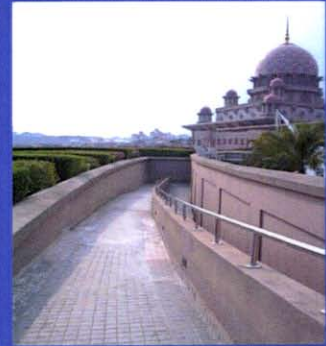
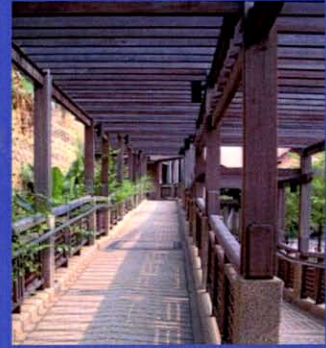


# Application of **Universal Design** in the Built Environment

Editors:  
Asiah Abdul Rahim  
Ismawi Hj Zen



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**INTERNATIONAL ISLAMIC UNIVERSITY  
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## **CHAPTER 5: ACCESSIBILITY FOR PEOPLE WITH DISABILITIES (PwDs) WITHIN HOUSING AREA**

*Aniza Abu Bakar and Norliza Muhamad*

### **BACKGROUND**

Housing can be defined as “...a place in which the basic human activities of sleeping, eating, washing, storage of possessions, social contact, recreation and care within the self-selected household take place” (Heywood et al, 2002: p.3). The components of a housing development such as housing itself, commercial buildings (business area), institutions such as schools and mosque, as well as open space for recreation imply their importance in giving support and services in one’s life. Thus, it reflects or includes the human settlement as a whole (Sudin, 2002).

Housing and its development components play a vital role in one’s everyday life, particularly to those who have limited access to venture beyond this locality. It can be said that generally people with disabilities have limited spaces for their activity that affects their ability to live independently as well as their life quality and satisfaction (Phillips, 1999). Hence, problems in accessing these service areas would also mean increasing isolation and may lead to loss of independence (Heywood et al, 2002).

In studying accessibility in the housing environment, Phillips (1999) divided the housing environment into three types or levels, which are:

- the micro-scale - the internal environment such as the home design, access, maintenance and architectural aspects;