

MEMORY CARE

**Shell Point Retirement Community, Connective Living** FORT MYERS, FLA.

Submitted by: **Wegman Design Group Inc.** NAPLES, FLA.



**Project category:** New construction  
**Chief administrator:** Rita Southern, director of assisted living/resident support services  
**Firm:** Wegman Design Group Inc., [www.wegmandesigngroup.com](http://www.wegmandesigngroup.com)  
**Design team:** Lori Wegman, principal; Kelly Scott, senior project manager; Amber Caton, senior designer; Joanne Halm, senior procurement coordinator  
**Photography:** @2020 Amber Frederiksen Photography  
**Resident/client capacity:** 30 memory care residents  
**Total building area (sq. ft.):** 21,182  
**Construction cost/sq. ft.:** \$220  
**Total construction cost (excluding land):** \$4.6 million  
**Completed:** November 2018



Connected Living at the Springs is the newly branded memory care residence at Shell Point Retirement Community, home for 30 residents with cognitive and other mental health issues in two households. Management identified the need for a place attractive for folks in the middle stages of their disease verses the current option set in a skilled nursing setting.

The single-story building provides an engaging, home-like environment with individual and

group activities allowing for freedom of movement both indoors and outdoors safely.

The building's design wraps living areas and activity spaces around an open-air central courtyard providing abundant natural light, an extensive outdoor garden and social spaces. Residents in a household share dining and living spaces in a great room concept. Each household is defined by either coral or turquoise colors, iconic artwork, signage, and other visual cues. The design is purposefully open to maximize visibility of caregivers. Residential feel was one of the criteria for success. Wheel-chair storage is cleverly integrated into millwork and resident rooms are highly personalized. Other features include lit grab bars, flush showers, and linear floor drains and variable lighting. The care philosophy is to keep residents connected to the things they love, engagement, purpose, and values in their life. The caregiver is trained to be alongside as their friend on the journey, assisting with programming, mealtimes, and personal care, thus the name, Connected Living.

