Sue Manns (Guest)
Hello I am Sue Manns and I am Past president of the RTP I and the Royal Town Planning institute's Board champion for equality, diversity, and inclusivity.

00:00:09.640 --> 00:00:36.580
Sue Manns (Guest)
I am delighted to be chairing this webinar on behalf of the neurodiversity in planning network. It's the first of two webinars focused on designing for neurodiversity and today we will be exploring designing autism friendly environments. But first a little bit of housekeeping before we start. If everyone could keep their cameras off except for our speakers and their microphones on mute, that would be very, very much appreciated.

00:00:37.500 --> 00:01:08.490
Sue Manns (Guest)
~~A~~utism is a lifelong neurodivergent condition that affects how people communicate and interact with the world. While around 700,000 autistic adults and children live in the UK, which is about one in 100 people, public spaces remain severely inaccessible due to a lack of understanding and poor planning and design. So today we're going to be exploring examples of good practice~~s~~ in planning and design for autism

00:01:08.690 --> 00:01:28.520
Sue Manns (Guest)
and the influence that accessible and inclusive, natural and built environments can have in improving the experience of autistic individuals in the public space~~.~~ Can I just remind participants not to have their cameras on, ~~can~~ and to keep their microphones on mute, that would be really helpful. Thank you.

00:01:29.370 --> 00:01:36.150
Sue Manns (Guest)
As part of this session we will be focusing on two sets of evidence-based autism-specific design guidelines.

00:01:36.970 --> 00:01:46.670
Sue Manns (Guest)
And we very much hope that through this webinar, which is being recorded in World Autism Awareness Week 2021 and will go live on the 15th of April.

00:01:49.530 --> 00:02:21.170
Sue Manns (Guest)
Sorry, there's some background noise that everyone can just make sure their microphones on mute. We are very much hoping that it will raise town planners' awareness of inclusive and adaptive planning and design that will ensure safe, pleasant and stimulating environments that are accessible to all. And so to today's speakers. They are drawn from three continents and as you'll no doubt already have seen from their biographies on the RTP I website, their

00:02:21.690 --> 00:02:31.690
Sue Manns (Guest)
backgrounds and experience in this subject are truly world class. We are so fortunate to have them with us today.

00:02:32.600 --> 00:02:49.360
Sue Manns (Guest)
So by way of a short introduction to each speaker who you can see on the screen, I'm delighted to welcome Magda Mostafa. Magda is an associate professor at the American University in Cairo and an autism Design consultant at Progressive Architects in Cairo.

00:02:50.020 --> 00:03:07.060
Sue Manns (Guest)
As part of her research on inclusive built environments for autism, Magda developed the ground-breaking Autism ASPECTSS™ Design Index which is the first evidence-based set of autism specific design guidelines worldwide.

00:03:08.060 --> 00:03:38.130
Sue Manns (Guest)
Gala Korniyenko is a PHD candidate at the City and Regional Planning Program at the Ohio State University and a member of the research team that developed the 'Planning and Design with Autism: the Six Feelings Framework' which are aimed at helping create an Autism Friendly urban realm.

Gala will be presenting alongside her colleague, Alex Pisha.

00:03:38.180 --> 00:04:08.650
Sue Manns (Guest)
Alex is a landscape and architectural designer, city planner, and writer based in New Haven, Connecticut. Alex will be focusing on the importance of public realm and green spaces in creating inclusive environments.

And from the UK we are delighted to be joined by Stephanie Kyle. Stephanie is an architect and inclusive design consultant at Maber Associates, advising on best practice for inclusivity. Stephanie specialises in neuro diverse inclusive design such as designing for autism

00:04:08.710 --> 00:04:09.640
Sue Manns (Guest)

and dementia

00:04:10.630 --> 00:04:41.450
Sue Manns (Guest)
Finally before I invite Stephanie to speak, I would like to thank our worldwide gathering of specialists in this field who have joined us today as invited guests for this recording. It is a truly international group who have shared some interesting and challenging questions for our panel to consider after the presentations. I would also like to welcome our audience on the 15th of April, which is when we go live with this recording because by that date.

00:04:41.500 --> 00:04:47.590
Sue Manns (Guest)
We will have added a transcript to this webinar, which makes it more accessible to more people.

00:04:48.150 --> 00:05:18.690
Sue Manns (Guest).

Thank you so much for joining us and please share widely the learning and knowledge that comes from this session. We want this hour to have ripples that spread well beyond today and if you have any questions on the 15th of April, please add them to the chat function and we will share these with our speakers and respond to you. And finally, if you have any comments on the format of the webinar

00:05:18.740 --> 00:05:37.410
Sue Manns (Guest)
or any suggestions on how we could make it more accessible to more people, please share them with us. And so without further ado, I would now like to hand over to Stephanie who is going to talk about inclusive design from an autistic perspective. Thank you, Stephanie.

00:05:38.750 --> 00:05:39.520
Stephanie Kyle - Architect and Inclusive Design Co (Guest)
Thanks Sue.

00:05:43.190 --> 00:05:43.760
Stephanie Kyle - Architect and Inclusive Design Co (Guest)
So.

00:05:45.110 --> 00:06:02.850
Stephanie Kyle - Architect and Inclusive Design Co (Guest)
My name is Stephanie Kyle. I'm an Architect and Inclusive Design Consultant at Maber Associates, this is driven by my own experiences as an autistic person with auditory processing disorder as well. I'm going to be talking about my experiences as a building user and my role as an architect and inclusive design consultant.

00:06:05.440 --> 00:06:17.570
Stephanie Kyle - Architect and Inclusive Design Co (Guest)
First and foremost, my identity is as an autistic person because it's what makes me unique and I see being autistic as an advantage, not a disability.

00:06:18.140 --> 00:06:22.550
Stephanie Kyle - Architect and Inclusive Design Co (Guest)
I'm also an architect and inclusive design consultant with auditory processing disorder.

00:06:26.250 --> 00:06:33.810
Stephanie Kyle - Architect and Inclusive Design Co (Guest)

Which has a large range of traits, including those from ADHD and anxiety, as there is generally a lot of overlapping neurological conditions.

00:06:34.840 --> 00:06:37.770
Stephanie Kyle - Architect and Inclusive Design Co (Guest)
APD is a neurological and sensory processing disorder,

00:06:38.790 --> 00:06:59.560
Stephanie Kyle - Architect and Inclusive Design Co (Guest)
Which means the ears hear perfectly, but the brain cannot process the sounds it hears. It is not a hearing condition itself, but it has overlaps of characteristics with hearing impairments, autism, and ADHD. So growing up I hated going out in public buildings, hated classrooms and exams. I could hear everything loudly that other peoples brains can easily label and filter as background noise, whereas my brain can't.

00:07:00.610 --> 00:07:04.680
Stephanie Kyle - Architect and Inclusive Design Co (Guest)
Although research and design has developed and there is and there is more awareness,

00:07:05.670 --> 00:07:21.850
Stephanie Kyle - Architect and Inclusive Design Co (Guest)
As an autistic and APD individual today, I regularly face difficulty in the everyday built environment. I use accessible toilets, for example, where I can control all the sounds and events in the cubicle, but prefer the Super Loos, which are designed for gender neutral

00:07:22.490 --> 00:07:25.090
Stephanie Kyle - Architect and Inclusive Design Co (Guest)
Users but benefit people like me too.

