

Recommended *Minimum* Requirements for

Disabled Friendly Hotel Architecture

If you are planning to construct a new hotel, hostel or guesthouse kindly follow this simple guidelines **for all of your rooms** to provide more hospitality to disabled and elderly customers. Following these guidelines for all rooms does not mean that you don't have to build accessible facilities according to your local standards and laws.

What do disabled customers need?

Before they book a room, they simply need to know if they can use an accommodation or not. Every disability is different, so it is impossible to do it right for everybody. But if architects follow this recommendations the general needs of most disabled customers can be satisfied.

Situation

Many architects and hotel developers don't know how to build accessible rooms. Even special accessible rooms are all designed different. There are different standards for accessible architecture all over the world but most countries don't enforce any standard.

Main Problems

The bottlenecks are the too narrow bathroom doors, the design of the bathrooms and steps on the way to the rooms or into the bathroom.

Architectural Guidelines

- All passages and doors should be at least 80 cm wide
- **NO** steps from street level to the rooms
- Slopes and ramps should be 1 high on 12 long
- Doors should not open heavy and stay open
- The Lift should be spacious and at least 110 cm deep
- 80 cm space next to the bed
- Provide the architectural layout of your rooms to disabled customers

Architectural Guidelines for the bathroom

- The bathroom door has to be at least 80 cm wide
- **NO** steps to or inside the bathroom
- 80cm space next to the toilet
- Space to turn a wheelchair inside the bathroom. (circle with a diameter of 150 cm)
- A shower area is preferable to a bathtub
- **NO** step to the shower but only an area with deeper level (slopes)
- The shower head should not be fixed on the wall

Minimum Safety Guidelines

In case of emergency the staff will have to assist disabled customers to evacuate. Be aware that **deaf people can not hear the fire alarm!**