TASARIM DİSİPLİNLERİ DERGİSİ
JOURNAL OF DESIGN DISCIPLINES

ACCESSIBILITY IN PUBLIC SPACE: FROM LEGAL MANDATE TO SOCIAL JUSTICE

Hasya Berra YEŞİLBAŞ
Independent Researcher
berrayesilbas753@gmail.com

Assist. Prof. Dr. Nurbanu ÖZKARTAL
Siirt University, Design Vocational School, Department of Design
banu.kafadar@siirt.edu.tr

Abstract

The study presents the premise of 'Radical Inclusivity' and discusses how this theoretical underpinning can transform accessibility from being a legalist compulsory, or a case of 'ticking-box', to an ethical mandate that is upstreamed in social justice. The author's conclusions suggest that in the operation of practices built on code or standards, spaces become characterized as "legal and illegitimate," giving users experiences that are not real. And those gaps are compounded by a number of structural issues such as under investment, lack of trust in community and poor past development decisions. The authors argue for what they call radical inclusivity, a model which incorporates the Social Model of Disability, intersectionality theory and a phenomenology of space. This approach is based on the methodological principle "Nothing About Us Without Us," highlighting the need to include users in the creation of knowledge. Methodologies include Co-design and Participatory Action Research, with a focus on the 'lived experience expertise' of service users. Concrete cases illustrate the urgent necessity of sensory-balanced piloted play areas for children with Autism Spectrum Disorder, as well as therapeutic gardens planned with safe routes and multi-sensory scenarios for persons with dementia. The study proposes that inclusion as a design paradigm does not need to be considered a cost, but rather an investment supported by the LC Cost Analysis. It also appeals for Post-Occupancy Evaluation to be an integral part of all design procedure. The study also highlights the role of landscape architects in addressing where climate justice and disability inclusion intersect.

Submitted
16 December 2025

Accepted
28 December 2025

Keywords:
Radical Inclusivity, Accessibility, Landscape Architecture,

Article type:
Research article.

Citation:
Yeşilbaş, H.B. & Özkartal, N. (2025). Accessibility in public space: from legal mandate to social justice, *Journal of Design Disciplines*, 1(1), 75-95. DOI: https://doi.org/10.5281/zenodo.18073234

TASARIM DİSİPLİNLERİ DERGİSİ
JOURNAL OF DESIGN DISCIPLINES

KAMUSAL MEKÂNDA ERİŞİLEBİLİRLİK: YASAL ZORUNLULUKTAN SOSYAL ADALETE

Özet

Bu çalışma, peyzaj mimarlığında erişilebilirlik anlayışını yasal bir zorunluluk olmaktan çıkarıp, etik bir sorumluluk ve sosyal adalet meselesi olarak yeniden inşa etmeyi amaçlayan "Radikal Kapsayıcılık" (Radical Inclusivity) kavramını ortaya koymaktadır. Mevcut "kontrol listesi" odaklı yaklaşımın, yasal olarak yeterli ancak kullanıcılar için deneyimsel olarak dışlayıcı "yasal ama gayrimeşru" mekânlar ürettiği analiz edilmiştir. Radikal Kapsayıcılık, bu döngüyü kırmak için teorik olarak Engelliliğin Sosyal Modeli'ni kesişimsellik teorisini ve mekânın fenomenolojisini bütünleştiren bütüncül bir duruş sergiler. Metodolojik olarak ise, "Bizsiz bizim hakkımızda hiçbir şey" ilkesine dayanan katılımcı süreçlere odaklanır. Bu, Birlikte Tasarım ve Katılımcı Eylem Araştırması gibi yöntemlerle kullanıcıların "yaşanmış deneyim uzmanlığını" tasarımın merkezine koymayı gerektirir. Uygulama örnekleri arasında, Otizm Spektrum Bozukluğu olan bireyler için duyusal dengeyi ve öngörülebilirliği sağlayan oyun alanları ile demans hastaları için güvenli dolaşım ve anıları tetikleyen terapötik bahçeler yer almaktadır. Sonuç olarak, disiplinin, kapsayıcı tasarımı Yaşam Döngüsü Maliyet Analizi ile desteklenen bir değer önerisi olarak sunması ve Kullanım Sonrası Değerlendirme gibi süreçleri standart hale getirmesi önerilmektedir. Ayrıca, peyzaj mimarlarının iklim adaleti ile engelli kapsayıcılığı arasındaki kesişimi ele alması gerektiği vurgulanmaktadır.

Başvuru Tarihi
16 Aralık 2025

Onay Tarihi
28 Aralık 2025

Anahtar Kelimeler:
Radikal Kapsayıcılık, Erişilebilirlik, Peyzaj Mimarlığı

Makale Türü:
Araştırma Makalesi.

