

James Walsh, projects director at Willowbrook, said the newly designed section in Building 5 will help clients make the transition from an institutional dormitory to their own small apartment at the center of a group home in the community.

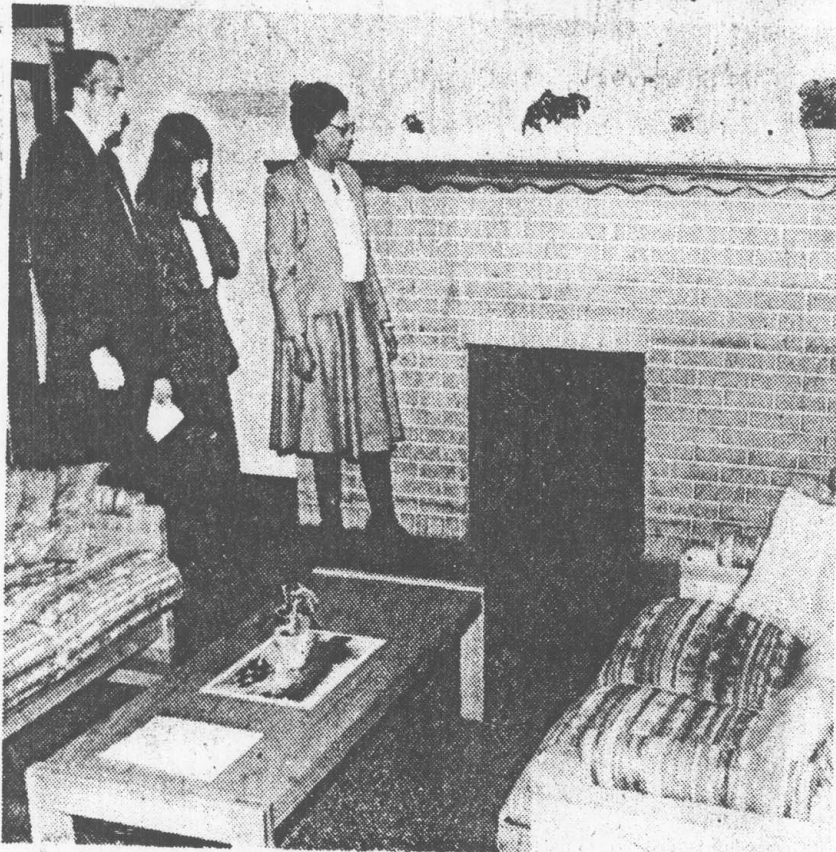
"This type of living quarters will help the clients make the transition when they move into their own apartment here at the center or go out in the community," he said.

Walsh said there are approximately 30 apartments at Willow-

brook available as living quarters for residents.

A 1975 federal court decree made the Willowbrook institution the model for the state's policy of transferring the mentally retarded from institutions into smaller community-based facilities.

James Introne, New York State Commissioner of Mental Retardation and Developmental Disabilities, did not attend the ceremony. He was represented by Alice Lin.



Admiring a simulated fireplace in the newly refurbished recreation area of Building 5 at the Staten Island Developmental Center are Edward Hart, coordinator of the Willowbrook Consent Decree Office; Alice Lin, representing James Introne, state commissioner of mental retardation and developmental disabilities, and Dr. Ella Curry, acting director of the center.