

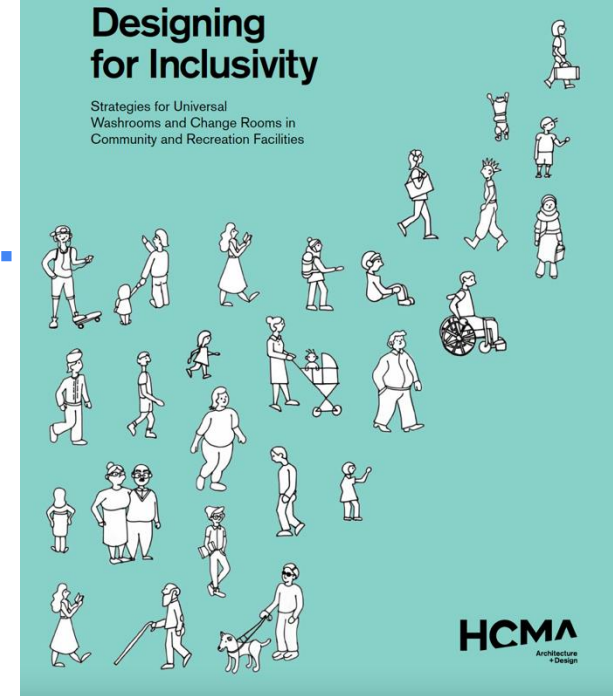
Everyone has the right to **quality...**

Everyone has the right to **inclusivity**

Everyone has the right to **accessible architecture**

National Action

To achieve a meaningful version of inclusivity the pursuit of “quality” must promote **INTEGRATION** between schools, professional associations and offices in all processes leading to **accessible architecture**.



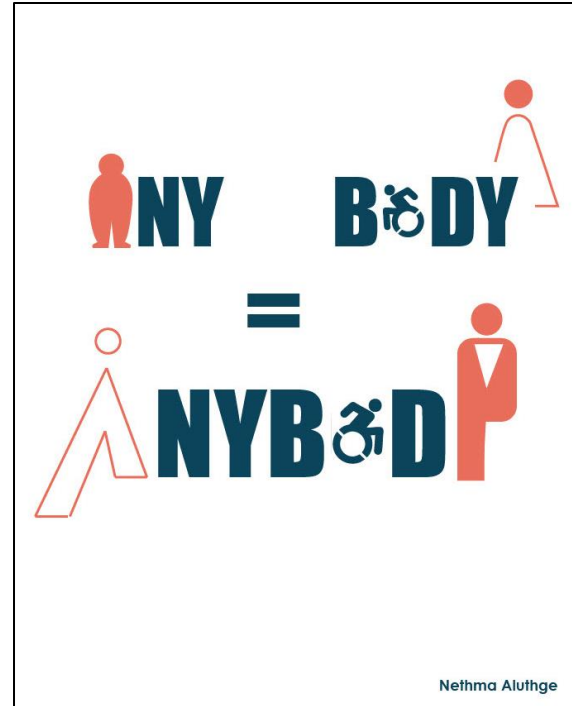
HCMA guide for inclusive design (2018)

PRINCIPLE:

Accessibility should be a **generator in the design of buildings and cities**

“The social and physical world has been made in the image and likeness of non-disabled people. It is a home for *their* bodies.” Bill Hughes, *Disability and the Body*, p. 59.

accessible architecture :
+
lived experience :



Master's student research, MSoA (2025)

