



CIB NEWS ARTICLE

International Council for Research and Innovation
in Building and Construction

Providing a global network for international exchange and cooperation in research and innovation in building and construction, in support of an improved building process and of improved performance of the built environment.

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Around the Task Groups and Working Commissions

W084 - Building Comfortable Environments for All

Conference Report on W084: "Building Comfortable and Liveable Environments for All"

by

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The W084 Conference "Building Comfortable and Liveable Environments for All" was held on 15-16 May 2008 in Atlanta at the College of Architecture, Georgia Institute of Technology (Georgia, USA). CNR ITC - as W084 coordinator - and College of Architecture, Georgia Tech - as Conference host - were in charge of the event organization.

The goal of the Conference was to discuss the topics related to accessibility described in the following, as well as address the future trends of the built environment for all in the partner countries.



Program

The Conference was organized into six topic areas, as decided in the Technical Meeting of Cape Town, covering a wide range of issues of Accessibility and Usability of the built environment:

- Economic issues of accessibility:
 - costs for building or renovating or adapting a built space into accessible for all
- Harmonisation of legislation and standards:
 - different viewpoints and approaches from the involved countries
- Sports, Recreation and Accessible Environments:
 - case-studies of good practices in amenities and leisure areas
- Education and Training:
 - the approach of different patterns at university and workplace level
- Universal Design at the urban scale:
 - complexity of accessibility issues at large scale
- Technological tools supporting the accessible environment:
 - means of different nature implementing accessibility.

The demand for comfortable, livable built environments for all is continuously creating new challenges in design. The need to accommodate the diversities of all cultures in personal requirements and lifestyles and to enable all individuals to participate in local and global society regardless of age, abilities and culture in both developed and developing countries has opened the door for researchers and designers to meet the demand. The Conference welcomed people from different countries all over the world to discuss and address these issues.

Themes of the W084 have been for the first time extended to six areas in order to encourage participants with different professional and cultural backgrounds around the general topic of the accessible built environment.

In fact, the Working Commission met a successful favour among stakeholders and has recently welcomed

new Members. All are bringing their contribution also for future events, whose organization was also under discussion during the conclusions.

Next Meeting

The next W084 Conference will be held during the CIB World Congress in Salford 2010, while two meetings or cosponsored initiatives in 2009 are under planning for discussing the address of the future activities.

Conference Organizers

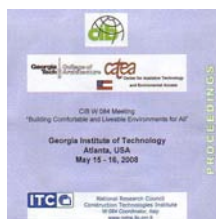
CNR (National Research Council, Italy) Construction Technologies Institute carries out building research activities, inclusive of most key-areas of the construction sector, from materials to components, to systems. The Unit of Rome is long involved in the topics of Design for All and Home technologies; it is also the Coordinator of this CIB Working Commission W084. See also: www.roma.itc.cnr.it

The Georgia Institute of Technology is one of the nation's top research universities, distinguished by its commitment to improving the human condition through advanced science and technology. Accredited by the Southern Association of Colleges and Schools (SACS), the Institute offers many nationally recognized, top-ranked programs.

Web: www.gatech.edu

Proceedings

The hard copy format of the proceedings have already been introduced in an earlier newsletter (see [here](#)) and are now also free downloadable from the ICONDA@CIBlibrary.



Click [here](#) for a direct link to download the full conference proceedings (58 MB) or the 23 separate conference papers.

Additional Information



For further information on any future events of the W084 and its activities please contact:
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