00:07:25.990 --> 00:07:57.770
Stephanie Kyle - Architect and Inclusive Design Co (Guest)
I've been finding myself needing to leave meetings to sit in the stairway to have some quiet time when I become overwhelmed, but quiet spaces are better for this, they're just not very common in buildings that are not disability specific, like SEND schools. I found that the pandemic design leaving more space for people is a drastic improvement on experiencing the built environment as people stay away from each other and have more space to lip read while walking, which cannot be done at close proximity. The downside to pandemic design is the temporary screens which have no regulation and are often makeshift with glare and no manifestation, so it's an extra thing that

00:07:58.060 --> 00:08:00.150
Stephanie Kyle - Architect and Inclusive Design Co (Guest)
I have to process which makes getting around difficult.

00:08:01.100 --> 00:08:07.040
Stephanie Kyle - Architect and Inclusive Design Co (Guest)
At some point along the way, I decided to be an architect so I could look at how to design better for people like me.

00:08:07.960 --> 00:08:20.480
Stephanie Kyle - Architect and Inclusive Design Co (Guest)
I wasn't confirmed as autistic until I was at University, already studying architecture, but my skill set of hyperfocus obsession with specialist topics and fine detailed processing as well as passion for problem solving and logical thinking set me up for my career.

00:08:21.960 --> 00:08:30.330
Stephanie Kyle - Architect and Inclusive Design Co (Guest)
So everything I did at University, every project for the whole seven years was focused on designing better environments for people who need more than just neurotypical design.

00:08:31.320 --> 00:08:47.780
Stephanie Kyle - Architect and Inclusive Design Co (Guest)
I undertook many research projects including the architects duty of care to the end user, interrogations of existing research into neuro-diverse inclusive design, RIBA and ARB's approach, media representation of inclusive design in architecture journals

00:08:48.870 --> 00:08:52.670
Stephanie Kyle - Architect and Inclusive Design Co (Guest)
And the impact of the client and the community perceptions on inclusive design.

00:08:53.300 --> 00:09:04.460
Stephanie Kyle - Architect and Inclusive Design Co (Guest)
The survey for this research project was shocking with only 6.2% of architects saying that they designed for non physical impairment compared to the 89.7% that think inclusive design is just for wheelchair users.

00:09:06.630 --> 00:09:28.890
Stephanie Kyle - Architect and Inclusive Design Co (Guest)
In my 7 years of study, I expanded my knowledge of inclusive design to include physical requirements for full time wheelchair users, visual impairment, gender neutral design and design for religion too. But my final thesis project really investigated in depth neuro-diverse inclusive design and to critically analyse Part M of the Approved Documents, which is the design guidelines set by the government for access to and use of buildings.

00:09:30.000 --> 00:09:31.750
Stephanie Kyle - Architect and Inclusive Design Co (Guest)
All designs must implement this.

00:09:32.910 --> 00:09:42.870
Stephanie Kyle - Architect and Inclusive Design Co (Guest)
Part M is a very basic level of accessible design, mainly stating minimum dimensions for wheelchair access with a small consideration for visual and hearing impaired users,

00:09:43.640 --> 00:09:48.100
Stephanie Kyle - Architect and Inclusive Design Co (Guest)
but there is no design guidance for neurodiverse and hidden disabilities within the government guidance.

00:10:00.370 --> 00:10:01.560
Stephanie Kyle - Architect and Inclusive Design Co (Guest)
I wanted to design a building that would allow me to investigate and challenge other neurodiverse inclusive design guidance in a building typology with the highest percentage of neurodiverse users so that

00:10:02.260 --> 00:10:07.120
Stephanie Kyle - Architect and Inclusive Design Co (Guest)
the Inclusive design principles that came out of that research could then be applied to any typology.

00:10:08.210 --> 00:10:22.370
Stephanie Kyle - Architect and Inclusive Design Co (Guest)
And it just so happened that that building is a prison. So 93% of the prison population have some sort of neurological impairment. I took the 10 most prevalent neurological conditions in the UK population and compared the design guidance as well as common

00:10:23.200 --> 00:10:47.630
Stephanie Kyle - Architect and Inclusive Design Co (Guest)
theories such as therapeutic design, Restorative Biophillic Design (which is often promoted in hospitals) Normalization Theory which is often applied in dementia facilities, sensory design theory and Nidotherapeutic Design, which is the idea that having the ability to control your own environment has a therapeutic effect and makes disorders like schizophrenia and bipolar disorder more manageable.

00:11:04.320 --> 00:11:08.730
Stephanie Kyle - Architect and Inclusive Design Co (Guest)
At the end of the research, the principles I took forward into prison design included designing

00:11:09.490 --> 00:11:39.730
Stephanie Kyle - Architect and Inclusive Design Co (Guest)
logical stepped Hierarchy of Privacy into all larger spaces, Multi-sensory Wayfinding and recognition of place, designing different scenarios with variation in intensities and tones of light, providing Dynamic Views to internal and external activity, Spatial organisation to encourage socialisation and designing in different areas with options of environmental preference so that people can choose to sit in a quieter darker space, or choose to sit where they can see activity without being directly involved. I use these principles when designing buildings now and advising clients.

00:11:40.970 --> 00:12:09.140
Stephanie Kyle - Architect and Inclusive Design Co (Guest)
So now I'm an architect and Inclusive design consultant at Maber Associates, I advise other architects and clients on best practice for inclusivity, going above and beyond Part M and the British standards, The BS 8300, for example, looking at physical requirements, religion, gender, neutral facilities, safe space hearing and vision impairment - but I do particularly specialise in neuro diverse inclusive design for which is non visible disabilities and conditions such as designing for autism and dementia.

00:12:10.200 --> 00:12:35.590
Stephanie Kyle - Architect and Inclusive Design Co (Guest)
I am a regular architect as well, but also lead the inclusive design team helping internally with once overs before planning submissions, technical design queries and access strategy reports, but also externally we do access audits, inclusive design appraisals for other architects' proposed designs, we provide preliminary advice for clients or contractors that are considering bids or at the very beginning of the project and we can provide a report recommendations.

00:12:36.410 --> 00:12:58.090
Stephanie Kyle - Architect and Inclusive Design Co (Guest)
But inclusive design is not just for physically impaired people. It covers religion, gender, language, age, sexual orientation, class, and everything else that makes people unique. Some of these characteristics can be addressed with gender neutral facilities, logical signage, and making spaces safer and friendlier for people likely to face discrimination,

including designing in sight lines and reducing pinch points to prevent attacks on women, for example.

00:12:59.370 --> 00:13:13.800
Stephanie Kyle - Architect and Inclusive Design Co (Guest)
So the biggest issue I find in my job is that clients, designers, and planners don't always think about inclusive design or when they do, often they think that a full time wheelchair user is the only user requiring inclusive design and that a ramp solves all problems.

00:13:14.840 --> 00:13:23.380
Stephanie Kyle - Architect and Inclusive Design Co (Guest)
Unless that person has personal experience, either themselves or someone close to them, they're likely to not recognize when inclusive design is needed.