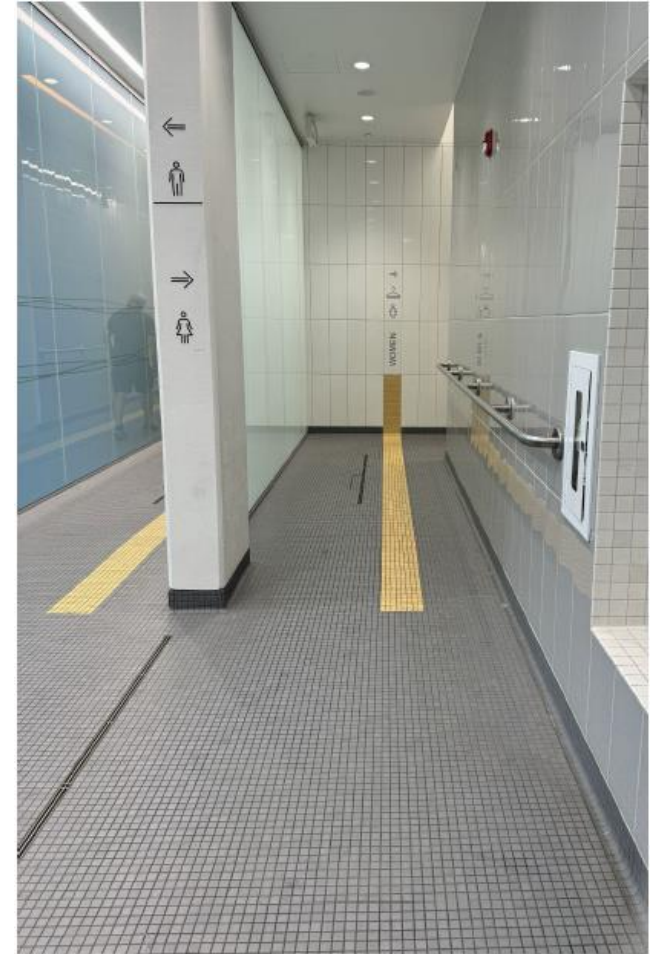
Rick Hansen Foundation Guidelines



Figure 1: Rick Hansen Foundation Certification Points

Figure 1: This list of accessibility criteria was one of the first tools I turned to in order to understand accessibility through an architectural lens. A few key points from these categories stayed with me, shaping how I began to think about inclusive design and guiding tangible takeaways for my own design process.

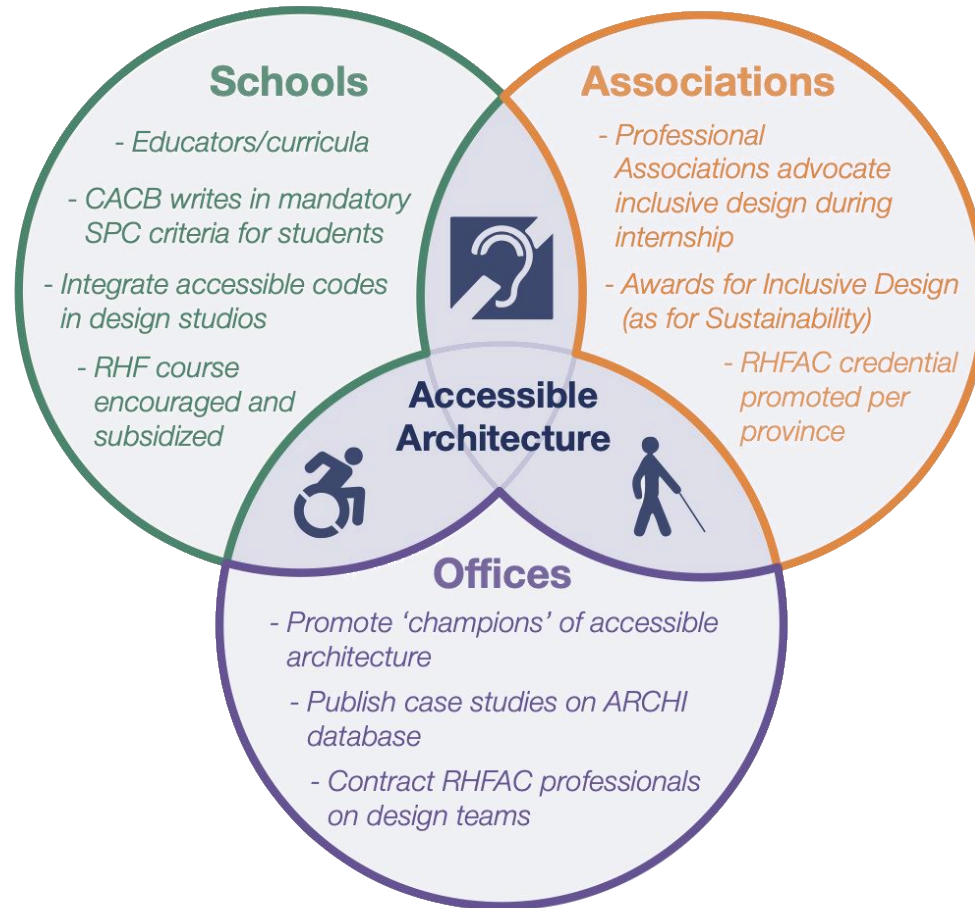
¹ Rick Hansen Foundation, *RHFAC Rating Survey*, Version 4.0 (Richmond, BC: Rick Hansen Foundation, September 2024), <https://www.rickhansen.com/sites/default/files/2024-09/rhfacratingsurveyv40sept20244.pdf>



