

Thinking Differently: Architectural Design for Neurodiversity and Non-Visible Disabilities

by **Stephanie Kyle**
steph@floydslaski.co.uk



Stephanie is a Senior Architect and Inclusive Design Consultant at Floyd Slaski Architects, and the first winner of the AJ100 Change-maker of the Year Award for her contribution to the profession.

Passionate about diversity, equity and inclusion in architecture, Stephanie channels her extensive knowledge and creativity into designing innovative and aesthetically beautiful spaces, ensuring that each project not only meets the highest architectural standards but also demonstrates that inclusivity can be both functional and visually inspiring. Stephanie offers specialist guidance to other designers, clients, and decision-makers, ensuring the seamless integration of inclusive design principles throughout every stage of architectural projects.

Her expertise surpasses Part M/BS 8300, encompassing considerations for religion, gender-neutral facilities, and a specialist focus on neurodiverse inclusive design and non-visible disabilities.

Stephanie's unwavering commitment to inclusivity extends to being Assistant Professor of Architectural Design at the University of Nottingham, inspiring the next generation of architects.

Neurodiverse Inclusive Design





Neurotypical

Approx 80% of the population

Neurodivergent

Autism, ADHD, Dyspraxia

Neurodegenerative

Alzheimer's, Parkinson's

Neurodivergence is a spectrum



Level 1

Level 2

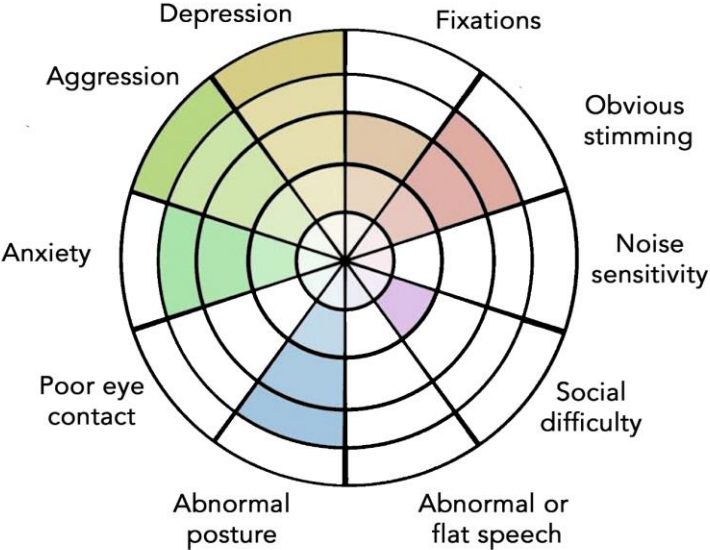
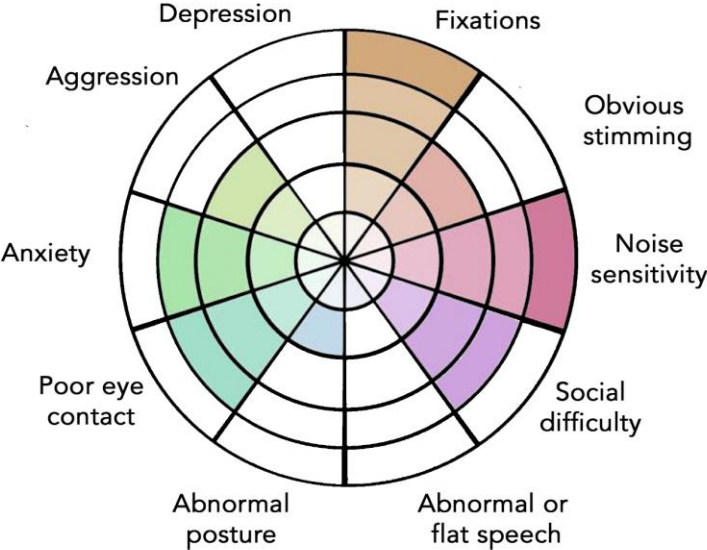
Level 3



