Sensing Architecture in Chicago: Developing Tours for Visually Impaired Visitors

A+DEN post conference workshop
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THE DESIGN PROCESS

DEFINE the problem

COLLECT information

BRAINSTORM and analyze ideas

DEVELOP solutions / build a test a model

PRESENT your ideas to others for FEEDBACK

IMPROVE on your design
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Choose buildings with strong tactile features.
Ideally, each guest needs their own companion.
Building descriptions need to be extremely evocative (strong adjectives, analogies)
It’s ok to use colloquial expressions with ‘see’.
Guests need to be able to hear the city and the docent (without audio assistance) to orient themselves in the space.
Models are most helpful in understanding what the eye might see – the overall massing of the building.
1. Orient within the space/place.
2. Touch the model.
3. Interact with building and listen.
Find ways to experience the building or space with the whole body.
Dogs don’t fit through revolving doors.
Use alt-text to label all website images.

Image3486.jpg
blindtour1.jpg

versus

A group of three women, one who is blind and one who is a guide, stand in a circle and touch a 3D printed model of the Chicago Federal Center.
Larger learnings
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