00:13:23.990 --> 00:13:28.650
Stephanie Kyle - Architect and Inclusive Design Co (Guest)
But every building and environment will benefit from Inclusive design and it’s not just about Part M.

00:13:29.410 --> 00:13:46.340
Stephanie Kyle - Architect and Inclusive Design Co (Guest)
And with the current changes in equality, diversity and inclusion policies following Black Lives Matter, the changes that Covid is having on physical and mental well being and the most recent news regarding women safety, inclusive design is even more important. And this extends to masterplanning and landscape, not just internal buildings.

00:13:49.850 --> 00:13:57.650
Stephanie Kyle - Architect and Inclusive Design Co (Guest)
Convincing clients and designers to include an inclusive design consultant to a project team is very hard work compared to landscape design,

00:13:58.590 --> 00:14:29.440
Stephanie Kyle - Architect and Inclusive Design Co (Guest)
acoustics and fire engineering, but I think that's because there's still not enough awareness or understanding of the importance of inclusive design. Architects can comply with Part M on a basic level, the same way that we can comply with fire regulations and acoustic regulations, but you still get a fire engineer or an acoustician to resolve things that are not included in the approved documents, or coming up with engineered solutions. It’s the same thing with inclusive design. Part M covers the bare minimum physical disability, but as I said earlier, inclusive design includes hidden disabilities,

00:14:29.490 --> 00:14:31.820
Stephanie Kyle - Architect and Inclusive Design Co (Guest)
gender, age, religion and all of those categories.

00:14:32.730 --> 00:14:44.430
Stephanie Kyle - Architect and Inclusive Design Co (Guest)
There are specific things like dimensions that we can comply with, but engineered inclusive design solutions require an inclusive design consultant and this should be more widely accepted and that's what I'm basically trying to promote.

00:14:45.230 --> 00:14:45.830
Stephanie Kyle - Architect and Inclusive Design Co (Guest)
And.

00:14:47.140 --> 00:14:47.580
Stephanie Kyle - Architect and Inclusive Design Co (Guest)
That's it.00:14:54.680 --> 00:15:14.910

Sue Manns (Guest)
So thank you, thank you very much Stephanie. That was really, really interesting and the Insight fantastic. Opening context for where we're going. So if I can now invite magnet. Magda Mustafa Magda is going to tell us a little bit about aspects of the autism Friendly City. Thank you. And over to you, Magda.

00:14:54.690 --> 00:14:55.200
Stephanie Kyle - Architect and Inclusive Design Co (Guest)
Thank you.

00:15:42.500 --> 00:15:44.350
Magda Mostafa, ASPECTSS & Architect for Autism (Guest)
Sorry about that, thank you.

00:15:51.060 --> 00:16:19.380
Magda Mostafa, ASPECTSS & Architect for Autism (Guest)
So, as Sue mentioned earlier in the introduction, thank you very much for that. So I'll be talking about the ASPECTSS design index and specifically how it relates to the autism Friendly City, or at least our aspiration towards the autism Friendly City. Many of the principles I'll be presenting today leverage design guidelines I developed recently in a collaboration with Dublin City University and their wonderful Autism Friendly University initiative.

00:16:19.730 --> 00:16:49.710
Magda Mostafa, ASPECTSS & Architect for Autism (Guest)
In collaboration with Ireland's National Autism Organization AsIAm, which is a self advocacy organization- they've done taken wonderful strides into making the world a more autism friendly place- the process was throughout its outset of seeking to make spaces and places like a campus more accessible not only to autism but other neurodiverse needs. The process was broadly consultative and looked at the built environment of this.

00:16:49.860 --> 00:17:15.410
Magda Mostafa, ASPECTSS & Architect for Autism (Guest)
Using an urban campus as sort of a microcosm or as a proxy for city issues, itt was framed by both the autism ASPECTSS design principles and the design thinking method, and we set out to identify and address through this process three key questions. What built environment elements are barriers, what built environment elements are supportive, and what would autistic and neurodiverse users like to see in place?

00:17:16.010 --> 00:17:47.450
Magda Mostafa, ASPECTSS & Architect for Autism (Guest)
And the entire process was autistic-voice informed, which was very important to me. It's something I believe in. I am always surprised and shocked by how few designers actually ask autistic individuals what they need and what works for them. So the whole process was autistic voice informed throughout, and the final results are peer reviewed or being peer reviewed currently by autistic individuals, autistic advocates, parents of autistic University students, experts and therapists who work on campuses with the neurodiverse student population.

00:17:47.540 --> 00:18:17.870
Magda Mostafa, ASPECTSS & Architect for Autism (Guest)
Estates professionals and autistic architects themselves. And the result of this process was primarily focus group and design thinking workshops, different surveys and I'll talk in a moment how we adjusted those themselves as tools to be more accessible to the autistic audience. All of that was layered onto the three other tools that we have, which is the ASPECTSS design guidelines, and also a new iteration of ASPECTSS that I'm calling ASPECTSS 2.0, which is an expanded and.

00:18:17.920 --> 00:18:28.270
Magda Mostafa, ASPECTSS & Architect for Autism (Guest)
updated version of the original, and finally the Autism Friendly Design Audit. All three of which I'll present today from the perspective of the city, hopefully very quickly.

00:18:28.960 --> 00:18:58.990
Magda Mostafa, ASPECTSS & Architect for Autism (Guest)
So just before we get into the results of that process and some of the recommendations that I concluded and have added to the ASPECTSS guidelines. Currently I just want to talk for a moment about the design thinking method and how, as a collateral byproduct of this process we developed a set of framing principles for the engagement of autistic individuals in the design thinking method. I think a lot of us as designers will approach a problem and say we'll conduct certain.

00:18:59.330 --> 00:19:24.740
Magda Mostafa, ASPECTSS & Architect for Autism (Guest)
Uh, stakeholder mapping processes like focus groups or surveys and those processes and tools in and of themselves are exclusive and do not include the needs of autistic individuals to contribute to them in a way that's most fully respectful of their needs and their abilities and their strengths. So we came up with this version of the design thinking method.

00:19:25.320 --> 00:19:55.530
Magda Mostafa, ASPECTSS & Architect for Autism (Guest)
Currently design thinking formats rely a lot on brainstorming iteration, and they're heavily framed around very immersive visual stimulation, and social interaction. So these new principles were developed through multiple design thinking workshops that I had the opportunity to conduct with. AsIAm and at Google Headquarters in Zurich and various other places with autistic individuals and adjusted the process through the lens of the autistic perspective and started to call for issues like predictability in planning.

00:20:04.980 --> 00:20:28.750
Magda Mostafa, ASPECTSS & Architect for Autism (Guest)
that they're involved in, and making sure that the communication, for example, was more visual than verbal and to provide social familiarization. Put people in groups where they have been introduced and they feel more comfortable engaging socially as opposed to putting them with a group of strangers that perhaps they don't have the social skills and social dynamics figured out yet.

00:20:29.860 --> 00:21:00.640
Magda Mostafa, ASPECTSS & Architect for Autism (Guest)
The results pf this process falls in line with some guiding principles that we've developed over the two decades that we've been doing this work, and I'll go through them very quickly. But among them is a very important one that we view all users as a spectrum, not just autistic users as a spectrum, but the human condition as a spectrum, and to remind

ourselves that the lines between autistic, non autistic, neurotypical ,neurodiverse are man made lines that are arbitrary.