HCMA tēməsewtx̌w inclusive pool (2024)

ACTION: Towards an integrated approach to **accessible architecture**

10-YEAR PLAN



It's time to connect the dots...

CHICAGO ARCHITECTURE CENTER

= MORE

Key principles of accessible architecture include:

1. **Universal Design:** Universal design is a fundamental principle that underlies accessible architecture. It involves designing spaces, products, and environments that are usable by all people, regardless of their age, size, or ability.
2. **Physical Accessibility:** Accessible architecture considers physical mobility challenges and provides features such as ramps, elevators, widened doorways, and accessible restrooms.
3. **Sensory Considerations:** Features like visual cues, tactile indicators, and auditory signals address the needs of individuals with sensory disabilities.
4. **Wayfinding and Orientation:** Clear signage, color contrast, and intuitive layouts help individuals with cognitive or visual impairments navigate through spaces independently.
5. **Ergonomics and User Comfort:** The comfort and usability of spaces involving adjustable furniture, adaptable workstations, and appropriate lighting levels are considered in successful accessible design.
6. **Inclusive Social Spaces:** Accessible architecture promotes social inclusion by providing spaces that encourage interaction, collaboration, and engagement among people with and without disabilities.
7. **Ongoing Engagement and Consultation:** The involvement of individuals with disabilities and relevant stakeholders in the design and decision-making processes is vital to ensure that accessibility needs are met effectively.

<https://www.architecture.org/online-resources/architecture-encyclopedia/accessible-architecture>

1778
Gendered washrooms are first introduced at a Paris ball as spectacle
(see "Everyone Goes" in Additional Resources)

Context for Universal Washrooms

Early 1900s
Legislation requiring women's washrooms as women enter the workplace in greater numbers

Mid 1900s
Civil Rights Movement - abolishment of 'coloured' washrooms

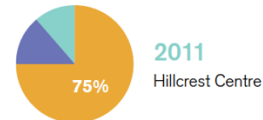
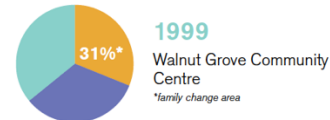
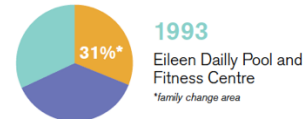
2014
Document for Vancouver Park Board
Building a Path to Parks & Recreation for All: Reducing Barriers for Trans & Gender Variant Community Members*
(link to document in Additional Resources)

2017
Bill C-16 is passed in Canada, legally supporting individuals to use the washroom that corresponds to their self-determined gender identity
(see previous page)

2017
Changes to 2018 International Building Code include fixture calculations and signage suggestions for universal washrooms
(see page 12)

Evolution of Change Rooms in HCMA Projects

Universal Change Room Area
Women's Change Room Area
Men's Change Room Area



Actions to Achieve an INTEGRATED Vision within 10 years:

- Accessible design becomes a **generator** for building design and not just a code response. To achieve this:
- Design **education** to change mindset in curricula across Canada
- CACB (re)adopt 'inclusive design' as **accreditation** criteria (SPC)
- Provincial associations to promote RHFAC Professional credential during internship
- Provincial associations to initiate awards on 'inclusive design'
- Leading Practices selected as “champions” for accessible projects
- *Canadian Architect* and RAIC advocate through media and task force
- Disseminate through *JAE* articles, QBE books, *Canadian Architect*, etc.

