

SENIOR COHOUSING - MAKING IT HAPPEN -

APRIL 16-20, 2012

NEVADA CITY, CA - Nevada City Cohousing



SENIOR COHOUSING offers a small-town-like alternative to isolation and expensive institutionalization. But perhaps more to the point, residents of senior cohousing seem to have a wonderful time. I haven't seen people having that much fun since the college dorms.

*By design, senior cohousing give people a choice between community and privacy. And by intent, it makes life easier through cooperation with others. This is true of inter-generational cohousing as well, but what makes senior cohousing unique is the time spent prior to design – **time where the seniors themselves examine the issues related to aging and how the world in which they live will influence successful aging.***

Who should attend: Anyone who's excited about creating senior cohousing and wants to take a leadership role in creating a community. You might be a builder; a developer; an executive of a senior living organization; an individual who works with older adults; a government housing leader; or an individual who wants to help organize a new senior cohousing community for yourself.

If you want to start a senior cohousing community, you couldn't get a better grounding than to spend five days with three of the country's leading experts exploring the many facets of this innovative option for seniors. Chuck Durrett, Jim Leach, Katie McCamant and other guests (such as seniors who live in cohousing, or senior in the planning stage of their projects) will bring you five days of experience, tools, and invaluable coaching focused on the workshop participants.

This workshop is highly experiential, and based on the Danish method of "growing" the local interest in senior cohousing. Mornings will be spent exploring the many issues faced by seniors who are contemplating significant life changes as they age. These topics include aging in community, working with neighbors to provide a supportive environment, the physical realities of aging, the economics of aging, the spiritual issues (with a special guest) and mortality (also with a special guest). We will also look at what seniors have to offer each other and their communities, and the risks and rewards of senior cohousing. This information will arm you with everything you need to help recruit seniors to your project and to learn to support one another.

Afternoons will be spent working on development scenarios, budgets, case studies drawn from the participants, and more. Cases studies, tailored to the needs of the group, will include finding land, feasibility, the development timeline, roles and responsibilities of a project team and its members, financing, building community, and marketing.



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At the end of these five days you can expect to leave with comprehensive written materials (a manual), and a significant understanding of how to market and develop a senior cohousing community.

Your trainers: **Chuck Durrett**, an architect, pioneered the first cohousing communities in the U.S. after studying cohousing communities in Denmark. Fifteen years later he returned to study senior cohousing and authored the book, *Senior Cohousing: A Contemporary Approach to Independent Living – The Handbook*. Chuck has been a tireless advocate for cohousing for 20 years, has designed all or part of over 50 cohousing communities, has received numerous awards, and with his wife and partner Katie, lives in Nevada City Cohousing. Their daughter attends Occidental College in L.A.

Jim Leach has been a developer of innovative housing since 1965 and is president of Wonderland Hill Development Company (www.whdc.com), the largest developer of cohousing in the US. Since 1990 Jim has developed 18 cohousing communities, including Silver Sage (where he lives with his wife Brownie), one of the first senior cohousing communities in the US. Jim is known for his commitment and creativity in putting together the business end of each development.

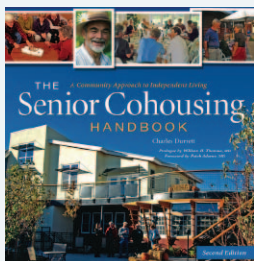
Kathryn McCamant is a founding principal of McCamant & Durrett Architects, The Cohousing Company, and CoHousing Partners, a company specializing in creating cohousing communities. She is currently developing Wolf Creek Lodge in Grass Valley, a cohousing community for active adults.

***Workshop Cost:**

**\$1250 by March 15; \$1450 after March 15;
\$100 deposit reserves a space.**

“As an architect, I’d like nothing better to do than just design these wonderful communities, but there is much work to be accomplished before drawing the very first line on paper. People need to explore the realities of their future before they are ready to make changes, be less in denial, and become self-determining in terms of maintaining the highest quality of living -- both independently and intra-dependently -- as they grow older. Planning for the future is an essential component of being able to create appropriate senior environments.”

- Charles Durrett



Senior Cohousing: A Contemporary Approach to Independent Living – The Handbook. New Society Publishers, ISBN 9780865716117. Order here: <http://www.newsociety.com/bookid/4040>



How to help seniors become conscious of the issues; get out of denial and to become proactive in the creation of their destiny:

- Aging in place, in community, successfully
- Realities of getting older. Physiological and more.
- The comparative economics of senior living arrangements.
- Co-care, co-healing and outside assistance.
- Taking risks and self determinism.
- Philosophical and spiritual questions, such as mortality.
- What role does proximity and community play in aging successfully, and better serving yourself and others?
- Group process and emotional intelligence. How to work together.
- Saging and eldering: What we have to offer the world
- And much more.

Cohousing Development Process:

- Finding land
- The development timeline
- Roles and responsibilities
- Financing
- Community building
- Marketing senior cohousing
- Case studies
- And much more.

The most helpful aspect of SG1 . . . was meeting the author of The Book on cohousing, and attending a workshop in a cohousing. It made us feel that we understood the social and materials aspects of creating cohousing much better than before.

- workshop participant 2011