Atıf:
Yeşilbaş, H.B. & Özkartal, N. (2025). Kamusal mekânda erişilebilirlik: yasal zorunluluktan sosyal adalete, *Tasarım Disiplinleri Dergisi*, 1(1), 75-95. DOI: https://doi.org/10.5281/zenodo.18073234

INTRODUCTION

Public places are the essential thread of urban life. The field that considers these environmental matter stands, as a creative activity, in landscape architecture. Other places aside from parks, squares, cemeteries and streets have value that is more than cosmetic; they are environments in which individuals can interact with others to inform one another and talk about matters relating to the city or public health. These areas provide a place for transit users to speak, argue, relax and do business (Mehta&Palazzo 2020). Underlying these designs is an overall approach that "is open, welcoming public places where everybody in the community feels like they belong". But that idea of democracy isn't entirely the case in modern city life, where some people are excluded.

Accessibility vividly illustrates this dichotomy. Accessibility—a concept that is often considered an add-on, an after-thought, or a legal requirement at best—often excludes large groups of citizens from the public space owing to architectural barriers and ineffective policies and implementation. This case also demonstrates a "discourse-practice disconnect" in landscape architecture. Professional associations and universities defend landscape architecture as a field with grandiose aims like social justice, climate adaptation and inclusion but practitioners are battling "lack of funding," "user expectations" and "a sense of disbelief. In some cases, even some form of "hostile architecture," deliberately designed to exclude certain segments, can result from professional practice (Fig. 1). There may be danger, however, that out of a fear for safety monocultural thinking will dominate spaces which are exclusive to certain groups (Shaftoe, 2008) and contravene the principle of inclusivity. This friction between desire and acceptance emphasizes the cryingout- loud desire for a critically reframed approach to accessibility.

In this paper, the term "Radical Inclusivity" is proposed as an alternative to the current conceptualisation of accessibility. Radical inclusivity is a broad moral position above and beyond the minimum of what the law requires. It is underpinned by the social model, which conceptualises disability as an interaction between people and their environment rather than a deficit in individuals themselves, while also taking an intersectional approach to understanding how disability intersects with other identity conditions such as age, race and class. It also adopts a phenomenological perspective that considers lived experiences of users as the first step in designing and promotes participatory methodologies underpinned by the motto that cited by Charlton, "Nothing about us without us", an expression he traces (1998: 3) to an international disability rights conference. In sum, then, disability

rights movements seeks to replace oppression with empowerment, and, marginalization with full inclusion.

Figure 1: A hostile architecture example (Cellini, 2023)

For the Radical Inclusivity method to become intellectually coherent, it s important that the concept of accessibility is viewed using a number of different theoretical lenses. These frameworks give an in-depth view on the problem, solutions and importance of these solution. This framework may be thought of as a ladder, with the social model comprising its base, universal design a tool for ascending said latter (and intersectionality further honing the instrument), and phenomenology providing some overarching meaning `from on-high' on behalf of which all that lofty limb-climbing effort was undertaken in the first place (Fig 2).

