
"TRANSING" ARCHITECTURE

GENDER, DISABILITY AND (UN)DESIGNING DIVERSITY

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MOVING TRANS HISTORY FORWARD CONFERENCE

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"TRANSING" ARCHITECTURE

GENDER, DISABILITY AND (UN)DESIGNING DIVERSITY

LENSES

- 01. QUEER SPACE
- 02. INCLUSIVE DESIGN

(UN)DESIGNING

- 03. TRANS ISSUES + DISABILITY JUSTICE
- 04. FOR THE FUTURE

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LENSES

01. QUEER SPACE

QUEER VS QUEERED SPACE
BLUR BUILDING + BRAINCOAT
NEW BABYLON

QUEER SPACE

A "queer space" is a space that is, either physically or virtually, occupied by queer people.

For example, a queer space could be a venue, such as an art gallery or a performing arts hall, that presents the work of 2SLGBTQIA+ artists.

QUEERED SPACE

A "queered space" is one that is in reaction to the status quo, to society's normative standards – a chapter of the queer movement targeted at architecture specifically. [1] A queered space proposes a subversion of the norm, a conscious act of resistance, and a rupture in the fabric of society. [2]

*For example, a "queered space" could be an exclusive, safer space made specifically for queer, trans, Black, Indigenous, and people of color (QTBIPOC), and therefore only accessible to people identifying **both** as queer and/or trans **and** as Black, Indigenous, or someone of color.*

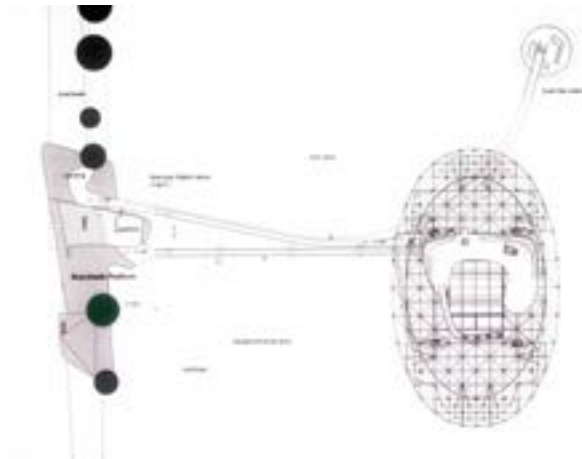
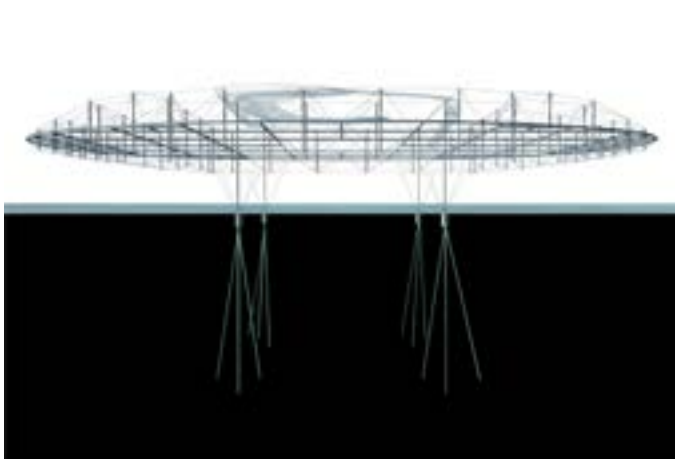
A "queered space" could also be an inclusive washroom.

LENSES

01. QUEER SPACE

BLUR BUILDING + BRAINCOAT

DILLER SCOFIDIO + RENFRO | Swiss Expo 2002 | Yverdon-les-Bains, Switzerland



LENSES

01. QUEER SPACE

NEW BABYLON

CONSTANT NIEUWHENHUYS | 1957-1974



LENSES

02. INCLUSIVE DESIGN

DEFINITION

EXAMPLES

02. INCLUSIVE DESIGN

DEFINITIONS

ADAPTATION

One-time solution, usually tailored for a person's or a group's specific needs.

For example, changing existing spaces or facilities to make them accessible for a specific person or group of people who wouldn't have been able to access it otherwise.

ACCESSIBILITY

Accessibility refers to the design of products, devices, services, or environments for people who experience disabilities. [3] It also refers to the minimum requirements applicable to all buildings (except when otherwise permitted) that allow a manual wheel-chair user to access them. [4]

Universal accessibility, as outlined and prescribed by various building codes, standards and bylaws, is generally not sufficient and only covers the basic needs of **a very small number** of people with functional limitations and disabilities.

For example, neurodivergent people and people with invisible disabilities are rarely taken into account in codes and standards.

02. INCLUSIVE DESIGN

UNIVERSAL DESIGN

Universal design is the design of products and environments to be usable by all people, to the greatest extent possible, regardless of age, ability and capacities, without the help of another person, the need for adaptation or specialised design.

