

**IMPLEMENTATION OF UNIVERSAL DESIGN STRATEGIES IN A
UROLOGY SPECIALIST HOSPITAL IN APO, ABUJA**

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JULY, 2023

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BY

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**A DISSERTATION SUBMITTED TO THE SCHOOL OF POSTGRADUATE
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THE AWARD OF THE MASTER OF ARCHITECTURE (M.Sc.) DEGREE
IN ARCHITECTURE IN THE DEPARTMENT OF ARCHITECTURE,
COLLEGE OF SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY, COVENANT
UNIVERSITY, OTA, OGUN STATE, NIGERIA**

JULY, 2023

ACCEPTANCE

This is to attest to this dissertation is accepted in partial fulfilment of the requirements for the award of the degree of Masters of Science (Msc) Degree in the Department of Architecture, College of Science and Technology, Covenant University.

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Signature and Date

DECLARATION

I, BALAMI ZAPPA (12CA014045) declare that this research was carried out by me under the supervision of Dr. Olatunde D. Babalola, of the Department of Architecture, College of Science and Technology, Covenant University, Ota, Nigeria. I attest that the dissertation has neither been presented wholly nor partly for the award of any degree elsewhere. All data sources and scholarly information used in this dissertation are duly acknowledged.

BALAMI, ZAPPA

Signature and Date

CERTIFICATION

This is to certify that this dissertation titled “**IMPLEMENTATION OF UNIVERSAL DESIGN STRATEGIES IN THE DESIGN OF A UROLOGY HOSPITAL IN ABUJA, NIGERIA**” is an original research work carried out by **BALAMI, ZAPPA (12CA014045)** in the Department of Architecture, College of Science and Technology, Covenant University, Ota, Ogun state, Nigeria under the supervision of Dr. Olatunde D. Babalola. This dissertation has met the required standard for the award of Master of Science (M.Sc.) in Architecture.

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DEDICATION

This thesis is dedicated to Almighty God for the grace and privilege He has given me to carry out this work.

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ABSTRACT

Universal design aims to create environments that are accessible and inclusive for all individuals, regardless of their age, abilities, or disabilities. The application of universal design principles in healthcare facilities is crucial to ensure equitable access to healthcare services and enhance the overall patient experience. The research methodology involved a comprehensive literature review on universal design principles, accessibility guidelines, and healthcare facility design standards. The study also incorporated site visits to existing healthcare facilities in Abuja, interviews with healthcare professionals, and consultations with experts in the field of universal design. Based on the findings, a set of universal design strategies were developed specifically for the urology specialist hospital. These strategies encompassed various aspects of the hospital's design, including architectural elements, spatial organization, interior design, wayfinding, and technological integration. Considerations were given to the needs of individuals with mobility impairments, visual and hearing impairments, and cognitive disabilities. The proposed universal design strategies not only aimed to meet accessibility standards but also aimed to create a welcoming and inclusive environment for patients, staff, and visitors. By incorporating these strategies, the urology specialist hospital in Abuja can provide optimal care to all patients, regardless of their physical or cognitive abilities, ensuring that they receive equitable access to healthcare services. Out of a total of 237 questionnaires sent out only 103 were retrieved which implies the response rate is 43% however since the minimum calculated sample size is 43 this 103 being higher than the minimum sample size is satisfactory. The findings of this study contribute to the growing body of knowledge on universal design in healthcare facility design. The implementation of universal design strategies in the urology specialist hospital serves as a model for future healthcare projects in Nigeria and beyond, emphasizing the importance of inclusivity and accessibility in healthcare environment.

Keyword: Universal Design, Urology, Specialist Hospital, Inclusive Environment