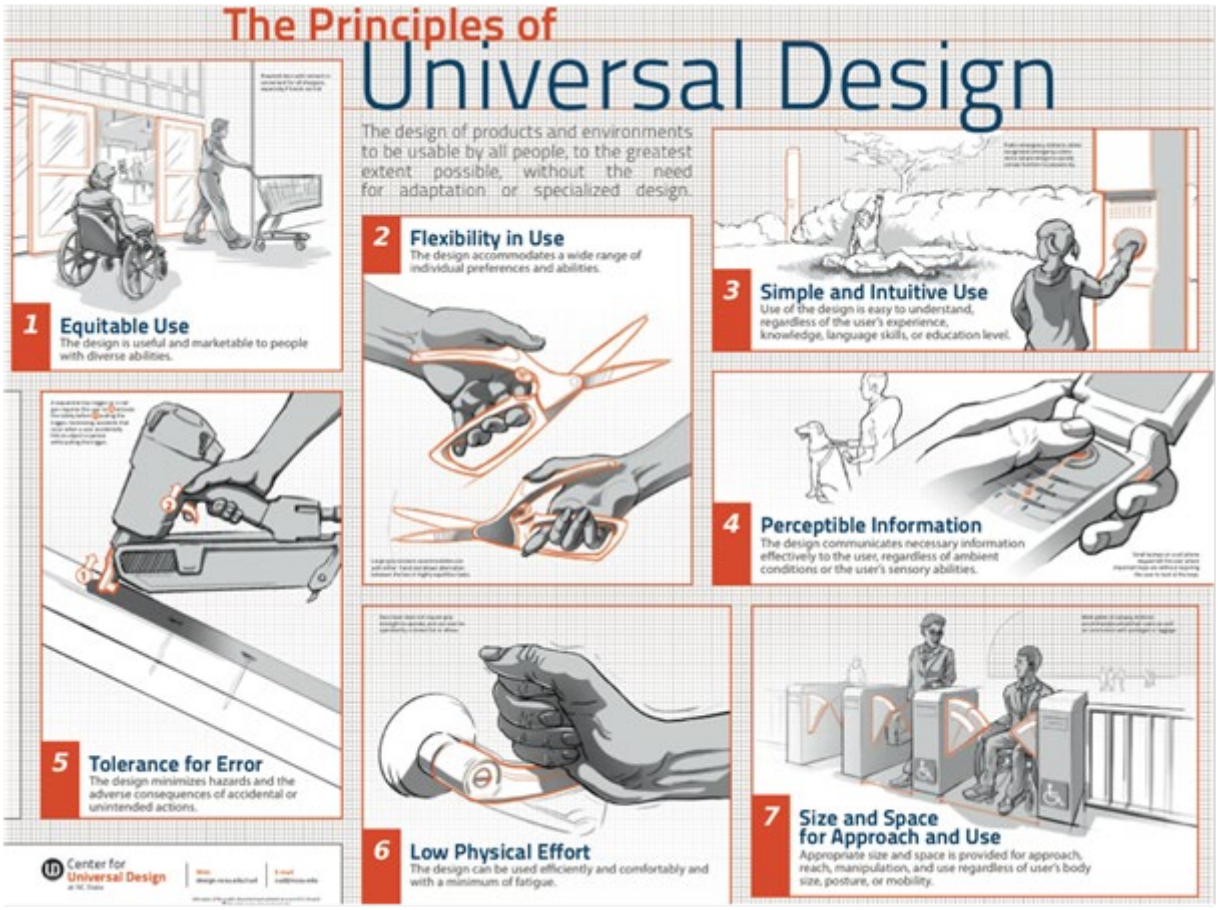

Figure 2: The principles of universal design (Anonymous, 2025)

DISABILITY AND ACCESSIBILITY

The Social Model of Disability

The core characterization underlying our dialogue on accessibility is determined by one's worldview of disability. According to the historically rooted Medical Model, disability is soley a "problem" located within an individual, which could be framed as "personal tragedy." 'Cure' or 'rehabilitate' the person if there is any solution at all. This perspective holds the individual directly responsible for the issue, with little regard for environmental causes (Fig. 3). The Social Model of Disability, on the other hand, coming up out of disability rights movements following from the 1970 is a radical game changer. In this model disability does not originate from characteristics of an individual

such as physical or mental difference, but rather is a result of the environmental and societal obstacles that do not adjust to these differences (Table 1). For example, if a building is not wheelchair accessible, this is not perceived to be caused by the fact that the person cannot walk; rather it was due to there being no ramp. In parallel with this example, the following statements by Dr. Engin Yılmaz, President of the Barrier-Free Access Association, within the scope of Turkcell's "Barrier-Free Life Trainings: Visually Impaired" project, also emphasize the importance of the issue: *"...For me, being blind is not a barrier. But just as high shelves are a barrier for a short person, reading a book printed with ink is a barrier for me. It's not that I can't read the book because I'm blind. On the contrary, I can't read the book because it wasn't printed under suitable conditions and with the necessary adaptations. I am blind, walking on the street is not a barrier for me. But when you plant trees in the middle of the sidewalks, when you place mushrooms haphazardly, when you move tables and crates outside the area allocated to you, then blindness becomes a barrier for me. Just as a deaf person's inability to understand what is being said in an environment without sign language is not due to their deafness, for me, finding a classroom in my school becomes a barrier if there is no sign in Braille on the classroom door..."* (Yılmaz, 2020). Applying this point of view shifts the blame away from the individual onto those designing and controlling the environment, such as landscape architects, architects, city planners. Design is therefore redefined not as a passive value-free activity but as an active, political act of societal inclusion or exclusion. This change renders access to treatment no longer a question of "favor" or "assistance," but rather a fundamental human right and an urgent social justice issue.

