Symposium on Ergonomics and Design for All

Moderator: Prof. Isabella Steffan. ITALY

Theme: Ergonomics in Design

Abstract Paper

Title: Ergonomics and Inclusive Design for a safer and better quality of life: Historic Buildings and Landscapes. From a global approach to details.

Author: José Antonio Juncá Ubierna. Dr. Civil Engineer, PhD


Objectives: Highlights on ergonomics and design for all in relation with Historic Buildings and Landscapes; main ideas to put in action; from regulations to best practices; methodology to be applied; examples of details for reaching out Heritage spaces for every person.

Key words: access and design for all; historic buildings; historic landscapes; planning better access; practical examples

This Paper will focus on Historic Buildings and Landscapes applying in a proper way ergonomics and inclusive design in order to make those places more accessible, comfortable and safer for every person.

On this Paper Access and Design for all is based in two “r”: r from respect; and r from rigeur. Respect and rigeur for the person and for the monument.

General Direction of Architecture, Department of Public Works, Government of Spain works in the field of regulations on Safety and Accessibility issues in Building Code of Spain (CTE, Building Technical Code. The Fundamental Document on Safety in Use and Accessibility identifies key areas and settles the technical conditions to guarantee access for all and safe use of buildings.

From 2012 the Author is Member of a Working Group in AENOR, Spain Technical Regulation Organization in ISO, focused on Accessibility and Design for all in Heritage Historic Buildings. One of the key points is to identify methodology approaches to improve access and design for all in these buildings, respecting their historical values and providing practical, ergonomic, reasonable technical solutions in order to guarantee each "link in the chain" of accessibility.

Ergonomics and Design for all are linked in a very tight way, as far as to provide good solutions for human needs and requirements are the common goal to achieve. Built environment is diverse as humans are also diverse. As Da Vince said simple solutions, based on experience, are usually the best solutions. Handrails, for example, are key elements to provide good, safe and accessible design for all; but, sometimes, aesthetic has the priority and ergonomics and universal design are less considered; a balance is required.

Selected examples of best practice in accessibility applied in Historic Buildings in Spain will be presented, paying attention to the global approach and also to how to solve each detail, from a sensible human design.