Fit for an Inclusive Future?

Engaging Diverse Partners

In the Design Process

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The RA Programme

The Research Associate programme teams recent RCA design graduates with industrial partners typically working on year-long design projects.

To date, the programme has completed nearly 250 people-centred design projects with over 120 companies from a variety of sectors, some of which you can see here from last year's programme.
INCLUSIVE APPROACHES
Improved access + Increased pleasure = Inclusive design
DESIGN CENTRED around PEOPLE
IT IS ABOUT WIDENING PERSPECTIVES
Design is often seen as being about problem-solving.
A significant part of the process should be about **problem-framing**
TO UNDERSTAND REAL PEOPLE
YOU NEED REAL INFORMATION
Partners at the core of each project
Information

Photography by: Algo
Everyone has something unique to contribute...

Derived from presentation by Martin Bontoft (IDEO)
Green Spaces

Outdoor environments for adults with autism

Kingwood

(Chris McGinley/Katie Gaudion)
Sensory preferences
Sensory props

- Avoid / dislike
- Ok
- Seek / like
Special interests

1. Physics and kinetic systems
2. Numbers
3. Biology
4. Relating
5. Language
6. Taxonomy
7. Attachments
8. Crafts
9. Everyday life
10. Facts
11. Food
12. Sports and games
13. Audio/visual
14. Sensory

Baron-Cohen, S., Wheelwright, S. (1999)
STRONGLY ATTACHED TO ITEMS

e.g. an article of clothing, a rag, a bottle top, etc.,

[ ] YES [ ] NO

If YES, please specify:

LIGHT SWITCHES, VENT-A-XIA, FAN CONTROLLERS, SPILL SWITCH
Passion to action

Spinning

Organising
**Design themes**

**Growth**
Enhance communication, independence and the development of skills by connecting garden spaces with a person’s strengths, interests and aspirations to create occupation, exercise and leisure opportunities.

**Triggers**
Reduce triggers of agitation and anxiety by considering a person’s hyper or hypo sensitivities in outdoor spaces.

**Robustness**
Keep residents and staff safe in a robust garden that is tolerant of unintended use.

**Support**
Give staff the tools to deliver people-centred care and ways to facilitate occupation, exercise and leisure activities in outdoor spaces.
1. Escape
2. Exercise
3. Sensory
4. Social
5. Transition
6. Occupation
7. Wilderness
Kingwood College Garden
Concept Sketch
Green Spaces
Outdoor Environments for Adults with Autism
Conclusion...

We need to answer the right questions...
... towards this we should seek to understand those we design for, and the potential for design to impact their lives.

Information is useful...
... empathy can be insightful and inspirational.

It’s our responsibility...
... to ensure the voice of those you are designing for is captured and represented.

Learn from the people you are designing for (and with)...
... everyone has something unique to contribute
Thanks for listening.

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