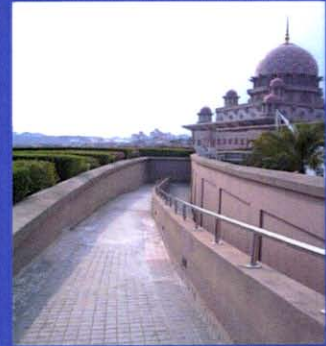
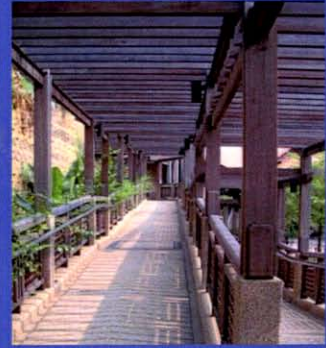


# Application of **Universal Design** in the Built Environment

Editors:  
Asiah Abdul Rahim  
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**INTERNATIONAL ISLAMIC UNIVERSITY  
MALAYSIA**

Published by:  
IIUM Press  
International Islamic University Malaysia

First Edition, 2011  
©IIUM Press, IIUM

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Perpustakaan Negara Malaysia

Cataloguing-in-Publication Data

Asiah Abdul Rahim & Ismawi Hj. Zen: Application of Universal Design in the Built Environment

ISBN: 978-967-418-205-2

Member of Majlis Penerbitan Ilmiah Malaysia – MAPIM  
(Malaysian Scholarly Publishing Council)

Printed by :  
**IIUM PRINTING SDN. BHD.**  
No. 1, Jalan Industri Batu Caves 1/3  
Taman Perindustrian Batu Caves  
Batu Caves Centre Point  
68100 Batu Caves  
Selangor Darul Ehsan

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# **CHAPTER 1: UNIVERSAL DESIGN AND ACCESS AUDIT**

*Asiah Abdul Rahim and Nur Amirah Abd Samad*

## **UNIVERSAL DESIGN**

Universal Design is defined as the design of products and environments to be usable by all people, to the greatest extent possible, without adaptation or specialized design. Universal design however is concerned with more than just removal barriers. It seeks to eliminate discrimination by design and support full social participation for all members of society.

According to Follete (2002), Universal Design is intended to be inclusive not exclusive. Universal design is the idea that everyone should have access to everything all of the time and the impact it has had on the design of the home, workplace, transportation, communications, computers, furniture, products and services to meet the needs of as large audience as possible.

Universal Design is trans-generational design – design for grandfather as well as for grandchild. It is not designing within the vacuum of self. According to Steinfield (2002), universal design is defined as the design of products and environments to be usable by all people, to the greatest extent possible without adaptation or specialized design. The universal design is accompanied by and linked to a set of seven principles. The intention is that the seven principles may be applied to evaluate existing designs, guide the design process and educate both designers and consumers about the characteristics of more usable products and environments.