00:21:00.750 --> 00:21:34.380
Magda Mostafa, ASPECTSS & Architect for Autism (Guest)
Lines that we have drawn and because they are man made, they can be moved. They can be shifted. They can be blurred. They can be reconsidered. But if we think more expansively across the whole human condition as a spectrum, I think we'll get to a space of the kind of work that Stephanie was talking about, where by putting neurodiverse an autistic needs in mind we actually end up benefiting larger groups of individuals. And then there are a lot of other principles. The idea of the right to Universal Delight. It's not only about accessing a space, but it's also having the right to enjoy space and be happy and comfortable in a space. And so on and so forth.

00:21:35.180 --> 00:22:05.580
Magda Mostafa, ASPECTSS & Architect for Autism (Guest)
There are also some general design guidelines that came out of this process. I'll talk a little bit about a few of them and I'm happy to answer more questions, but two in particular are important. The first is this idea of reverse inclusion. In reverse inclusion. I propose that we prioritize the needs of the special individual or the unique individual first, and then allow the majority need to be what is included. So we would prioritize the autistic need first and.

00:22:05.790 --> 00:22:36.360
Magda Mostafa, ASPECTSS & Architect for Autism (Guest)
time and time again we are finding that the design strategies that are put in place for neurodiversity and autism actually benefit larger populations and then the other point that I just want to elaborate on a little bit here is Agility, flexibility and adaptability is probably the cornerstone of a lot of the design guidelines that came out of this process that needs change that no two people are the same. And inline with this idea of our whole user group of our cities as a spectrum, we need to create designs that are not.

00:22:36.410 --> 00:22:46.320
Magda Mostafa, ASPECTSS & Architect for Autism (Guest)
Concretized in their configuration and are able to adapt both over time and through the perspective of different users and build that adaptability and agility into the design.

00:22:47.080 --> 00:23:17.390
Magda Mostafa, ASPECTSS & Architect for Autism (Guest)
So going back to my earlier work ASPECTS was a set of seven design principles that we developed over a decade of design and research, and that was published in 2013. It's comprised of seven principles, of which I'll go into a little bit of detail in relation to the city, but briefly, the other three. The acoustics, principle, vis a vis cities would call for issues like mitigation strategies for noise sources like high speed transportation and highways.

00:23:17.670 --> 00:23:49.760
Magda Mostafa, ASPECTSS & Architect for Autism (Guest)
Particularly when it's adjacent to low stimulation functions like like schools and residences, and for new building new builds and new plans, the acoustical quality of spaces should be considered when we're zoning and at a higher threshold than the current noise ordinances and other legislation requires. Again, as Stephanie said building regulation is not enough. We have to go farther than that. Operational strategies can also help with noise over time by creating quiet hours for certain city infrastructures and so on.

00:23:50.180 --> 00:24:23.300
Magda Mostafa, ASPECTSS & Architect for Autism (Guest)
Another principle sensory zoning calls on the spatial organization of elements and in coordination with their sensory, not their functional quality, so it would look at grouping visual qualities, materials and textures, smells and odors in a way that high stimulation spaces are clustered together in low stimulation clustered together and how we can use that principle when we're organizing new builds or retrofitting or managing existing ones and quickly to just go into a little bit of detail with some of the other principles.

00:24:23.350 --> 00:24:54.610
Magda Mostafa, ASPECTSS & Architect for Autism (Guest)
Spatial sequencing is a really powerful one when we think about the interface between buildings and their surroundings, and it calls for the organization elements in as logical and predictable as order as possible, and at the level of the city. This particularly applies to the interstitial spaces and the interfaces between the buildings, and it becomes an important stop on the sequence of the public cloud. Noisy, busy transition into the private, quiet, enclosed transition of some of our internal spaces and buildings.

00:24:54.660 --> 00:24:59.150
Magda Mostafa, ASPECTSS & Architect for Autism (Guest)
And it's the space where kind of architects and planners need to work together.

00:25:00.700 --> 00:25:30.360
Magda Mostafa, ASPECTSS & Architect for Autism (Guest)
This works hand in hand with the principle of the creation of transitions and transitions are really these sensory moments that allow for the very important adjustment from one sensory level to another. So as an individual, for example arrives to work from a bus ride that may have been overwhelming or noisy, or they may feel some anxiety to have the provision of a transition. A space show sensory shelter of sorts to adjust re calibrate and regulate any sensory.

00:25:30.410 --> 00:25:46.830
Magda Mostafa, ASPECTSS & Architect for Autism (Guest)
Overload and the anxiety that comes with it and this can better position an autistic or neurodiverse or any population or individual for more productivity, focus and just general well being as we move throughout our cities.

00:25:47.400 --> 00:26:20.650
Magda Mostafa, ASPECTSS & Architect for Autism (Guest)
The third principle that I think is really relevant to the design of the city is what I call the creation of an escape-scape, and I can't take credit for this term. I've borrowed it from NPR in the United States in the context of Pandemic Escape, but I found it very relevant here to this idea of creating a network of escape spaces, so the ASPECTSS concept of Escape is perhaps the most agile and applicable of all the concepts, because it can be applied to any number of scales from interior design.

00:26:20.940 --> 00:26:26.740
Magda Mostafa, ASPECTSS & Architect for Autism (Guest)
all the Way to the urban scale of a city and what we propose here is the creation of a citywide escape Scape.

00:26:28.430 --> 00:26:44.480
Magda Mostafa, ASPECTSS & Architect for Autism (Guest)
A network of senso spatial refuges in various forms throughout the city, from the individual to

the group, from the enclosed to the open. The static to the dynamic, and maybe I can offer up some examples later on in the questions.

00:26:45.190 --> 00:27:15.780
Magda Mostafa, ASPECTSS & Architect for Autism (Guest)
And then finally, a very relevant concept is this idea of compartmentalization that began in ASPECTSS looking at interior spaces and classrooms, and how we can organize them into subsets of manageable sensory stations, but it applies really well in the outdoor space on the level of this city, as people move through spaces, they move it to speeds they move with different sensory qualities. A person driving by very quickly on a motorized scooter has a very different sensory energy than.

00:27:15.830 --> 00:27:45.920
Magda Mostafa, ASPECTSS & Architect for Autism (Guest)
an Elderly person walking or a person in the wheelchair. So to create even just visually, these types of segregations of compartments and to allow there to be a transition in that interface between building and city, and to just order an organized spaces in a sequence that goes from high speed to low speed and from high stimulus to low stimulus is one of the recommendations that came out of that earlier process, but also something that can be very helpful as we move to the scale of the city ASPECTSS. 2.0.

00:27:46.000 --> 00:28:16.240
Magda Mostafa, ASPECTSS & Architect for Autism (Guest)
As I said, is an expanded version of ASPECTSS. In it we looked at issues of wayfinding and navigation, allowing for predictability, creating alternative sensory pathways that move away from the busy central main arteries of our city or our campuses. We also looked very quickly through their actually eight principles, but only four of them translate to the scale of the city. Here the idea of technology and smart cities, and I know there will be a separate webinars so I won't get into that. The concept of sensory economics and.

