

The value of human diversity, the essential right to self-determination and independence and the firm intention to eliminate discrimination are principles intrinsic to each individual. The recognition of these principles by society is entrenched in human culture by the affirmation of equality of rights, influencing the social growth of peoples. These same concepts are stated in numerous legal charters and documents both at national¹ and international level².

For those principles to be pursued, the real, not the ideal, human figure must be kept at the centre of the design process. When the inspiration to design a space is drawn from an abstract paradigm, it will only amplify inequalities, as it does not represent the reality of human complexity. However, when a space is designed to cater for diversity, it will allow freedom of movement and minimise the individual singularities of people with or without disabilities.

In an inclusive approach to space, the traditional hierarchical relationship between environment and user, based on the individual's ability to adapt to the building, is overcome. The disadvantage experienced by individuals is not in fact attributable to them, but derives from their interaction with the environment. A design's success and its inclusive nature are therefore a collective social responsibility.

Design for All constitutes a tangible solution to the determination to provide design solutions suitable for everyone.

The Manifesto signatories commit, according to the opportunities and resources available to them, to foster inclusion and to support the growth of Design for All in the governance of their own institutions and the conduct of their activities. This Manifesto, which draws specifically on the EIDD Stockholm Declaration (2004)³, was drawn up by the Design for All Switzerland Competence Centre at *inclusione andicap ticino* for the purpose of establishing the principles and basis for Universal Design in Switzerland.

Inclusione andicap ticino, through its Competence Centre, pledges to be the point of reference for Design for All in Switzerland, to develop and disseminate its principles and approaches and to promote the participation of people with disabilities in the design process.

1. Swiss Federal Constitution art. 8, Disability Act, Swiss Federal Government's policy supporting people with disabilities. The Swiss Confederation supports the 2018 Davos Declaration that encourages a high-quality Baukultur for Europe. Highlighting pathways for politically and strategically promoting the concept of high-quality Baukultur, it reminds us that building is culture and creates space for culture. Diversity is considered one of the quality criteria and universal usability as a means to foster and create inclusion.

2. UN Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities. Agenda 2030 for a sustainable development; signed by Switzerland.

3. EIDD-Design for All Europe is a European network, founded in Dublin, Ireland, in 1993 with the name of European Institute for Design and Disability.

Manifesto

for universal design

Design for All

Principle 1 – Design for All is a methodological approach for designing spaces, products and services whose main goals are social inclusion, equity and equal rights.

The involvement of different parties in the design process – field experts, public administration, end users – is one of the cardinal points of Design For All, as well as the quest for aesthetically appreciable solutions.

Principle 2 – Design for All creates inclusive spaces to be experienced by everyone, without any limitation or differentiation based on user categories.

Principle 3 – Design for All meets all the requirements and expectations of end users, aiming at multisensory and extensive accessibility, so to ensure autonomous mobility.

Principle 4 – Design for All considers compliance with minimum legal requirements to be the starting point and not the end goal. The application of the principles of universal design is a tangible act for promoting inclusion.

Principle 5 – The pillars of Design for All are the choice of inclusive solutions in harmony with their context, the expression of pluralism in quality architecture and consultation with end users – with and without disabilities – in specific phases of the project.

Principle 6 – Design for All means to design with and not only for people; this approach leads to a synthesis between limitations and opportunities, valuing all and each single contribution.

Principle 7 – In Design for All terms, «all» indicates the majority of users – with or without disabilities – who as a result of sustainable development, are able to benefit autonomously from a space, product or service.

Principle 8 – A design «for all» is the expression of a collective intent that tends towards equality of rights.

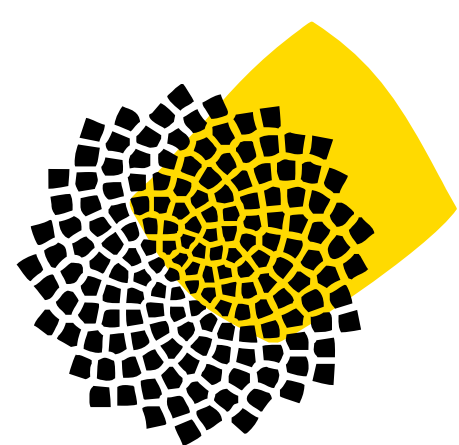
Principle 9 – Design for All considers the limits, aspirations and requirements of different types of users – with and without disabilities – for whom it identifies shared solutions.

Principle 10 – Design for All seeks the right compromise to achieve the highest level of inclusion when the context (territorial, environmental, historical, etc.) makes it difficult to fully meet the needs of the target group.

The Design for All Manifesto was launched at the Design for All – The People Process conference, 12 October 2023 – Lugano, Switzerland.

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