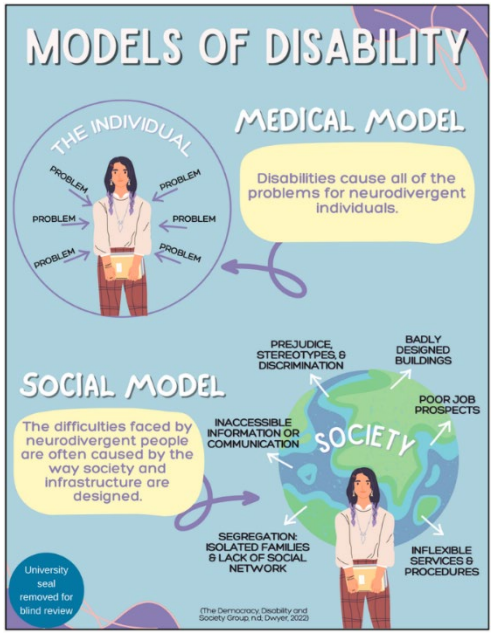

Figure 3: Medical model vs. social model (Oehme et al., 2023)

This model extends even farther in more recent approaches. The ecological functional model, for instance, proposes that disability be considered in the context of individual functioning and how it relates to collective/group functioning (Chapman, 2021). In a similar vein, Alison Kafer's (2013) account of political relationship models disablement as that which is lived "through and with others". Sunaura Taylor's (2019) notion of 'disabled ecologies' demonstrates how toxic and poisoned environments give rise to affective, spatial, temporal and cross-species networks of disability. Such positions push landscape architects to develop a more complex theory of disability that not only foregrounds social discrimination but also the contested values embedded in urban space taking the form of property rights, urban hydrology, and environmentalism (Gissen, 2023).

Table 1: Comparative Analysis of Disability Models (Original, 2025)

Feature	Medical Model	Social Model
Source of Problem	"Individual's physical/mental 'defect'"	Barriers created by society and the built environment
Focus Point	Treatment, rehabilitation, normalization	Removal of barriers, social change, rights-based advocacy
Individual's Role	Passive patient, care recipient	Active participant, expert, rights holder
Meaning for Landscape Architecture	Outside the problem, an irrelevant actor	At the center of the solution, a responsible actor

From Universal Design to Intersectional Design

With redefinition of the "problem" by the social model, the question presents itself as to how to construct the "solution." As a unique means of addressing this issue, Universal Design (UD) is considered to be highly effective. Universal design Universal design (UD) is an approach to product and environment development that begins at the earliest stages of the design process by including as many people as possible. This is in contrast with traditional “solutions” (i.e. ramps, assistive devices) that are added as an afterthought after struggling through attempts to make them fit and work. Ronald Mace, one of the original proponents of this philosophy introduced the phrase 'Universal Design' (Mace, 1990). Seven basic principles support the framework: equitable use, flexible in use, straightforward and intuitive use, perceptible information, forgiveness of error, low physical effort and size and space for approach and use (Sullivan, 2018). Leading technology firms, such as Microsoft, have also adopted these values to develop their digital products. Their approach focuses on identifying exclusion and using it as a trigger for improving user experiences (Microsoft, n.d.).

The broad terminology of universal design may inadvertently result in a "one-size-fits-all" understanding of "everyone." And that is where an understanding of intersectionality can add depth to the conversation: it brings a social and political lens to our conception of universal design. Intersectionality views disability as a non-unitary identity, but one that intersects with other social identities such as race, class, sexuality and age to define experiences (Collins, 2000). Now think of the

low-income disabled woman unable to get into the public park. Her story, like that of so many others, has been conditioned by a complex interplay of security risks, gender prejudices and financial adversity. Design efforts that depend solely on the removal of physical barriers to access may therefore not create a truly inclusive environment. For this reason the world needs an intersectional design practice that acknowledges, and respond to with purposeful action the complex interrelated dynamics of oppression and entitlement. It is this kind of approach, in my opinion, that is central to fulfilling Radical Inclusivity in landscape architecture.

The Phenomenology of Space

The phenomenological concept of space considers space as something more than a vacuum or void that envelop persons' interstices, but rather as persons "inhabit" it. "The reality is that our embodiment of the world as people with impairments makes it clear how unique and individual this 'embodied experience' can be. For someone who is unable to see, it's the sounds and sensations of the ground in a public square; for someone using a wheelchair, it's about steepness or smoothness of paths; and for an autistic child that can be more predictable (or not) and less (or more) sensory experience.

In this regard, new findings from environmental psychology and the ART could be of interest. Studies have demonstrated that natural settings can be therapeutic, enhancing attention and promoting positive affect (Berman et al., 2008). Under this line of thought, designers are by far not only to satisfy technical and legal requirements, but to contemplate emotional impact a place will pose on its visitors, the atmosphere it will generate, and the function of different kind of buildings. These ideas set the stage for more complex and human-centred design solutions including sensory-balanced playgrounds that are customised to aid in learning for children with autism, or therapeutic gardens for those living with a dementia diagnosis. These garden interventions help promote memory and reduce stress, thus spaces that meet the special requirements of these individuals.

