

## SOCIAL POLICY

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Social policy consists of public measures aimed at improving social welfare, equality and quality of life. It includes areas such as healthcare, housing, employment, education, social services and family support. Its goal is to reduce social inequalities and ensure that people have dignified conditions for life and participation in society. In this context, well-being is understood not only as material security but also as physical, emotional and social quality of life.

Architecture plays an important role within social policy because the design of the built environment can either support or limit social inclusion. Space influences how safe, independent and connected people feel. Concepts such as accessibility, safety and universal design therefore form the link between social policy and spatial planning. Through design, society expresses its values, spaces that exclude vulnerable groups reproduce social inequality, while inclusive environments promote equal opportunities.

Examples of good architectural practices demonstrate how design can directly improve well-being. Accessible design solutions enable participation for people with different abilities. For example, wheelchair-accessible playground swings allow children with mobility impairments to engage in play with others. The Room for All hotel concept integrates accessible design without compromising aesthetics, showing that inclusion and quality can coexist. Hazelwood School in Glasgow, designed for visually impaired students, uses sensory materials, light contrasts and clear spatial organisation to ensure safety and orientation. Motion sensor doors, transparent partitions for better visual connectivity and inclusive circulation systems such as the Orange Peel Ramp by Paulo Merlini Architects are all examples of thoughtful, user-centred architecture.

Inclusive architecture also addresses risks that are not immediately visible. Poorly designed spaces can create barriers or even dangers, for example, inclined interior walls can be hazardous for blind users because they are not detectable by a cane. Designing for safety, dignity and independence requires awareness of diverse user experiences.

In summary, social policy and architecture are deeply connected through the shared goal of improving well-being. Good design is not only a technical matter but also a social responsibility. By integrating inclusive and human-centred principles into the built environment, architecture becomes a tool for social justice, enabling participation and equality in everyday life.