THE PRINCIPLES OF UNIVERSAL DESIGN

- 01 - EQUITABLE USE.** Design that does not disadvantage or stigmatize any group of users
- 02 - FLEXIBILITY IN USE.** Design that accommodates a wide range of individual preferences and abilities
- 03 - SIMPLE, INTUITIVE USE.** Use is easy to understand, regardless of the user's experience, knowledge, language skills, or current concentration level
- 04 - PERCEPTIBLE INFORMATION.** The design communicates necessary information effectively to the user, regardless of ambient conditions or the user's sensory abilities
- 05 - TOLERANCE FOR ERROR.** The design minimizes hazards and the adverse consequences of accidental or unintended actions
- 06 - LOW PHYSICAL EFFORT.** The design can be used efficiently and comfortably, and with a minimum of fatigue)
- 07 - SIZE AND SPACE FOR APPROACH AND USE.** The design is appropriate size and space.

02. INCLUSIVE DESIGN

INCLUSIVE DESIGN

Inclusive design, similarly to universal design, is the design of products and environments to be usable by all people, to the greatest extent possible, regardless of age, ability and capacities, without the help of another person, the need for adaptation or specialised design, but with a specific emphasis on people of all gender identities, sexual orientations, cultural backgrounds and social status.

Inclusive design proposes a reflection on how each potential user navigates and moves through a space.

There is, however, no “one size fits all”, even when talking about inclusive design. It is impossible to create a space that will take into account the needs of every single person at all times. Sometimes the needs of some people are in direct conflict with the needs of others.

For example, blind and visually impaired people might need very well lit spaces, with high contrasts finishes and materials. However, this kind of space can be very hard to navigate for people with light sensitivity or certain types of neurodivergences.

(UN)DESIGNING

03. TRANS + DISABILITY JUSTICE

AGISM AND CAPACITISM
SAFETY AND SECURITY
SAFER SPACES

03. TRANS + DISABILITY JUSTICE

AGISM AND CAPACITISM

No matter our current status and ability, as we age and are exposed to an increasingly number of illnesses, new materials and technologies, as we continue living in a rapidly changing and evolving climate crisis, we will all eventually become disabled.

It's not a matter of if, but when.

Which is why it is particularly important to build infrastructure that can adapt not only to our current aging population, but for the future ones as well.



THIRD SPACES

Term (coined by Ray Oldenburg) to describe the places outside of the home (the first place) and the workplace (the second place) where people go to converse with others and connect with their community. In this casual and social environment, no one is obligated to be there and cost should not prevent people from attending. It is a place where we can interact with members of our community and even turn strangers into friends. At a third place, you might go to hangout with your friends, you might run into acquaintances by chance, or you might meet people you have never encountered before. It is a meeting ground to build relationships with others outside of home or work. [5]

03. TRANS + DISABILITY JUSTICE

SAFETY AND SECURITY - FOR WHOM, BY WHOM AND HOW

Safety and security are extremely critical issues for gender diverse and disabled people alike, not only in terms of access but also in terms of systems in place. Hate speech, violence, discrimination, transphobia, systemic racism and ableism are all interlinked, particularly when it comes to policing bodies.

Buildings, both public and private, are often “protected” by certain systems and surveillance.

It’s important to ask the following questions, when talking about safety and security in the built environment:

FOR WHOM - Are the safety and security measures in place exclusionary, discriminatory, and prioritise the comfort of white and/or cisgender and/or heterosexual and/or neurotypical people?

BY WHOM - In case of emergency, are the first responders security guards or police officers?

HOW - What are the systems in place in case of emergency? What is the delay of response? Are there security cameras?

SAFER SPACES

(UN)DESIGNING

04. FOR THE FUTURE

HOW
POPULAR MISCONCEPTIONS
THIRD SPACES
NOT ALL AT ONCE - FLEXIBILITY IS KEY

04. FOR THE FUTURE

**HOW DO WE DESIGN SPACES THAT CAN ADAPT TO A FAST
CHANGING WORLD, NEW TECHNOLOGIES, UNPRECEDENTED
CIRCUMSTANCES?**

**HOW DO WE DESIGN FOR NEEDS WE CAN'T EVEN BEGIN TO
IMAGINE OR UNDERSTAND YET?**

**HOW CAN WE PREPARE ARCHITECTURE AND
INFRASTRUCTURE FOR AN INCREASINGLY UNCERTAIN AND
UNPREDICTABLE FUTURE?**

**HOW CAN WE CREATE RESILIENT SPACES, AND DESIGN
TRULY “QUEERED” SPACES, SPACES THAT CAN
“TRANSITION” OVER TIME?**

04. FOR THE FUTURE

POPULAR MISCONCEPTIONS

(exerpts from "Inclusion LGBTQ+ dans l'environnement bâti") [6]

"Universal accessibility is enough. There's no additional inclusion work needed beyond adapting individual disabled people's spaces to their needs."

"Designing spaces welcoming of 2SLGBTQIA+ people is a detail that prevents architects from thinking about the real design and building challenges of tomorrow."

"There are no 2SLGTQIA+ specific issues in the built environment."

"Making all spaces gender neutral is the best solution for everyone to feel comfortable in them."

"Designing or renovating spaces to be more inclusive is too expensive."

BIBLIOGRAPHY

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