

Inclusive tourism: Accessibility and inclusion in Brazilian cities

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This paper is part of a research being developed in the scope of our work on accessibility done by the Pro-Access Group of *Universidade Federal do Rio de Janeiro (UFRJ)*.

Valuing the action of the individual, the settled perception, and the sensible qualities of an environment added to the senses and feelings we have while walking through an atmosphere, we will also use the work already done in Brazil by Cohen and Duarte (2006) on fondness for a Place. We intend to move forward on the issue of Inclusive Tourism, following a new sensorial and emotional perspective from a person with disability while moving and perceiving with its object of action: the touristic universe to be visited.

We work with a methodology that has involved several research procedures: the unveiling and deepening of new concepts such as atmosphere, planning tours with people with disability, monitoring and mapping pathways, the evaluation of these pathways and access, filming these pathways and experiences while conducting interviews in order to collect evidence, with both our subjects and users of touristic spaces and, with politic authorities or other people directly involved with the management of these environments.

As architects and researchers involved with accessibility and tourism for all, universal access and an anthropological perspective of investigation, we also make the most of our active observation about our own experiences. Even though in a simple way, our own daily field journal leads us to get more and more involved in our research on a daily basis.

Our work and research in Rio de Janeiro has advanced greatly and the data already collected is amazing and diversified, but still unique and not transferable to a more general assessment of all that we have already been able to observe, participate in and presume. Many of the testimonies of people with disabilities who took part in our field research were surprising, revealing the importance of a more holistic and motor experience that also involves universal access, route, touch, smell and feeling. We believe we are still in the middle of a trend that certainly has a lot to evolve into a more dynamic global Inclusion in the Brazilian Touristic Cities and, particularly, in the City of Rio de Janeiro, host of the next future Sports Megaevents.