217	1.8621	.74278
Geographic relocation	1.6429	.67847	2.0800	.64031	2.0000	1.08866	2.0345	.90565
4. Living with married sons/daughter								
Marital/family status	2.5000	.79349	2.5600	.76811	2.7500	1.10972	2.5172	.78471
Support system	2.1429	.75593	2.1600	.74610	2.7857	1.13389	2.4828	.68768
Health and well-being of the elderly	1.8571	.70523	2.1200	.66583	2.5714	1.06904	2.4138	.68229
5. Living with unrelated family members								
Cultural differences	3.3214	.81892	2.5200	.71414	2.6786	1.15642	2.3448	.72091
Community involvement	3.2143	.91721	2.4400	.65064	2.6071	1.16553	2.4483	.78314
Career	2.1071	1.34272	2.2000	.76376	2.5000	1.23228	2.2759	.79716

For generation factor, Table 4 shows in detail that the main reason for the choice of living alone for ageing-in-place (staying in the same house) by Baby Boomers (mean score of 2.8571), Gen X (mean score of 2.4400), and Gen Z (mean score of 2.3448) were due to having no problem with activities of daily living. Baby Boomers, Gen X and Gen Z prefer living independently (without other assistance) to age-in-place. In contrast, the main reason for Gen Y for the choice of living alone was dependency (mean score of 2.6071). This choice shows that for living alone, Gen Y perceived ‘freedom and privacy’ as their most important consideration for this choice of living arrangement.

For the type of living arrangement of living with parents, Baby Boomers (mean score of 1.6429) perceived both responsibility and family formation (1.6429) as their most crucial reason considered for the choice. Meanwhile, Gen X (mean score of 1.7600) and Gen Y (2.4286) put family formation as their priority reason for living with parents. This preference shows that Gen X and Gen Y perceived that living with parents to age in place would strengthen family bonding or ties. For Gen X and Gen Y, each family member’s role in supporting each other (interdependency) between generations is vital for family stability in various aspects, such as physical, psychological, and economic stability.

For the choice of living with a spouse to age-in-place, Baby Boomers (mean score of 1.7500) perceived the ability to be ageing together with the spouse, e.g., husband/wife (household members), as the most crucial reason for the choice of living arrangement made. In addition, Gen X (mean score of 0.2800), Gen Y (mean score of 0.2000) and Gen Z (mean score of 2.0345) regard relocation as their prime reasons for the choice of living with a spouse to age in place. This choice shows that the generations prefer to age in place independently of their spouse/partner. However, if needed to be relocated to another place due to the need for assistance or inability to be independent which is attributable to health reasons, for example, they would accept to relocate to be able to age-in-place with their spouse/partner.

As for future preference of living with married children (son/daughter) to age-in-place, Baby Boomers (mean score of 2.500), Gen X (mean score of 2.500) and Gen Z (mean score of 2.5172) perceived marital/family status as the prime consideration for the choice of the living arrangement. This preference shows that these generations also support the concept of multi-generational living arrangements and honour the idea of generational interdependency. Gen Y also agrees on the importance of interdependency as they view the support system as the most crucial reason for the choice of living with married children (son/daughter) to age-in-place.

As for living with unrelated family members for ageing-in-place, Baby Boomers (mean score of 3.3214), Gen X (mean score of 2.5200) and Gen Y (mean score of 2.6786) perceived cultural differences as one of the essential reasons for the choice of preferred living arrangement. This given reason indicates that Baby Boomers, Gen X and Gen Y not only accept the idea of ‘Co-Housing’ but also the idea of ageing in an ‘Age-Restricted’ or Retirement Village with a multi-racial community in residence. Furthermore, the acceptance of the concept can be supported by the following important reason for community involvement (Baby Boomers - mean score of 3.2143; Gen X - mean score of 2.4400; and Gen Y - mean score of 2.6071) that can be gained from living with unrelated family members for ageing-in-place.

5. Conclusions and Recommendations

Ageing-in-place can be referred to as the ability to live independently and to stay in own home or the same place with the same or similar surrounding for as long as possible to aged. On the other hand, the household choices of living arrangements contribute to well-being satisfaction for people to age in place.

In the overall conclusion of this study, the Malaysian generations (Baby Boomers, Gen X, Gen Y and Gen Z) show a divergence of preference for their future location to age-in-place. As the eldest generation, the Baby Boomers in this study had chosen to age in rural areas. This choice was made since the older generations perceived memories of past and childhood experiences from the place they originally came from as one of the decent places to age based on their memories' attachment to the place. In contrast, the younger generations (Gen X, Gen Y and Gen Z) choose urban and suburban areas to age in place due to their appreciation of the place associated with their childhood experience in the area. The younger generations, then, had stayed in the same area or residence in an area with similar surrounding and thus gained a sense of place attachment. The decision has further resulted in the younger generation choosing the urban and suburban areas for their future decision of ageing-in-place. Growing old in familiar surroundings intervened by place attachment plays a fundamental role, embedded in the identity and security offered by the home and familiar surroundings, but, above all, it symbolises the capacity for independence and autonomy (Lebrusán & Gómez, 2022). 'Place identity', 'sense of belonging' and 'social bonding' were the most critical indicators for place attachment (Gokce & Chen, 2021). This study focuses on preference factors for generational place attachment based on different living arrangements. The main findings derived from this study show that the Malaysian generations also prefer multi-generational living arrangements and multi-generational housing.

Although ageing in place connects to many factors, such as housing characteristics, the elderly's economy, or their social support, among others, it is based on place attachment as a critical aspect, which in the urban realm comprises two different but interwoven dimensions: the home (private space) and the neighbourhood (social space), which is understood as an extended sphere of the home (Lebrusán & Gómez, 2022). People in their sixties and seventies are typically in healthy condition, and most of them prefers to continue to live independently (Stones & Gullifer, 2016). By comparison, the independence of those people in their eighties and above is typically prone to increasing frailty and susceptibility prone to illness and disability (Austad, 2009). Through literature, it was determined that although most older adults have a physical and mental deficiency due to old age, they still wish to age in place and stay in their own houses (Grimmer et al., 2015). For an older adult, home life indicates a familiar environment where he/she feels safe, peaceful, and free, dominates the space, and has memories (Çapcıoğlu & Alpay, 2019)

To benefit place-making, spaces in buildings should be sufficiently flexible and appropriate for different users. Allowing the residents to re-appropriate and change spaces is essential to enhance their emotional bonding with their family members. The elderly is the 'fragile' generation associated with ageing frailty. If the space does not allow an adequate adaptation of the older person, it will limit their social interactions, produce adverse consequences on their health (Buffel et al., 2012), and become a source of stress.

Therefore, promoting the multi-generational living and housing concept to Malaysian housing consumers is essential due to continuous support towards the 'idea' of interdependency between generations. The idea is to guarantee healthy ageing through active engagements between generations and contribute to the quality of life through housing. Thus, a precisely planned and tailored concept of multi-generational housing in the Malaysian context is vital to guarantee the excellent quality of age-in-place well-being. More studies should be conducted to better understand ageing-in-place and place attachment in various aspects. The study needs to include the embedment of the Quality of Life (QoL) concept in multi-generational housing to help the elderly successfully age in place.

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