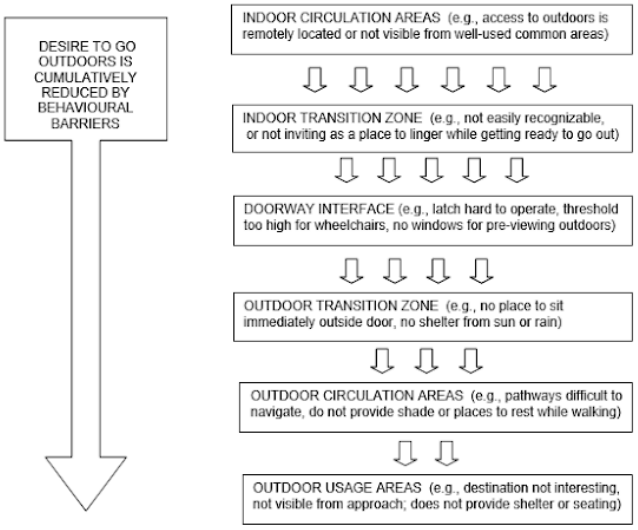

Figure 8.2 Model of cumulative barriers to outdoor usage (with examples suggesting how different environments may fail to meet the needs of frail elderly users)

literature (see Chapter 2 of this thesis). Therefore, magnets and barriers are discussed here in general terms without reference to individual differences.

This concept requires a very flexible model, because a different combination of magnets and barriers would likely be found at each individual facility. Assume that some type or level of environmental magnets and barriers are likely to be present in each facility, no matter how well-designed. Then the process of environmental analysis and design becomes a matter of trying to maximize the magnets, and minimize the barriers, to achieve a favourable balance and encourage outdoor usage to the extent possible. Because there are many self-limiting factors in outdoor usage, such as resident health and energy levels, and adverse weather, it is unlikely that over-usage would be a

problem, especially if comfort and safety features are emphasised in the design (it would be rare to visit a facility and find that residents are neglecting their passive sitting and television-watching activities in order to spend each available moment in outdoor garden spaces, watching the birds and socializing with each other).

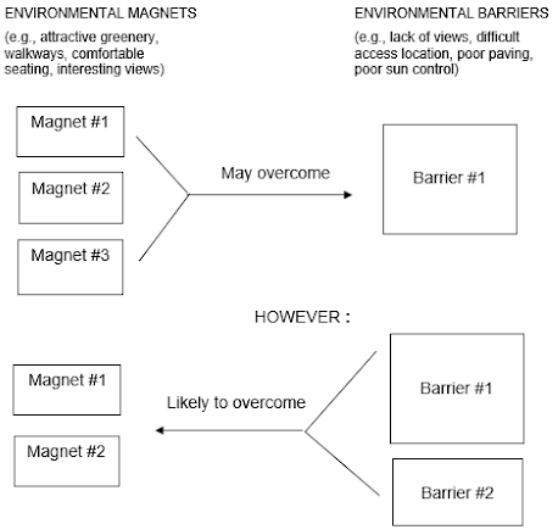

Figure 8.3 Model of environmental magnets and barriers (showing how the number and magnitude (represented by size of box) may counteract each other

In designing for maximal magnets and minimal barriers, there are three main aspects to consider: 1) the *number* of magnets and barriers, 2) the *level or intensity* of magnets and barriers, and 3) the *configuration* of magnets and barriers. It is easy to see that any of these issues may dominate the balance, depending on the numbers or levels involved, or the configuration found in any specific setting. Because no environmental assessment method is known that can quantify these issues with any precision, it is not

S. Rodiek, excerpt from 2004, Therapeutic potential of outdoor access for elderly residents at assisted living facilities