METHOD

This article provides a summary of existing literature and conceptual framework to support the call for 'Radical Inclusivity,' positioning this as a necessary challenge to the language of access in landscape architecture. It requires moving beyond compliance, toward building an ethical standard for inclusion. This criticism compares methodologies and underlines the insufficiency of current ones. The thesis argues against a design that is legalistic in nature rather than truly functional or inclusive, and instead draws our attention to spaces which are in fact 'legal', but fail to function as intended and

therefore reinforce social stratification. The book features information from organizations including the American Society of Landscape Architects (ASLA) data and similar surveys to show how what practitioners have to face is systemic. These include chronic under investment, declining public confidence and the legacy of past mistakes in design.

Most of the resources are very heavily influenced by the leading philosophical and theoretical debates that inform discussions around accessibility and inclusivity within the field. It is demonstrated through a convergence between several theoretical approaches that the paper articulates an ethical stance. The social model of disability argues that access is a collective problem for all, rather than solely a personal problem for people with disabilities, and places emphasis on physical barriers in the environment as at the source of this need. Universal design (UD) is a direct response to these barriers. Intersectionality theory enhances UD by examining the interplay of disability with other social determinants, including race, class, and gender. In the meantime, the Phenomenology of Space is also important. Experiencing things like perception by sense and atmosphere are important for people to use space as a "embodied experience."

This methodological approach attempts to find the key necessities by which Radical Inclusivity can be translated into praxis. At the heart of these efforts is the catchphrase from the disability rights movement: “Nothing About Us Without Us.” This principle is exemplified by two modes of collaborative practice: co-design, where users are considered "co-creators" of design solutions; and Participatory Action Research (PAR), which combines action with research. Post-Occupancy Evaluation (POE) is a tool for collecting data about the success or otherwise of how well design intentions have been met and levels of user satisfaction with the result. In doing so, the paper also reconceptualizes a theoretical and methodological framework not only theoretically but in situating it with specific design strategies for particular user groups such as sensory-balanced playgrounds for children with ASD or therapeutic gardens for those who suffer from dementia, using a case-focused literature approach.

COMPLIANCE AND INCLUSIVITY IN CURRENT PRACTICES

"Legal but Illegitimate" Spaces

The Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA) in the United States and the "Accessibility Monitoring and Inspection Regulation" in Türkiye (TMMOB Peyzaj Mimarları Odası, 2013) are two examples of legal rules around the world that are very important for making things accessible. These

standards usually set a legal minimum and focus on things like the slope of a ramp or the width of a door instead of how people feel when they are in a space. Consequently, designers and developers may perceive accessibility not as a distinct creative challenge but rather as a 'accessibility checklist' incorporated into the array of design considerations, frequently to mitigate the risk of legal repercussions. Such a "checklist mentality" may lead to projects that are legally compliant but of no use; they are segregationist and undignified for users.

The danger of becoming a checklist exercise in mechanical compliance is evident even with well-meaning tools such as the Boston Planning & Development Agency's (2019) "Article 80 Accessibility Checklist" or to the National Park Service's (n.d.) design standards when the quality of experience becomes secondary. They are commonly referred to as "legally sufficient but not legitimate". Take, for example, a long winding ramp that travels around the side of a building: this might satisfy legal obligations but perpetuates social exclusion by segregating people with disabilities from an organisation's front door and settles a further cost on those who are marginalised. Such a gap between the intentions behind policy and actual practice is part of why, despite laws already in place, many public spaces are effectively off limits to people on the margins.

Barriers in the Context of Landscape Architecture

Tangible barriers faced by landscape architects seeking to design inclusive spaces. The extent of these issues is demonstrated in surveys by the American Society of Landscape Architects (ASLA, n.d.). The structural barriers that is, "community obstacles" identified by practitioners include the "lack of funding" (69%), the "lack of natural resources street trees, parks, etc. (65%) and the "legacy of racist planning decisions" at 56%. In addition, the most challenging aspects of undertaking participatory processes are "lack of trust in the community" (42%) and lack of budget to "pay participants for their time" (42%).

In addition to these practical problems, there are philosophical contradictions within the field that need to be addressed. In spite of the politically empowering rhetoric of "inclusive design" and social justice, however these policies contradict themselves by engaging in the perpetuation of "hostile architecture": think benches that are actually designed to repel non-paying clientele –what a radical concept! The notion of such designs demonstrates how landscapism can work as a tool for politics, thus by subverting the discourse of inclusion, which it attributes to. The barriers to the development of inclusive design in this research context consist in financial and bureaucratic obstacles to innovation, as

they do in a lack of awareness about inclusive design among clients and professionals called upon championing inclusion (Zallio & Clarkson, 2024). Professional culture should hold up a mirror to re-visit its values and practices instead of defaulting to simplistic explanations which attribute flaws in service provision as being the result of clients themselves or the money. Table 2 presents the challenges landscape architects face when implementing inclusive design practices.

Table 2: Challenges Encountered by Landscape Architects in Implementing Inclusive Design Practices (ASLA, n.d.)