00:28:16.830 --> 00:28:30.670
Magda Mostafa, ASPECTSS & Architect for Autism (Guest)
The value of investing into the sensory infrastructure to allow neurodiverse individuals to be more productive, included and happy citizens is a very good return on your investment.

00:28:31.450 --> 00:29:01.480
Magda Mostafa, ASPECTSS & Architect for Autism (Guest)
And finally, I think a very important tool that came out of this work is the autism friendly design audit, which is a set of descriptors that any built environment can be measured against an scored and it's weighted in a way that more criteria are put our on more important concepts as represented by the broad research that we did at the beginning of the process. So we hope that this is a tool that will help both assess.

00:29:01.530 --> 00:29:32.540
Magda Mostafa, ASPECTSS & Architect for Autism (Guest)
Current builds maybe project future builds help with retrofitting or making existing spaces more autism friendly. And just finally our autism friendly world can only be as strong as its weakest link. And since I began in this field almost two decades ago, we've made great strides in the design and awareness of the role architecture plays, and we see a great rise in strategies for neuro diversity and autism in the workplace, for example, or autism, inclusive design in schools and even autism friendly.

00:29:32.600 --> 00:30:04.510
Magda Mostafa, ASPECTSS & Architect for Autism (Guest)

Operational strategies and shopping centers and recreational venues, but this has been largely confined to schools, offices, universities, residential buildings, and these growing numbers of islands of autism friendliness are in a sea that it is not autism friendly. This does not need to be the case then, with strategies like these that we've talked about today, we can work towards making that sea between these islands of autism friendliness more autism friendly and neuro diverse inclusive as a step towards really making these spaces and places.

00:30:04.710 --> 00:30:09.210
Magda Mostafa, ASPECTSS & Architect for Autism (Guest)
Truly accessible to the entire human spectrum. Thank you very much.

00:30:10.940 --> 00:30:31.330
Sue Manns (Guest)
Thank you so much Magda. That was really, really interesting. And So what we'd like to do now is move on to the last presentation, which is a joint presentation by Gala and Alex, and they're going to talk about inclusive landscapes and applying the Six Feelings Framework. So over to you.

00:30:33.630 --> 00:31:02.890
Korniyenko, Gala
Thank you, the Royal Town Planning Institute and Co-Founders of Neurodiversity in Planning Team for giving us an opportunity to share our ideas with you: the examples of the application of the Six Feelings Framework developed at the Ohio State University. Before we show you specific examples of the Six Feeling Framework application that Alex will share with you, I would like to read this quote,

00:31:03.230 --> 00:31:22.750
Korniyenko, Gala
That would situate our presentation. Jim Sinclair's speech at the International conference on Autism in Toronto, published in the Autism Network International Newsletter, from the Book "Loud Hands, Autistic People Speaking", 2012)

00:31:23.510 --> 00:31:55.320
Korniyenko, Gala
"We need you. We need your help and your understanding. Your world is not very open to us, we won't make it without your strong support... Be sad about that, if you want to be sad about something. Better than being sad about it, though, get mad about it—and then DO something about it. The tragedy is not that we are here, but that your world has no place for us to be".

00:31:55.760 --> 00:31:57.080
Korniyenko, Gala
End of quote.

00:31:59.220 --> 00:32:18.660
Korniyenko, Gala
This Six Feeling Framework is a result of three years research and collaboration without autistic adults that started in 2017. The main goal of this framework is to provide tools and directions for planners and urban designers to respond to the needs of the neurodiverse population.

00:32:19.780 --> 00:32:49.210
Korniyenko, Gala

Total 30 autistic adults participated in the creation of the Six Feelings Framework. Some students, who were working on the Autism Design Guidebook 1.0 identified as autistic and being neurodiverse. Six icons with the head images on the slide represent the Six Feelings Framework, each corresponding to the feeling being “safe”, “clear”, “calm”, “connected”, “private”, and feeling “free”.

00:32:49.960 --> 00:33:02.020
Korniyenko, Gala
Now Alex will give you specific examples for each of these feelings and what elements of public spaces and parks address each of these Six Feelings Framework elements.

00:33:04.290 --> 00:33:38.190
"Alex Pisha (Guest)"
So, as Gala has indicated, the six feelings framework is meant to act as a tool to inform and guide designers, helping to foreground the needs of neuro diverse populations as a means to illustrate the feelings framework and how it can be applied. We thought it would be helpful to provide examples of ways in which planners and designers could incorporate the six feelings, essentially taking the somewhat abstract concepts of the framework and translating it into design solutions to illustrate the feelings framework. We looked at a series of recently built parks and public spaces.

00:33:38.580 --> 00:34:09.170
"Alex Pisha (Guest)"
The critical importance of these spaces has been forcefully brought home by the coronavirus pandemic and parts of Europe and Latin America. Cities closed outdoor public spaces. In some cases, building tall temporary fences around the parks for fear of contagion in the United States national parks were closed and cities close. Roadways as a means to expand pedestrian access and encourage social distancing. Municipal parks, however, remained open and these spaces had to suddenly function as public gyms, classrooms, offices and boardrooms.

00:34:09.820 --> 00:34:25.530
"Alex Pisha (Guest)"
The increased demand for public spaces and parks paired with the increased knowledge of the unique needs of the neurodiverse community, provides an opportunity for us as planners and designers to do better and be more inclusive. So let's look at a few ways in which we can do this.

00:34:26.920 --> 00:34:58.250
"Alex Pisha (Guest)"
For feeling connected, feeling connected means that individuals can easily perceive ways in which to engage their environment. This can include clear connections to transportation networks, the built environment or spaces that allow users to be physically separated but visually connected to the larger context. Klyde Warren Park in Dallas, TX is a cap park built over an existing highway. The parks design not only reconnects two districts which had previously been cut off by the highway, but also makes clear connections to adjacent cultural sites.

00:34:58.300 --> 00:35:21.440
"Alex Pisha (Guest)"
In public amenities the park circulation connects directly with the city's museum district and urban core and essentially located Transit Hub, provides park users with an option to move throughout the city as a maintenance standard. All perimeter trees are limned up to six feet,

or roughly 2 meters from the ground to allow for increased porosity along the parts perimeter and allow for unobstructed sightlines.

00:35:23.350 --> 00:35:56.180
"Alex Pisha (Guest)"
Brooklyn Bridge Park in Brooklyn, NY provides a multitude of spaces to satisfy nearly all types of park users. Formerly industrial Docs of particular note is the design of peer three, whose lawn provides an undulating edge, allowing park users to find their own space while simultaneously feeling connected to the larger landscape. The parks designer Michael Van Valkenburgh has stated that he always considers, underrepresented and marginalized communities when designing apart, saying it's like cooking a holiday meal. If you you have to invite all of the relatives and there has to be a dish for everyone.

00:35:56.650 --> 00:36:09.490
"Alex Pisha (Guest)"
Examples of this includes active spaces such as basketball and volleyball courts, passive spaces such as lawns, interactive playgrounds designed by child and environmental psychologist Nilda, Costco and Robin, more fishing docks and beaches.

00:36:11.980 --> 00:36:13.100
"Alex Pisha (Guest)"
Feeling free.

