

# **Guidelines for building sight in favour of visually impaired people and of the general public**

## **Principles**

The general public and especially visually impaired people need clear visual perceptibility of their environment, their way and their aim. The visual world has to be clearly structured and has to present well shaped objects and signs. Especially the artificial world like pathways, buildings, letters and signs should meet certain requirements. Those requirements may differ from artistically made designs, which could be imposing, but not always serving the purpose.

In an exhibition world, where nearly all visitors new and external, the conditions of sight have to be optimised. The visual representation of exhibition world and the artistically made designs, as well, has to follow some formal principles:

Visual perception of objects, signs and information depends mainly on the suitable (not maximised) design of

- luminance contrast  
(means the brightness difference between an object and its surrounding)
- brightness  
(means the intensity or power of light)
- size of the object or sign

The formal principles are given and measured by candela per squaremeter ( $\text{cd}/\text{m}^2$ ) for luminance contrasts, by lux (lx) and by angle of vision (angle degree).

Luminance contrast is more important than differences of colours. The formal principles do not disturb the artistical design.

If the structuring of the visual world commences together with the planning of the buildings, rooms, ways, roads and other engineering work, there should be no additional costs.

## **Details for building sight you find here:**

Bundesministerium für Gesundheit (Hrsg.). (1996). Handbuch für Planer und Praktiker. Verbesserung von visuellen Informationen im öffentlichen Raum. Bad Homburg v.d.H. FMS. ISBN 3-926181-28-1.

Translation into English by UK Ministry of Transport, London.  
Improvement of visual information in public spaces.  
Handbook for planners and experts.

For the design of the contrast, the brightness, the colour and the shape of visual signs and markings in traffic areas, as well as in buildings that are pleasing to the public and suitable for disabled people

German Federal Ministry of Health, Bonn, 1996

Download: [www.mobilitaet-verkehr.de](http://www.mobilitaet-verkehr.de) (in English)

Bundesministerium für Gesundheit und PRO RETINA Deutschland e.v.) (Hrsg.)(2012). Barrierefrei – und jeder weiß, wo es lang geht!

Gefahrenabsicherung, Orientierung und Komforterhöhung durch Kontraste. Broschüre für aktive Mitglieder der Selbsthilfe.

Download: [www.pro-retina.de](http://www.pro-retina.de) und [www.mobilitaet-verkehr.de](http://www.mobilitaet-verkehr.de) (in German language)

(German Federal Ministry of Health, Bonn/Berlin and PRO RETINA Deutschland e.V. (ed.)(2012). Barrier-free – all should know, where to go! Protection against dangers, orientation and improvement of amenities by applying visual contrasts. Brochure for active members of organised self help.)

Download: <http://www.mobilitaet-verkehr.de/Kontrastbroschuere.pdf> (in German language)

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