Category	Barriers and Percentages
Challenges Faced at the Community Level	• Lack of funding (69%) • Lack of natural resources (trees, parks, etc.) (65%) • Flawed planning decisions (56%) • Distrust of local government (53%) • Disproportionate burden of climate impacts (53%) • Lack of public investment (53%)
Barriers in Participation Processes	• Lack of trust (42%) • Lack of budget to pay participants (42%) • Community participation fatigue (40%) • Lack of funding for participation (34%) • Lack of authentic participation (32%)

Approaches to Inclusive Landscape Design

The core principle of Radical Inclusivity is captured in the catchphrase of the disability rights movement: "Nothing About Us Without Us." This principle is the refrain that echoes across all five principles: that communities and individual human beings, especially those at the margins, are not “data sources” or “subjects” who stand passively by workshops of experts and chiefs in order to become objects of technocratic intervention. Rather they need to be recognized as the experts of their own lived

experience and incorporated into the process as ‘co-producers’ of the project. This framing requires "valuing disability expertise," which can be understood as a particular knowledge that disabled people develop about things like non-normative agency, cultural values, or the designed world (Hartblay 2020). I The philosophy can be said to be incarnated in two main methodologies worthy of mention:

- ***Co-design:*** This method engages all relevant stakeholders -- users, disability communities, design firms, local governments and NGOs (non-governmental organizations), etc.-- from the start of the process. The goal is to collectively scope the problem, ideate, prototype and test together as a team. As a result, co-design may enables more effective and innovative solutions, while building trust among stakeholders, promoting users’ satisfaction and creating strong feeling of attachment and ownership for the designed area (Fig. 4). According to Henry Sanoff (2011), a leader in the field of participatory design, user satisfaction is not only about fulfilling needs but also about feeling that you exercise influence over decisions.

Figure 4: Co-design workshop disability (Anonymous, 2024)

- ***Pariticipatory Action Research (PAR):*** PAR is a cyclical method which integrates the rigor of academic research with the power to transform communities. This symbolic sequence represents the constant interplay between planning, acting, observing and reflecting. We promote its use as a tool targeted uniquely at revealing "hidden" or local knowledge invisible

to conventional methods of participation. In addition, PAR tackles power imbalances in the community and promotes sustainable ownership by its members.

These strategies are put in place through a combination of methods: extensive interviews, participant observation, creative workshops, narrative building, experience prototyping and behavioral map drawing. A number of toolkits have been developed for these purposes, and made accessible to those with disabilities.

Design is bigger than just building the form alone. Post-Occupancy Evaluations (POEs) provide a systematic way to measure whether or how well the objectives established within a project, building or system are being met. This review addresses facility performance (e.g. in part 2) and looks at areas where changes can be made over time such as user satisfaction with a product or service following previous use. POEs provide a means for designers to challenge preconceptions, learn from mistakes and contribute to a body of knowledge that will support the practice of EBD.

This integrated approach uses different methods, such as surveys, behavioral maps, focus groups and stakeholder interviews and standard conditions about energy and environmental issues. On the other hand, and perhaps more fundamentally for our purposes here, POEs offer a way of understanding how the spaces that we claim to be accessible to people with disabilities actually work as inclusive environments. They provide in-depth evaluations of the way ramps are used, how sensory gardens can have a calming influence and to what extent playgrounds encourage sharing and collaborative play among children with diverse needs.

When you look at the many needs and wants of various types of users, it seems there's a big – though messy – place for Radical Inclusivity in all this.

- **Example 1: About Autism Spectrum Disorder and Playgrounds That Are Open to Everyone:** Children with autism spectrum disorder (ASD) frequently experience difficulty in environments that can be over-stimulating because of sensitives to sensory experiences- bright colors, loud sounds or confined spaces. They are also at risk for issues around socialization and safety/concerns with elopement. Effective playgrounds should not work in isolation and need to be supportive of other therapies and practices (Mohd Idros et al, 2023). Play is identified as an essential element of learning for motor, cerebral, emotional and social opportunities for children (Prellwitz & Skär, 2007). Playgrounds for these kids are generally most effective if the following components are present:

- Sensory Balance: This arrangement was all about making little sleeping and play areas for kids who need quiet, safe places to rest when they are too excited. It also highlights the great importance of creating spaces that allow for a rich sensory context such as musical instruments, tactile panels and water play features.
- Safe Zones: The creation of soft/hard visual divides and separation areas within the play spatial boundary is crucial. By placing like activities (i.e., swings and climbing structures) in proximity to each other, you are helping children compare their surroundingsand their own minds.
- Promote Social Development: It is essential to choose a variety of play items, which can help stimulate both independent play and those that encourage group cooperation. With such strategies we aim at raising the bar of playground design and planning to a level above that of simply adhering to operational guidelines. For example, the U.S. Access Board (n.d.) mandates that each component or type of play equipment (e.g., climbers, slides) should have one ground-level play feature accessible to individuals with disabilities at no greater depth away from the edge of the unit than a typical transfer station.
- ***Example 2: Dementia and Therapeutic Gardens:*** There is evidence that a well-designed healing or therapeutic garden helps reduce stress, agitation and aggressive behaviors in persons with dementia (Fig. 5). Research suggests that such gardens can improve mood and reduce dependence on medication. These successful results are due to a number of design features:
    - Memory Triggers and Multi-Sensory Stimulation: It's crucial to excite the senses. Activities could include feeling the tactile qualities of plants found in the garden, such as the soft furry leaves of lamb's ear or textured leaves of sage which engage our sense of touch; meeting fragrant ones like lavender and rosemary that may evoke familiar smells that trigger memories. The click and beep of electronic toys aren't the only things that provide persistent background noise. The sound of a stream or grass blowing in the wind may also be continual. The more personal things, like ancient wooden wheelbarrows, traditional gardening equipment, or statues that remind kids of growing up in the country, the better they will recall.
    - Traditional hospital gardens had circular or "figure of eight" paths that let patients roam about without feeling lost or trying to get out. These paths have surfaces that don't skid or have minimal friction so that people with disabilities may walk or use a wheelchair. Handrails make things safer.

Adding public planters will let wheelchair users connect with flora and feel more involved, and it will also provide them more freedom outside.

Figure 5: Therapeutic garden (American Society of Landscape Architects (n.d.)

DISCUSSION AND CONCLUSION

This research presents the theoretical framework of Radical Inclusivity to reconceptualize our understanding of access within the domain and practice of landscape design. It goes beyond merely following the law by including social fairness and moral duty. The study suggests that the checklist based approaches adopted are, in law compliant but not experientially accountable. This illustrates a vicious cycle of issues: lack of funding; little or no knowledge; varied professional practices. To break this vicious circle, a comprehensive theoretical and methodological framework is needed by drawing from the social model of disability, intersectionality, and phenomenology as well as user-centered participation-based design processes, evidence based evaluation, and reliable economic grounds.

Radical Inclusivity goes beyond mere design ethos, but is also a powerful charge for landscape architecture. In this domain, professionals can benefit from specific advice that takes into account their particular challenges and opportunities. Inclusive design is not an extra cost, it should be seen as a strategic investment and road maps for projects need to clearly articulate the value through: Life Cycle Cost Analysis (LCCA) Return on Investment (ROI). Through the embedding of Co-design and Post-

Occupancy Evaluation (POE) as normal parts of protocols or workflows, we entrench the right to full participation in design according to “Nothing About Us Without Us” and realise an increasingly wider level of inclusive conversation.

Design is a labyrinthine process at the best of times, which can be full of puzzles to solve. A agreement across professional fields may help with inclusive design. It is important for healthcare experts, sociologists, ergonomists, disability rights activists, and those who work on this landscape to work together with landscape architects. Working together makes this design process better, which leads to better and more useful solutions.

The confluence of the social model of disability with intersectionality theory, universal design principles and participatory research methodologies lacks enough recognition in today's discussions. PAR and co-design should not be conceived as add-on to landscape architecture education but rather as relevant factors for practice for graduate professionals. In this sense, the work in studio and field can include students in direct contact with real users and communities so that it yields an enriched learning that also deepens our knowledge about needs.

People with impairment are adjusting to their environment, which is getting harder to move around in, courtesy of new physical barriers that have been introduced – flood act flood protection and raised walkways – to counteract increasing subsidence. We urge comprehensive research examining climate resilience within the lens of disability inclusion, so that successes made on one front are not lost on another. The mantra should be "No disability justice without climate justice" (Gissen, 2023).

Smart city solutions have a great potential for breaking down physical barriers including, but not limited to touchless crosswalks, smart personal navigation apps and tone-based information services. But these developments can leave out vulnerable populations that are not digitally literate, don’t have access to technology or struggle with cognitive disabilities. Landscape design therefore needs to seriously address the balance between digital and physical space in order for them to work in beneficial ways by learning how effective the integration of these technologies can remain all while retaining some of the risk they pose.

Landscape design has the capacity and responsibility to improve our built environment for everyone, especially new opportunities. The idea of Radical Inclusivity provides us with a lens to address the challenges of today and tomorrow by making clear that only through relevance and sensitivity can we continue to be relevant while serving all members.

Author Contributions: All authors contributed equally to the research.

Support: The authors received no financial support for the research, authorship, and/or publication of this article.

Conflict of Interest: There are no conflicts of interest for any of the authors.

