

Accessibility Issues that They Do Not Teach You at Architectural School

Dr. T. H. Tse

Accessibility Issues

that They Do Not Teach You at the Architectural School

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Barriers to Access



Presentation Outline

- ◆ Barriers to access
- ◆ Less obvious barriers to access
 - Half-hearted solutions
 - Uninformed solutions
- ◆ Even more obscure barriers to access
- ◆ *One minute quiz*
- ◆ Recommendations and conclusion

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Barriers to Access



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Barriers to Access



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Barriers to Access Can be Overcome



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Can Barriers to Access be Overcome?



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Barriers to Access Can be Overcome



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Barriers to Access Can be Overcome



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Half-Hearted Solutions May Lead to More Disappointments



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- ◆ Barriers to access
- ◆ **Less obvious barriers to access**
 - **Half-hearted solutions**
 - **Uninformed solutions**
- ◆ Even more obscure barriers to access
- ◆ Recommendations and conclusion

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Half-Hearted Solutions May Lead to More Disappointments



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Half-Hearted Solutions May Lead to More Disappointments

- ◆ We are a service industry
- ◆ Help at the touch of a button



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Uninformed Solutions May Lead to More Barriers



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Uninformed Solutions May Lead to More Barriers



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Uninformed Solutions May Lead to More Barriers Work Done is Independent of Path?



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Universal Access



Presentation Outline

- ◆ Barriers to access
- ◆ Less obvious barriers to access
- ◆ **Even more obscure barriers to access**
 - “Why worry about a few people with a disability?”
 - “Can we afford the cost of accessibility?”
 - “We do everything to help”
- ◆ Recommendations and conclusion

Universal Access



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“Why Worry about a few People with a Disability?”

USA

- ◆ **50 million** people, or **20%** of the population, have a disability (Census 2000)
- ◆ **42%** of the people above 65 have a disability

UK

- ◆ **8.3 million** people, or **18%** of the population, have a disability
- ◆ **93.2%** of them live in the community
- ◆ **1 in 4** families are affected by disability.

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“Can We Afford the Cost of Accessibility?”

- ◆ Can we afford the cost of *not* making our community accessible and enabling people with a disability to be financially independent?
 - In the UK, **6.8 million** adults have a disability
 - **48.8%** of them are in employment
 - In USA, **34 million** people under 65 have a disability.

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“We Do Everything to Help”



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Quiz: What Kinds of Job Are Suitable for People with a Disability?

- ◆ Welfare recipient?
- ◆ Sheltered workshop?
- ◆ Chief executive officer?
- ◆ University professor?
- ◆ School principal?
- ◆ Orchestra conductor?
- ◆ Fashion designer?
- ◆ Factory owner?
- ◆ Nobel prize winner?

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“We Do Everything to Help”

- ◆ People with a disability are often portrayed as
 - tragic
 - in need of help
 - in need of handoutsfor the sake of donations
- ◆ This does not help them to integrate with society.

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“We Do Everything to Help”
Does He Take Milk and Sugar?



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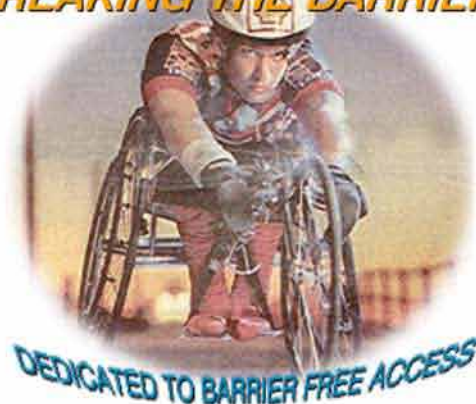
**Look at the Positive Side of
Your Clients**



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Look at the Positive Side of Your Clients

BREAKING THE BARRIERS



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Look at the Positive Side of Your Clients

- ◆ Catering for clients with a disability makes business sense
 - 300,000 people-times make use of the wheelchair service at the Hong Kong Airport per annum
 - The average tourist spends about US\$750
 - $\text{US\$750} \times 300000 \div 2 = \text{US\$112.5 million}$

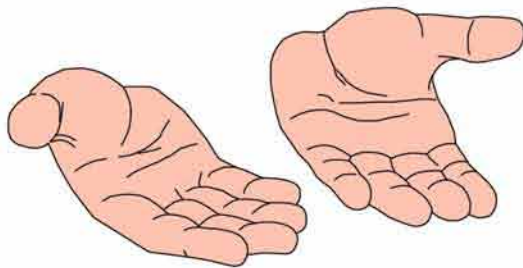
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Recommendations

- ◆ Recognise people with a disability as valued clients
- ◆ Appreciate their strengths
- ◆ Consider the business opportunity
- ◆ Consult people with a disability
- ◆ Understand their requirements as individuals rather than a social minority group
- ◆ Avoid stereotypes, assumptions, myths and misconceptions.

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Truly Barrier Free Access is in the Hands of the Future Architects



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Conclusion

- ◆ *Stage 1:* Barriers to access
- ◆ *Stage 2:* Removal of barriers
 - Acceptance by the community
 - Social minority in need of help
- ◆ *Stage 3:* Truly barrier free access
 - Equal opportunities
 - Inclusive and universal access.

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Thank you

Dr T.H. Tse

Dr T.H. Tse is an Associate Professor in Computer Science at The University of Hong Kong. He received his PhD from the University of London and was a Visiting Fellow at the University of Oxford. He is a Fellow of the British Computer Society and a Fellow of the Hong Kong Institution of Engineers.

Dr Tse is very active in serving the community. He is currently a Member of the Rehabilitation Advisory Committee (RAC), the Chairman of the RAC Subcommittee on Access, a Vice Chairperson of the Rehabilitation Alliance Hong Kong, the Honorary Secretary of the Hong Kong PHAB Association, a Member of the Advisory Committee on Rehabilitation Sciences of the Hong Kong Polytechnic University, and an Honorary Advisor to the Council of the Spastics Association of Hong Kong.

Dr Tse was selected for a Ten Outstanding Young Persons' Award and an Outstanding Disabled Person of the Year Award, and was decorated with an MBE by The Queen.