"challenging behaviour"
"needs more support"

"seems normal"
"can do things independently"

Neurodivergence is a spectrum



Sensory Processing

Sensory processing is how information is perceived, processed and organised when received through the senses i.e., hearing, sight, smell, touch, taste and movement. To have a sensory processing difference, is to react through the senses in a different way to the majority



Design for wellbeing often benefits neurodivergent people

People who experience sensory processing differences, including many neurodivergent people, often experience worse mental health due to the extra challenges of society and environments that are provided to meet a neurotypical profile.



How do we design?



Consideration of sensory stimulation

Including sensory
seeking and sensory
avoidant options



HB Reavis London Headquarters, Photo by Spacestor

Consideration of Colour Chroma

Colour component LRV Chroma

62YY 83/382 →

Colour Palette Fandek

High

Low



CHROMA

LOWER



HIGHER



CHROMA

LOWER



HIGHER





62YY 83/382 →

Colour Palette Fandeck



10GG 83/125 →

Colour Palette Fandeck



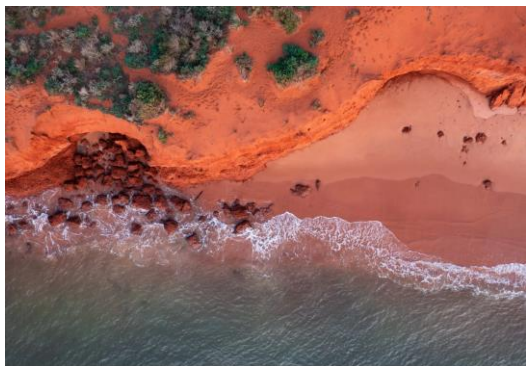
30GY 83/150 →

Colour Palette Fandeck



45GY 83/023 →

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Naturalistic geometries, shapes and forms

Using materiality and interior
design to soften hard architecture
and reduce sensory input

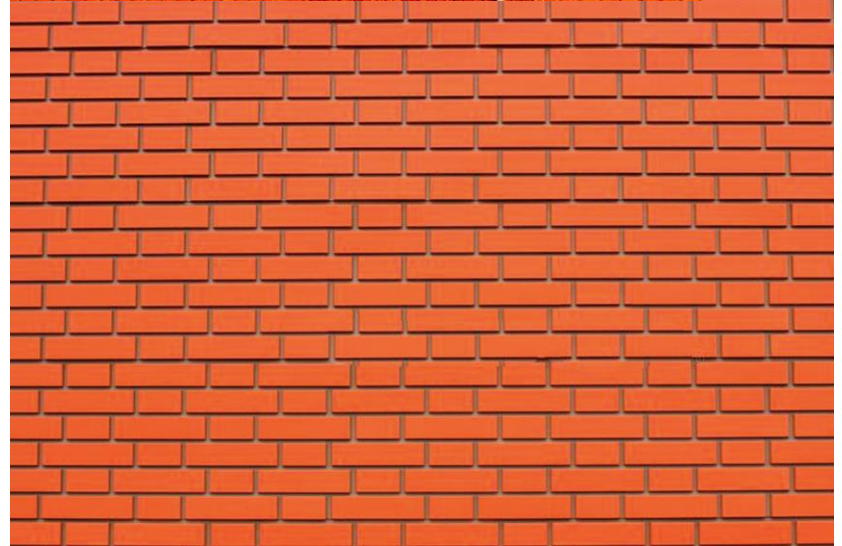
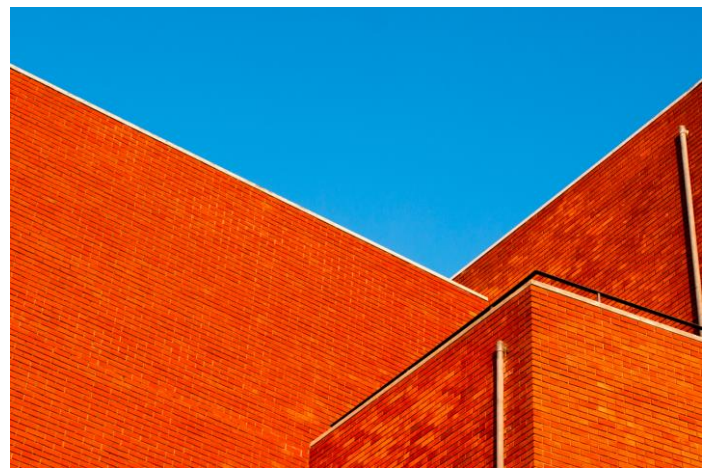




