We are one of Australia’s leading architecture firms. Our internationally-recognised approach to labs and medical design, education, and accommodation translates seamlessly to senior living in the Australian and Asian region.

We design beautiful senior living environments that combine all the comforts of home with award-winning landscape architecture, and a strong sense of community.

Our quality projects put residents at the heart of the project, while maximising operational efficiency to increase the value of your development.

‘FIRST AND FOREMOST, WE DESIGN FOR PEOPLE.’

Hamilton Wilson, Managing Director
A PLACE TO CALL HOME

No one wants to live in a hospital.
When we design your senior living project, we understand we are designing someone’s home. We design places we would like to live in, or want our families to live in.

A warm and appealing residential environment has measurable health benefits for residents, and relieves one of the larger stress points of moving from the family home into a care environment.

High-quality care, technology and a home-like experience are interwoven in an environment that feels just like home.

‘Nothing about the facility says ‘nursing home’. It feels like a retirement village for younger people, not a high care facility,’

**Michael O’Donnell**
Director of Property
Freedom Aged Care, Toowoomba
We apply the design principles from our higher-end residential architecture to enhance our senior living interiors. A focus on generous and tailored space, attention to detail and timeless, quality materials is very important. The fit-out needs to be cost effective, hard wearing and practical for maintenance purposes but a lounge room needs to look and feel as comfortable as your lounge room at home.

‘Our practical approach to senior living design directly responds to the lifestyle-focused needs of the baby boomer generation.’

Shaun Purcell
Senior Architect, Wilson Architects:
Hospital and Aged Care article, May 2015
TECHNOLOGY FOR QUALITY OF LIFE

We embed round-the-clock care, unseen, in a friendly and calm environment where staff can unobtrusively monitor each of the residents depending on their care needs.

We believe technology should support the greater care objectives of the senior living environment. We work with you as a senior living provider to enable couples to stay together in their own homes as their care needs increase. Our design supports different levels of care seamlessly with the flexibility to switch between levels as the need arises.

In the longer term, we make sure we provide flexibility and adaptability for future technology needs to be accommodated, which can add years to the practical life of a project.

The Bond Multimedia Learning Centre is a culmination of many years’ research into how to embed technology seamlessly in an appealing environment that reflects the values of the community.
BUILDING A STRONG COMMUNITY FEEL

Cost-effective refurbishment for today’s market.

The Freedom Aged Care Village in Toowoomba, Australia was a typical 1990’s senior living building that lacked the warmth, community feel and amenity expected by today’s market. We upgraded the village to create a cost-effective and resident-focused environment that is a pleasure to live in, including re-design of all community areas and refurbishment of existing units, design of additional units and creation of a defined ‘front door’ to the village.

Wilson Architects re-designed the original communal dining hall at Freedom Village, Toowoomba, to focus on building community. The space encourages interaction and fosters relationships between residents, as well as feeling open and welcoming for family and friends.
A HUB OF ACTIVITY

Many senior living operators have inherited building environments that make it difficult to build a sense of community, and provide the camaraderie that today’s seniors are looking for.

We have found that opening up the core communal spaces of older-style developments to rejuvenated landscape areas, and creating welcoming lounge and bar spaces, and other activity areas such as a day-spa or cosy movie theatre can re-energise a community.

Loose-fit and adaptable spaces with clear views of the comings and goings become a favourite, permanently occupied hub that create a focal point for residents.

Although many refurbished apartments will have kitchens, most residents prefer the buzz of the dining or activity rooms, or to meet friends at the bar and café. These areas are the heart of the space and integral to building a strong, residential community feel where people feel truly at home.
COMFORT IN THE TROPICS

As an Australian-based practice, we understand both the charms and the challenges of living in the tropics.

Our expertise can be applied to countries with a similar sub-tropical or tropical climate such as Singapore, Malaysia, Indonesia and China.

Our designs are not just sustainable but also make the most of the climate and light while tempering the sometimes harsh natural conditions.

We have invented a range of devices that give comfort from the extremes of the environment while also creating a connection to landscape: innovative screens that maximise views and reduce glare, walls that breathe and internal landscapes that simultaneously open up a building while protecting from the elements.
LANDSCAPE FOR WELLBEING

Gardens bring real joy to residents. They regulate the environment, keep the air clean and provide areas for residents to meet with family and friends beyond their own living space.

Well-designed landscape can also aid as a strong memory effector for dementia patients, and can reduce anxiety amongst memory-loss residents.