00:36:14.070 --> 00:36:48.530
"Alex Pisha (Guest)"
Parks are generally flexible spaces. An park users should feel as though all spaces are welcome for them to enjoy. However, spaces within parks that are dedicated to a single program for a specific population can be a deterrent. For example, traditional playgrounds and parks is great for younger age groups, but tends to alienate older groups, allowing all age groups the opportunity for moments of play and discovery is something the designers of Hinge Park in Vancouver BC were keenly interested in in lieu of slides and swings. The designers created a water feature in which users can pump water into a series of movable channels.

00:36:48.580 --> 00:36:57.360
"Alex Pisha (Guest)"
Which can redirect the water as it cascades down the hillside and into the parks. Constructed wetland were clear signage informs Park users of that specific ecology.

00:36:59.050 --> 00:37:07.800
"Alex Pisha (Guest)"
In this way, visitors are able to play without fear of being stigmatized and are able to connect to the larger ecosystem and feel that they have contributed to it.

00:37:10.050 --> 00:37:39.660
"Alex Pisha (Guest)"
Feeling clear, feeling clear means that spaces are easily understood in terms of wave finding an access through the landscape. The 6:06 in Chicago, IL is a park which occupies a former rail line. The parts linear nature unsurprising, giving its previous use, allows for clear sight lines along the park stretch. In addition, the designers created signage which helps direct visitors to one of 12 accessible entrance points as well as Maps which inform visitors about the ecologies, histories and features of the park.

00:37:40.420 --> 00:37:48.410
"Alex Pisha (Guest)"
Material changes also convey information here. Strips of blue rubber indicate jogging lanes, while marks on the pavement indicate bike lanes.

00:37:51.360 --> 00:38:11.550
"Alex Pisha (Guest)"
Feeling private for many, the opportunity to have a secluded, relaxing moment to themselves as a large reason to visit parks and public spaces at the Novartis campus in Basel, Switzerland. The designers took a more creative approach after interviewing the pharmaceutical companies employees. It was discovered that many of them feel they are constantly being watched and are unable to relax even on their brakes.

00:38:12.260 --> 00:38:31.830
"Alex Pisha (Guest)"
For the design of the square, the landscape architect solution was to provide small garden rooms created from clip torn. Being tall enough to obstruct views into the rooms. For those wanting to conduct meetings outdoors, a glass pavilion occupies the middle of the square. With cross Vine growing horizontally across the ceiling to partially obstruct views from those in the adjacent high rises.

00:38:33.690 --> 00:39:08.270
"Alex Pisha (Guest)"
Safe, everyone wants to feel safe in public. Part of the designers role when creating parks and public spaces to provide safe and accessible environments for public enjoyment. At the Parish Art Museum in Water Mill, NY. Spaces as mundane as a parking lot have been thoughtfully and elegantly addressed with safety in mind to avoid park users from walking through drive lanes, the designers created a circulation network that allows pedestrian passed to connect with each parking space, reducing conflict points. Parking. The car becomes knitted to the museum experience as users walkthrough bio swells and hedgerow.

00:39:08.320 --> 00:39:11.630
"Alex Pisha (Guest)"
As of Aspen, Birch, and Maple before arriving at the museum.

00:39:13.680 --> 00:39:47.230
"Alex Pisha (Guest)"
You know, calm reducing sensory pollution such as excessive noise, is often a goal when designing spaces in urban environments. Of the many challenges, the designers of Brooklyn Bridge Park faced one of the biggest was how to reduce noise levels from the Thundering Brooklyn Queens Expressway that runs adjacent to the site. Their solution was to build tall, narrow vegetative burms which help buffer noise while simultaneously blocking views of the Expressway from the park. The noise level prior to the Burns construction was measured to be 82 decibels. An measurement afterwards indicated that the burns reduce noise by roughly 75%.

00:40:11.410 --> 00:40:24.040
"Alex Pisha (Guest)"
But of the joint wheels are able to roll more smoothly across the surface, resulting in an improved experience for individuals in wheelchairs as well as reduce noise levels from students rolling suitcases across the space during moving days.

00:40:26.180 --> 00:40:46.700
"Alex Pisha (Guest)"

So to quickly wrap up each of these spaces have radically different contexts, but represent ways in which designers have made efforts to create inclusive environments as the need for public space continues to increase the six feelings framework provides a resource which allows planners and designers to simultaneously meet these needs and create spaces for all. Thank you.

00:40:50.540 --> 00:41:23.150
Sue Manns (Guest)
Thank you Gala. Thank you Alex. And I have to say, as someone who chairs a number of sessions, I've never been on a session where every speaker has finished exactly on the pre programme time. This is a unique. Quite amazing and it gives us the time to answer those questions that have been posed., as I mentioned earlier, by our invited group of guests worldwide specialists in the field who shared some questions in advance.

00:41:23.430 --> 00:41:48.660
Sue Manns (Guest)
So without further ado, the first question that we've been posed and I would like to start with Magda on this one - just to give a bit of warning - the first question is, are there examples of cities adopting guidelines that meet the needs of neuro diverse populations?

00:41:51.450 --> 00:42:22.660
Magda Mostafa, ASPECTSS & Architect for Autism (Guest)
Gladly yes, I was. It was brought to my attention about two years ago through the AsIAm network in Ireland that there's an autism Friendly Cities initiative that's rolling out across Ireland. An if I recall correctly Cork County and Kilkenny were the first citie scales to adopt the Autism Friendly Initiative. It has multiple levels, is of course a very complex issue. A lot of it begins with operational commitments from.

00:42:22.800 --> 00:42:54.540
Magda Mostafa, ASPECTSS & Architect for Autism (Guest)
Uh, different stakeholders in the community like supermarkets and retail shops to do autism friendly hours that are accessible to families, cinemas and theaters to provide autism friendly performances. So it begins with the operational kind of low hanging fruit and then rolls out into the more nuts and bolts of reconfiguring spaces. Doing some of the wonderful work that Alex and Gala are talking about in reconfiguring public spaces. Perhaps thinking about the interiors through the perspective of the kind of work that Stephanie is talking about.

00:42:54.710 --> 00:43:07.650
Magda Mostafa, ASPECTSS & Architect for Autism (Guest)
The intent is there, I think the research needs to catch up with the town planning, decision makers and so the intent is there. The knowledge is starting to be built and it's just a question of bridging the two.

00:43:08.710 --> 00:43:21.080
Sue Manns (Guest)
That's a really interesting point about the need for the research to catch up with town planning decision makers and very much the focus of today's session. Alex, Gala, Stephanie, have you got any examples that you perhaps want to throw into the mix?

00:43:24.460 --> 00:43:53.220
Korniyenko, Gala
Thank you we have some examples of siege is starting to implement and think about 6 feeling frameworks in a higher. Also we got email from Microsoft Office in Washington state

asking because one of the planners attended American Planning Association conference in 2019. But it's a slow process. It's a new framework, an Magnus.

00:43:53.480 --> 00:44:25.860
Korniyenko, Gala
Work already known worldwide, so it takes awhile to people. Get to know that I am promoting through the events like this with Alex. Thank you for inviting us and we do presentations and I interviewed planners last year. Every planner I interviewed 31. I was telling them about feeling frameworks so it's a lot of marketing in a way and informational campaigns till we can actually test in different.

