



Human needs as a criterion for the application of Universal Design in Exterior Environment

(A research paper within the requirements of fulfillment of master's degree)

The theme of creativity in design processes¹

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Abstract

Design was - and still - the direct result of the interaction between human and his needs which generated daily with the coexistence of life. Design has gone through many intellectual and conceptual shifts, which produced a new design schools and trends. In the twentieth century, (Universal Design) as a term have been appeared, it deals with designs that care about all categories of users; in all products and environments. The aim of the Universal Design and its applications are incorporating the design flexibility by using multiple alternatives. In urban environmental decoration and urban coordination field, Universal Design means removing all the obstacles in the surrounding external environment to ensure optimal use of all categories of users, whatever their health status, age or physical abilities.

Nowadays, The culture of design is one of the permanent changing tools, and many of new issues attract the attention of design experts, thus these issues are closely related to the Universal Design, such as Sustainability, and design for health care & enhancing health, homelessness and social justice. Hence, the Universal Design has the ability to contribute for solving any social problem.

Universal Design imagines a world of common experiences, to reach the facilities without impedance, as defined by the National Fund for the Arts. The Universal design

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beyond the mere provision of special features for various sections of the people, emphasizes the creative approach that is more comprehensive in matching the aesthetic and functional aspects. Designs created by this approach are more likely to serve a wider range of people:

Whether they are people who suffer from temporary disabilities, permanent disabilities, or differences in age and physical abilities.

In this context, the research paper deals Firstwith: Universal Design concept, principles and strategies, and how important it is to gain access to the unimpeded design, Secondlyit deals with: the levels of interaction between human behavior and the external environment. It deals also with human sensory perception of his environment.

The research in general aims to find mechanisms to build a barrier-free environment and reach a wider movement for the groups with special needs, and trying to assist technologies that work on the positive surrounding environment adaptation. It also trying to get these mechanisms in combines with aesthetic values to create a harmonious environment, which everyone can interact with, freely without borders.

