



Biosketch

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Dr. Gaurav Raheja is an Associate Professor of Architecture at the Indian Institute of Technology (IIT), Roorkee with over ten years of teaching and research experience. He is also a Joint Faculty at the Centre for Excellence in Transportation Systems (CTRANS) at IIT Roorkee. Driven by a passion for design thinking, architecture and human-space interactions, his professional interests span from inclusive designs for persons with disabilities, children and aging populations to developing ethnographic studies of human-space relationships. He has been a DAAD (German Academic Exchange Service) Fellow and a visiting professor to various German Universities like Technische Universität Berlin, University of Duisburg-Essen and Technische Universität Darmstadt during 2016 under the DAAD IIT Faculty Exchange Fellowship.

He is a recipient of the Mphasis *Universal Design Award* in 2010, conferred upon him by the National Centre for Promotion and Employment of Disabled Persons (NCPEDP), India for his professional design and research contributions in the domain of accessibility for persons with disabilities.

Dr. Raheja has been one of the thirty International Scholars selected for '*City of the Future*', the DAAD Science Tour held during February, 2016. Further he was selected as an expert for the '*Smart Cities: Challenges and Opportunities*' organized by Indo German Science Technology Centre in Berlin. He has also been a recipient of the funding by the Excellence Initiative of the German Federal Government to participate in an International Summer School on Smart Cities titled '*SynCity 2014: The City of the Future*' at Technical University of Dresden, Germany.

He serves as an Expert Member in various national committees on accessibility standards and National Awards on Barrier Free Environment in Ministry of Urban Development and Ministry of Social Justice and Empowerment, Govt. of India respectively. Dr. Raheja is one of the co-authors of the *Universal Design India Principles*, copyrighted and released in 2011, principally led by the Head, Jamsetji Tata Chair for Universal Design at NID, Ahmedabad.

He is a key consultant to the Ministry of Social Justice and Empowerment, Govt. of India under the Accessible India Campaign for some of the prestigious projects of access audit including *Prime Minister's Office, Indira Gandhi International Airport (T-3, T-1), New Delhi, New Delhi Railway Station, North Block and South Block, Central Secretariat, New Delhi*. His doctoral research cited in **World Disability Report 2011**, published by WHO & World Bank, offers an insight into Inclusive Design Approach for Rural contexts using Universal Design approach., Dr. Raheja recently authored a book titled *Enabling Environments for the Mobility Impaired in the Rural Areas*, published by Lambert, Germany and foreworded by Prof. Edward Steinfeld, Director, Inclusive Design Environmental Access (IDeA) Center at State University of New York(SUNY), Buffalo, USA.

He was actively involved in transforming the Indian Institute of Technology (IIT), Roorkee campus into a universally accessible and barrier free campus as a Campus Institute Architect during 2007. He has served as an accessibility consultant to Jawaharlal Nehru University (JNU) campus in New Delhi and Tata Institute of Social Sciences (TISS) campus in Mumbai in 2012 and 2014 respectively.

He is guiding doctoral dissertations at IIT on varied domains of inclusivity like Developing accessibility assessment frameworks, Inclusive Tourism for Elderly and Children perspectives in urban development besides other aspects of mobility in urban contexts. He has developed core and elective courses on *Barrier Free Transportation and Universal Design & Accessibility Planning* at Post graduate level in Infrastructure Systems and Architecture & Planning at IIT Roorkee. He is a well known national expert and an invited speaker/panelist in the domain of accessibility planning, universal design, urban inclusion and design education at various forums like Institute for Transport Research, DLR (German Aerospace Agency), Berlin, Confederation of Indian Industries, New Delhi, IIM Ahmedabad, World Health Organisation South East Asia Regional Office, New Delhi, TISS, Mumbai, JNU, New Delhi and several others.

Dr. Raheja has been actively engaged in the management and mentoring of 'Anushruti', a social initiative of IIT Roorkee for formal and vocational education of children with hearing impairments largely from low income communities. Advocacy and sensitisation for accessibility & inclusive cultures, social sustainability and human centered approaches to designing living environments remain his core interests alongwith storytelling, photo narratives and learning experiments as part of his pedagogic expression.