00:44:25.920 --> 00:44:28.130
Korniyenko, Gala
Context this framework.

00:44:28.580 --> 00:44:32.280
Sue Manns (Guest)
Thank you, Alex and Stephanie is there anything that you would like to add?

00:44:33.240 --> 00:44:54.500
"Alex Pisha (Guest)"
Well, I was just, I would just say that I agree with magdar that I feel that there is a desire and you know interest in in implementing a lot of these materials. The problem, I think comes from you know cities not yet being able to adopt some of the standards or you know the details that need to happen.

00:44:55.290 --> 00:45:25.190
Sue Manns (Guest)
Thank you, To move on to the next question, which is actually a combined question that a number of people might recognise which reflects a really interesting theme, and it's how should those involved in the design process consider everyone’s needs and any potential conflicts.

00:45:25.300 --> 00:45:39.680
Sue Manns (Guest)
And what are some of the basic accommodations that designers can make, for example in facade design? Perhaps if I can start with Magda again - I don't know if that's something that you've looked at.

00:45:40.630 --> 00:46:11.000
Magda Mostafa, ASPECTSS & Architect for Autism (Guest)
It is actually and a few of my colleagues that we invited today are from a think tank that we put together based out of New York called MixDesign. The wonderful Joel Sanders founded. He's on the call along with my colleagues Hansel Bauman and Eron Friedlaender and we come at this issue of resolving conflict from different lenses so Joel does a lot of work about gender, adn inclusion, and I was very happy to see Stephanie talk about the Super loos. I didn't know that that's what you called them in the UK, but these.

00:46:11.580 --> 00:46:29.170
Magda Mostafa, ASPECTSS & Architect for Autism (Guest)
Single use multi the single use standard for toilets so we we are yes this idea of resolving conflict between different users and this also what we're finding a lot in our work is.

00:46:29.730 --> 00:47:03.100
Magda Mostafa, ASPECTSS & Architect for Autism (Guest)
When you design with the broadest spectrum of users in mind, you end up creating spaces and solutions that have benefits that you didn't anticipate in a very quick example of that, a few years ago, I helped design A school and one of the things that we did is we installed these quiet pods outside of the classrooms as a transition space and the intent for them was to serve the purpose of a transition space to allow children as they're coming in from the playground or art or some other high stimulation activity to re calibrate, adjust, and just take a moment to themselves.

00:47:03.150 --> 00:47:33.170
Magda Mostafa, ASPECTSS & Architect for Autism (Guest)
So that they would go into the classroom More prepared to be on task, but when I went back to do a post occupancy a year later, the teachers were telling me that the pods were so successful that the students had started asking for them as reward so they were using positive reinforcement in the classroom is part of the academic system and students instead of asking for the typical rewards were asking for time in the pod so they would win minutes in the pod as reward. So when you're designing for one need, you end up serving.

00:47:33.220 --> 00:47:35.740
Magda Mostafa, ASPECTSS & Architect for Autism (Guest)
Many more than you in originally intended to.

00:47:36.160 --> 00:47:41.210
Sue Manns (Guest)
That's fantastic example and Stephanie, this question is probably right up your street, isn't it?

00:47:41.320 --> 00:47:57.990
Stephanie Kyle - Architect and Inclusive Design Co (Guest)
Yeah, so like I said, the hardest part about my job is convincing clients, architects and planners that inclusive design is necessary and the biggest barrier is the fact, like I say, that people, unless they have a personal experience of

00:47:58.800 --> 00:48:24.100
Stephanie Kyle - Architect and Inclusive Design Co (Guest)
either having autism themselves or knowing somebody who's having difficulties using buildings or anything like that, they don't think about these things and it's very difficult to get that across, and especially when it comes to money, people think “Oh, if I do inclusive design, it's going to cost a lot more money” and it's it's not. It's really not. If you think about it from the very beginning when you’re supposed to, there's no additional cost.

00:48:25.410 --> 00:48:45.120
Stephanie Kyle - Architect and Inclusive Design Co (Guest)
That normally it comes when it’s a retrofit like “oh, we forgot to include this” and then you've got to pay a lot of money to fix it later on. I think that a few basic things that I always tell people is that things like leaving more space than you think you need for corridors

00:48:46.970 --> 00:48:50.240
Stephanie Kyle - Architect and Inclusive Design Co (Guest)
For uh, sanitary facilities, that sort of thing.

00:48:50.920 --> 00:49:12.240
Stephanie Kyle - Architect and Inclusive Design Co (Guest)
Always leave more space and you think you need, then by the time you got your boxings in

and things like that, it's going to be the right size. Things like the Super loos - I can't promote them highly enough because I think having separate sex toilet facilities is something that should have been left in the past and they benefit so many other people. I mean just talking about the Super Loos.

00:49:12.930 --> 00:49:42.900
Stephanie Kyle - Architect and Inclusive Design Co (Guest)
Not only are they designed to be gender neutral, they benefit people with sensory processing disorders like myself, but they also benefit for example, a Muslim person who's about to perform their Wudhu which is the cleaning process before you pray. They also benefit somebody who's just spilled coffee down their blouse and they need to go into a cubicle have bit of privacy while they sort it out. So it's things like that That benefit everybody and the biggest thing we need to do is raise more awareness

00:49:42.950 --> 00:49:43.710
Stephanie Kyle - Architect and Inclusive Design Co (Guest)
And make

00:49:44.380 --> 00:49:52.270
Stephanie Kyle - Architect and Inclusive Design Co (Guest)
Planners, architects, clients, everybody challenge this and think actually yeah, we do need this and promoting it a bit more.

00:49:54.100 --> 00:50:05.930
Stephanie Kyle - Architect and Inclusive Design Co (Guest)
Yeah, and I think that the main thing for planners is make sure you have an inclusive design consultant on big jobs, because quite often the same as a fire engineered solution that you need. It's not a one rule fits all.

00:50:14.980 --> 00:50:47.200
Sue Manns (Guest)
Stephanie, your answer has touched a bit on the next question, which again is a combined one. What are the greatest challenges or barriers in creating neuro inclusive environments and what has held you back or been difficult in your past projects. And as a second part of that question, what is your advice to town planners and urban designers facing these challenges? Gala would you like to start us off on that one.

00:50:48.050 --> 00:51:03.170
Korniyenko, Gala
Yes, so thank you for this question and we were talking about conflicts and how to solve this issue and talking without his stick adults. Another narrow diverse population.

00:51:03.720 --> 00:51:35.870
Korniyenko, Gala
And planners response was that it's the first step. Sometimes it's hard when we interviewed autistic adults. This transition and thing that Mark de I was mentioning even transitioning from living with parents to live with some roommate, or when you learn how to use airport, sometimes how to use boss, you need this transition period of learning because you feel frightened or you feel stress because.

00:51:36.160 --> 00:52:06.490
Korniyenko, Gala
Time you do something an it's human nature, so doing this I've been ours or showing specifics. How you can achieve application of 6,000,000 frameworks I think will minimize that

stress and fear to start this process and planners have a very great tool planning process which includes participation and then we when we have inclusive participation we learn about all of these needs.

