A-to-Z Manifesto of Equitable, Inclusive & Humane Design for the Built Environment

Human-centric ideas for design process through the lens of equity & inclusion:

A - Amplify voices of end users in the design process & project outcomes.

B - Beauty is a human right.

C - Center community at the heart of your design work.

D - Design your values to be an agent of change for the greater good.

E - Empower others so that designers don’t hold all the power.

F - Functional design must consider user’s physical, emotional, & social concerns.

G - Get rid of all barriers.

H - Human-centered design principles are crucial for designing for humans.

I - Impact of design must be positive: leave handprints, not footprints.

J - Justice must be enabled through design of the built environment.

K - Keep bias at bay and out of the design process.

L - Look at your work through the eyes of others.

M - Materials must not harm people and planet.

N - Normal is not inclusive. Say no to normal and design for everyone.

O - Outcomes of design affect people today & in the future: ensure they are positive.

P - Practice participatory design strategies to facilitate better design solutions for all.

Q - Quality of life enhancement for all people is the end goal for design.

R - Redistribute justice for people at the margins through your design work.

S - Sustainability extends beyond protecting nature; include humanity too.

T - Turn assumptions into understanding.

U - Undo systemic racism and dismantle systems that perpetuate bias.

V - Validate your design solutions through measurable impacts.

W - Work on yourself to become a more empathic designer.

X - Xenial spaces are welcoming and hospitable. Design xenial spaces, not hostile ones.

Y - You are a citizen before designer; act accordingly.

Z - Zero tolerance for oppression. Use design to reverse it.

This manifesto was developed by Royce Epstein of Dissent by Design. Visit www.dissentbydesign.net to learn more. @dissent_by_design