

GUEST EDITOR



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Architect and Urbanist by the Federal University of Rio de Janeiro (1981), master on Urbanism by the Federal University of Rio de Janeiro (1999) and PhD on Psychosociology of Communities and Social Ecology by Federal University of Rio de Janeiro (2006) and is specialist on Art History and Brazilian Architecture by PUC RJ (1992). Experiences in the areas of Architecture and Urbanism, working mainly on these themes: accessibility, inclusion, museums, urban spaces, schools, superior education, universities and disability. Many articles published with the theme of "Accessibility of Persons with disabilities". Has been awarded by EAAE for the implementation of new Methodologies and Teaching in Architecture. Owns a vast list of published articles and books. Coordinator of the Research, Teaching and Planning Group on Accessibility and Universal Design (Pro-Access Group at UFRJ). Post-doctor on Architecture (scholarship FAPERJ – PROARQ/FAU/UFRJ): "Accessibility of Persons with Disability to Museums".

1. FIRST WORDS OF THIS JOURNAL

This Journal 'Design for All (ISSN: 2582-8304)' is part of a bigger project being developed in the scope of the work on accessibility done by a team of different professionals and institutions. The idea of "universal access or universal design" involves an interdisciplinary approach, with emphasis on understanding the concept of "smart cities", "mobility", "accessibility" and atmospheres as cognitive factors on the movement of the disabled body. We have rethought the paradigms used internationally, the "Design for all", "Universal Accessibility" and "Inclusive architecture", working on what the environment brings out in the most primary level of emotions. We believe that the situated context of environmental perception is built based on the access that people with disabilities can have to space, and the emotional connection with places which they visit. A person with disability will respond both to the perceived world as to the real world through their sensations. This perception will be influenced by previous experience of its sensitive environment. From this perspective, emphasizing "The Access for all", is included the important concept of atmosphere, which involves the relationship between people and places, their affections, pleasures and desires, their senses and their feelings while walking through an environment. Rather than focusing on behavioral theories or on the physical barriers to accessibility, our work zooms in on the conception that takes the responsibility of not being able to move through spaces, away from the person. Making them realize that some places can be deficient by themselves if they do not permit the mobility of people. What this person identifies or selects is part of this experience, and that will be the result of this environmental perception. Valuing the action of the individual, the settled perception, and the sensible qualities of an environment

added to the senses and feelings we have while walking through an atmosphere, we will also use the work already done in Brazil by Cohen and Duarte (2006) on fondness for a Place, and also some French researchers who follow the same line of investigation involving these features along pathways that are made in Brazilian and Mundial environments. I intend to move forward on the issue of Inclusion, following a new sensorial and emotional perspective from a person with disability while moving and perceiving with its object of action: the urban universe to be visited. The methodology has involved several research procedures: the unveiling and deepening of new concepts such as atmosphere, planning tours with people with disability, monitoring and mapping pathways, the evaluation of these pathways and access, photographing these pathways and experiences while conducting interviews to collect evidence, with the users of spaces and, people directly involved with the management of these environments. As architects, we also make our active observation about our own experiences. Even though in a simple way, our own daily field journal leads us to get more and more involved on day to day basis. Thus, we have broadened our horizons, expanded the network of concepts to be addressed as: memory, culture, identity, ownership, equity, senses and sensations, topics that go beyond the question of ambience and accessibility. Likewise, the study developed to an analysis of some Cities. Our work advanced greatly and the data collected is amazing and diversified, but still unique and not transferable to a more general assessment of all that we have been able to observe, participate in and presume. Many of the testimonies of people with disabilities were surprising, revealing the importance of a more holistic and motor experience that also involves universal access, route, touch, smell and feeling.

We believe we are still in the middle of a trend that certainly has a lot to evolve into a more dynamic global Inclusion in Global Smart Cities.