quickshooting



Neo Geometric



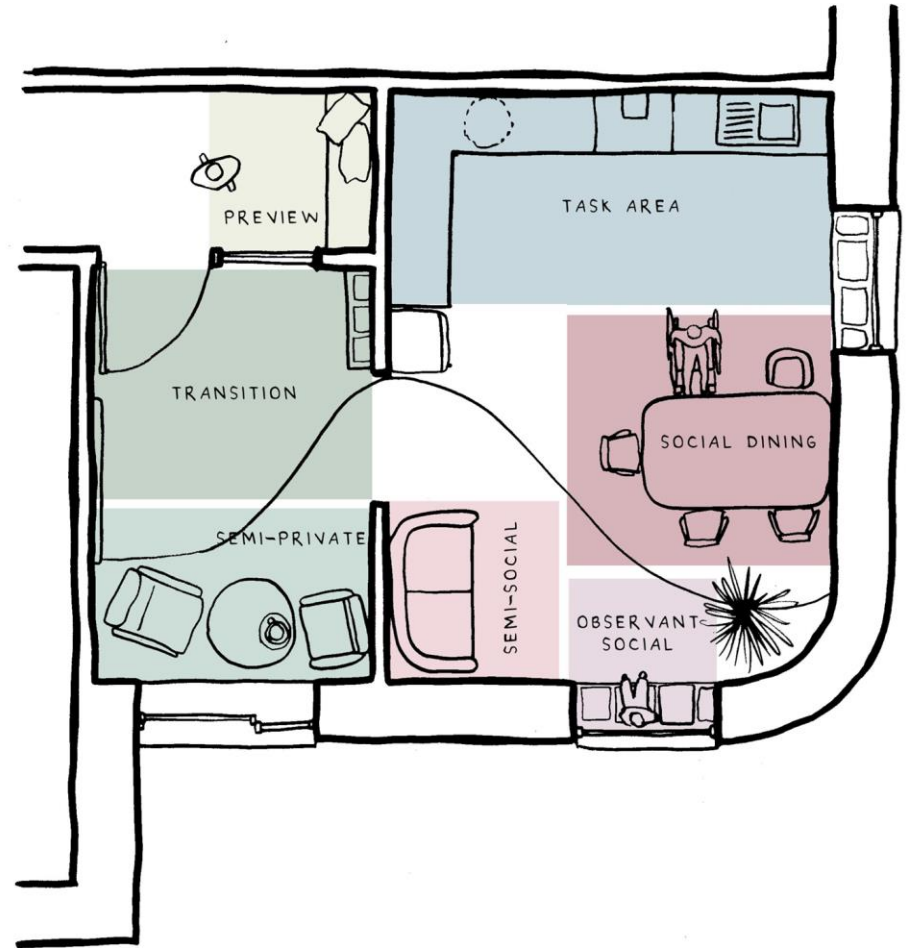
Multi-sensory wayfinding and recognition of place

Through elemental
individualism, visual, auditory
& tactile cues



Logical, stepped hierarchy of atmosphere

Incorporating preview spaces, transition spaces, wayfinding nodes and pause places







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Questions?