Data Availability: Data are available upon request.

Ethics Approval and Consent to Participate: This study does not require Ethics Committee approval or permission to participate.

REFERENCES

Anonymous (2024). Co-design workshop disability. https://www.summerfoundation.org.au/summer-foundation-launches-new-co-design-project/

Anonymous (2025). The principles of universal design. https://gartec.com/blog/seven-principles-universal-design-buildings/

American Society of Landscape Architects (n.d.). *Universal Design*. ASLA. Retrieved from https://www.asla.org/universaldesign.aspx

Berman, M. G., Jonides, J., & Kaplan, S. (2008). The cognitive benefits of interacting with nature. *Psychological Science*, *19*(12), 1207–1212.

Boston Planning & Development Agency. (2019). Article 80 Accessibility Checklist. http://www.bostonplans.org/documents/planning/policy-planning/article-80-accessibility-checklist-updated-october

Cellini, M. (2023). Hostile architecture example. https://nationalhomeless.org/design-against-humanity/

Chapman, R. (2021). Neurodiversity and the Social Ecology of Mental Functions. Perspectives on Psychological Science, 16(6), 1360-1372. https://doi.org/10.1177/1745691620959833

Charlton, J. I. (1998). Nothing about us without us: Disability oppression and empowerment. Univ of California Press.

Gissen, D. (2023). *A conversation with David Gissen about The Architecture of Disability*. Public Seminar. https://publicseminar.org/2023/10/a-conversation-with-david-gissen-about-the-architecture-of-disability/

Hartblay, C. (2020). Disability expertise: Claimind disability anthropology. *Current Anthropology*, *61*(S21), S263-S278. https://www.journals.uchicago.edu/doi/full/10.1086/705781#d662214e1

Kafer, A. (2013). Feminist, Queer, Crip. Indiana University Press. http://www.jstor.org/stable/j.ctt16gz79x

Mace, R. L. (1990). *Accessible environments: Toward universal design*. The Center for Universal Design, NC State University.

Mehta, V., & Palazzo, D. (Eds.). (2020). Companion to Public Space (1st ed.). Routledge. https://doi.org/10.4324/9781351002189

Microsoft. (n.d.). *Microsoft Inclusive Design*. https://inclusive.microsoft.design/

Mohd Idros, M.D., Muhamad Tamyez, P.F., Mohd Yusof, W. Z., Kassim, H. & Fauzi@Fauri, M. A. (2023). Understanding Inclusive Playgrounds . Journal of Cognitive Sciences and Human Development, 9(2), 167–185. https://doi.org/10.33736/jcshd.5738.2023

Oehme, K., Bradley, L., Cameron, M., Perko, A. & Clark, J. (2023). Increasing multidisciplinary professionals' capacity to support neurodiverse families. Diversity & Inclusion Research. 1. 10.1002/dvr2.12003.

Prellwitz M. & Skär L. (2007). Usability of playgrounds for children with different abilities. Occup Ther Int.;14(3):144-55. doi: 10.1002/oti.230. PMID: 17624873.

Sanoff, H. (2011). Multiple Views of Participatory Design. Focus: Vol. 8: Iss. 1, Article 7. DOI: https://doi.org/10.15368/focus.2011v8n1.1

Shaftoe, H. (2008). Convivial Urban Spaces: Creating Effective Public Places (1st ed.). Routledge. https://doi.org/10.4324/9781849770873

Sullivan, S. (2018) Making an Unstable World more Accessible: Using Universal Design to make Collections and Exhibits Memorable for People of all Abilities. Biodiversity Information Science and Standards 2: e25666. https://doi.org/10.3897/biss.2.25666

Taylor, S. (2019). *Disabled Ecologies: Living in Impaired Landscapes*. Berkeley Center for New Media. https://belonging.berkeley.edu/disabled-ecologies-living-impaired-landscapes

TMMOB Peyzaj Mimarları Odası. (2013). *Erişilebilirlik İzleme ve Denetleme Yönetmeliği*. https://www.peyzajmimoda.org.tr/mevzuat/detay/erisilebilirlik-izleme-ve-denetleme-yonetmeligi-143

U.S. Access Board. (2007). *https://www.access-board.gov/ada/guides/chapter-10-play-areas/#a-summary-of-accessibility-guidelines-for-play-areas*. https://www.access-board.gov/files/ada/guides/play-areas.pdf

Yılmaz, E. (2020). Turkcell Engelsiz Yaşam Eğitimleri: Görme Engelliler. https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=juDKMZj8CaE

Zallio, M., & Clarkson, P. J. (2024). A study to depict challenges and opportunities building industry professionals face when designing inclusive and accessible buildings. *Architectural Science Review*, *67*(3), 268–279. https://doi.org/10.1080/00038628.2023.2270983