00:52:06.540 --> 00:52:26.010
Korniyenko, Gala
And figure out the conflicting conflicting issues. And I want also side one of the autistic adults when we asked about specific how you want to feel in recreation and public space, this autistic adults said I cannot be more specific because I don't know what it is.

00:52:27.060 --> 00:52:34.620
Korniyenko, Gala
So you need to build it. You need to try it be in this space to know what it is an comment on then and figure it out.

00:52:35.230 --> 00:52:55.920
Sue Manns (Guest)
Now I couldn't agree with you more and I think Magda made the point in her presentation about the importance of the autistic voice being heard. If we don't do inclusive engagement, how do we know as planners what the different needs are. Alex would you like to add a piece of advice for time planners and urban designers.

00:52:56.250 --> 00:53:28.310
"Alex Pisha (Guest)"
Well, I think it's such an interesting question and I was thinking that it's it's partially like trying to get client buy in on some of this these ideas and you, you know, I would say the planning for neuro diverse communities has, you know very special or unique elements or needs, but in some cases it's also just general needs that everyone I think could get behind. You know I would love to see a super Luann have a transition pod or decompression pod like.

00:53:28.360 --> 00:53:54.250
"Alex Pisha (Guest)"
These are brilliant ideas and you know the example we gave of the noise burns at Brooklyn Bridge Park. You know it's reducing sound. Everybody wants a calmer environment, so ways that you can begin to knit. The argument to sort of crowd that is, or a population that is for everyone, the user, these experiences or something that everyone should be enjoying as well I think would make a lot of big big strides.

00:53:54.970 --> 00:53:58.530
Sue Manns (Guest)
Thank you. Magda, is there anything that you would like to add on that one.

00:53:58.800 --> 00:54:29.370
Magda Mostafa, ASPECTSS & Architect for Autism (Guest)
I do actually, and I think part of the issue is kind of a bigger systemic problem of othering. Every time you talk to a client and they focus kind of on the mainstream, quote, unquote, typical or normal need or standard, and think of what we're talking about is a niche or a specialization or a luxury that they can't afford to include in their building. I think part of it is centrally this idea of othering that this is another person's problem. This is another population. This isn't us. This isn't me, so part of it is a social problem.

00:54:29.450 --> 00:55:01.280
Magda Mostafa, ASPECTSS & Architect for Autism (Guest)
And that we need to work on, but also part of it is that yes, there are good intentions, but we

can't rely on good intentions to change the world. There are a lot of clients that come to a problem with good intentions, and if given the tools and the know how we'll invest the time and money, which by the way, is it more expensive? It's not. It is actually more expensive to design poorly than it is to design well. And I think all of us can agree on that. And to invest the money into doing it right to begin with. So there are two things I think that we need to work on. The 1st is policy.

00:55:01.340 --> 00:55:32.660
Magda Mostafa, ASPECTSS & Architect for Autism (Guest)
We need to be having this conversation with those that decide on how we are required to build our cities and our buildings. By law, that's one thing. The other thing is economy. So how can we quantify and show the bottom dollar value of investing in these types of strategies to unfortunately improve people's return on their investment? So if you're talking about the workplace environment, for example, the argument you need to make is when you make it more inclusive.

00:55:32.710 --> 00:56:03.060
Magda Mostafa, ASPECTSS & Architect for Autism (Guest)
For the neurodiverse, an autistic population a, you will get more productive employees who are neuro diverse and autistic because they will be more comfortable and happy in the workplace and as a result will be more productive in general. And again I say general, but the whole spectrum of your population will have a happier sensory experience. Nobody is going to be unhappy because it's too quiet or too organized or to come because you build in that agility and that flexibility in that choice.

00:56:03.290 --> 00:56:35.020
Magda Mostafa, ASPECTSS & Architect for Autism (Guest)
And if you need a sensory seeking opportunity, you need to provide that. Some people can only work in these creative, very busy spaces you provide that pallet. But when you provide that pallet, you will have more productive workers. And that's the only way we've seen change on, for example, requirements on acoustics in the workplace. The only way we're able to put that into legislation was to prove that workers and employers it began with industrial workers in factories were more productive and could roll out cars or whatever it is that they were building faster.

00:56:35.070 --> 00:56:37.170
Magda Mostafa, ASPECTSS & Architect for Autism (Guest)
If the environment wasn't so noisy.

00:56:38.270 --> 00:56:49.830
Sue Manns (Guest)
Thank you all. Well we just coming towards the end, of this first session. Stephanie, before we move to the close, is there anything that you would like to add.

00:56:44.650 --> 00:56:44.900
Stephanie Kyle - Architect and Inclusive Design Co (Guest)
Yeah.

00:56:49.750 --> 00:57:16.000
Stephanie Kyle - Architect and Inclusive Design Co (Guest)
Yeah just building on what Magda said, what I always tell, one of the things I do is speak to architects and try and get them to recognize when inclusive design is needed, which is all the time. But then how to convince the client to pay for that? So I always say the first thing

you do is you point out the different types of building users that are going to be in that building and different requirements they might have.

00:57:16.480 --> 00:57:31.260
Stephanie Kyle - Architect and Inclusive Design Co (Guest)
Make it personal. It could be that the client has a pregnant wife who might be struggling to get around, or they might personally break their ankle or have experience pushing kids round in prams round the shopping Centers for example.

00:57:31.880 --> 00:57:34.440
Stephanie Kyle - Architect and Inclusive Design Co (Guest)
If that doesn't work, and if

00:57:35.540 --> 00:57:59.220
Stephanie Kyle - Architect and Inclusive Design Co (Guest)
doing what's best, doing what's the right thing doesn't work, then I talk about money and how much repeat custom they could get, how much more money they could rent their apartments out for, how much more they could sell their building for at the end if its more inclusive, that sort of thing. So that's that's pretty much the order that I do things, and hopefully more architects now are in a position to speak to clients.

00:58:00.090 --> 00:58:30.010
Sue Manns (Guest)
That's super that some excellent advice for everybody. Before we move to the close, we have a final question which we aren't going to answer today because the question actually is about how does the use of technology and digital revolution, for example, crowd source mapping in crisis management, or digital consultation, help better design for, and engage with, neurodiversity. And the reason we're not going to answer it, is because this will be the focus.

00:58:30.060 --> 00:59:00.910
Sue Manns (Guest)
of the next neurodiversity in planning network Webinar, which is to be with the BBC. So the question is a great trailer for that event. So bas we reach the close of this session, I want to thank all four speakers, Magda, Gala, Alex and Stephanie, who are leading experts in this field and who have come together from three continents to share their knowledge and advice with us. I hope those who joined us both today and who will be joining us on the 15th of April.

00:59:00.970 --> 00:59:23.720
Sue Manns (Guest)
will have taken as much from today's session as I have. Hopefully we will all get out there and share what we've heard and what we've learned and really start to drive that change that we all need. So thank you all very, very much and thank you to the audience both today and on the 15th of April. Thank you and have a good day.

00:59:24.440 --> 00:59:26.270
Magda Mostafa, ASPECTSS & Architect for Autism (Guest)
Thank you Sue, bye.

00:59:26.880 --> 00:59:27.600
"Alex Pisha (Guest)"
Bye.

00:59:27.690 --> 00:59:28.240
Sue Manns (Guest)
Bye.