Wilson Architects’ landscape architecture team are recognised across Australia for their expertise.
LANDSCAPE FOR COMMUNITY

We take landscape a step further throughout all aspects of our projects. At Freedom Village, for example, we incorporated fish ponds, kitchen gardens, chook pens, aviaries and safe sensory landscapes that can evoke memory and aid in wayfinding. Residents take obvious pride in the beauty and productivity of their gardens while building friendships and enjoying a much-loved hobby.
Our research ensures we are at the forefront of the latest developments in technology, well-being and resident comfort. We draw on our research from high-end medical, facilities and dementia care to offer a unique perspective on how to maximise resident wellbeing, the potential of a site, and operational efficiencies.

All our designs are project specific and tested in line with the latest knowledge, not just a cookie-cutter repeat of the last similar project. Post-occupancy reviews are a critical component of assessing project success and ensuring a progressive design philosophy on future projects.

Our staff have strong research backgrounds conducting ongoing aged care and dementia-care research and international study tours of world’s best-practice projects.

Our staff have strong research backgrounds in the latest developments in senior living and aged care.
We have extensive experience creating master plans that integrate design of the Senior Living environment with care delivery strategies. We have completed many feasibility studies throughout Australia to ascertain the viability of greenfield and brownfield sites for Senior Living developments. We understand the challenges involved in Senior Living developments.

There is a complex balance between residents’ privacy, dignity, autonomy and comfort and a facility’s responsibility to provide a secure and safe environment - while continuing to operate efficiently. These social and economic challenges are most successfully overcome through an integrated design process. Our processes address the needs of residents, their families, and carers.
QUALITY, FLEXIBLE, COST-EFFICIENT HOUSING

We understand how to design flexible, quality housing that is cost-effective and appealing. Many aspects of our approach to multi-residential design and refurbishment are relevant to the senior living environment. Senior living accommodation needs to be comfortable and functional, often in a very compact space. We know how to provide the practical necessities such as ample storage options and good ventilation in a beautiful environment. We combine this with our ability to give the illusion of space, and create a feeling of luxury while working within budgetary and operational requirements.

King’s College, The University of Queensland, shows how to build a sense of community and enhance the overall value of project. We translate these strategies to our senior living projects to provide comfortable, practical and flexible accommodation.
The challenge for senior living developers is how to provide a wide range of healthcare services that are not only top quality but feel welcoming and safe, and treat residents as valued individuals. We design standalone, and integrated medical care centres that achieve a balance between a positive health care experience and functional efficiency, such as the GP Superclinic, Queensland, Australia pictured above (due for completion in September 2015).

Our priority for the Superclinic is to improve patient outcomes by making the centre a part of the community, with ownership from the community. The centre is also scalable to enable future viability of the clinic as it grows with the population.
HAMILTON WILSON
Architect & Managing Director,
Wilson Architects
Adjunct Professor in the UQ School of Architecture
B.AppSc., B.Arch. (Hon), FRAIA

Hamilton is one of Australia’s leading architects known for his thorough understanding of how design affects the behaviour and wellbeing of those who use the space.

For almost 20 years, he has worked with leaders in the areas of science-based research, high-end medical, and residential design. He applies his passion for research to create buildings that address the future challenges and needs of senior living, university and research communities.

Hamilton is equally well known for his exceptional design work in education, community and public buildings, residential architecture and adaptive re-use. He builds strong relationships with his clients, and leads a highly experienced and capable team.

Hamilton began his career in London before returning to Wilson Architects in 1989 where he was appointed Managing Director in 1995. His work has received many significant architectural awards and recognition from his peers. He regularly presents at conferences and has been published in Australia and overseas.

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SHAUN PURCELL
Senior Architect,
Wilson Architects
B.Des., B.Arch., AIA

Shaun has been instrumental in the development and application of Freedom Aged Care design principles across all Freedom projects.

His varied experience includes projects in senior living, commercial and mixed-use, health and medical, residential, education, civic, and masterplanning. Shaun’s focus is on how to combine great residential design with technology to improve the quality of life of senior living residents.

Recent projects include the international award-winning James Cook University Education Central, the Translational Research Institute, and a range of innovative senior living projects for progressive aged-care providers Freedom Aged Care.

Shaun joined Wilson Architects in August 2009 after working for Woods Bagot Architects on a variety of large-scale projects. He has a particular interest in Building Information Modelling (BIM), and collaborative design processes enabled through 3D technology.

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