-----When HCI Meets Architecture-----

In this seminar I will talk about SiDE and our research projects, introduce my PhD research and explain how the methods developed in this work have lead me, an architectural researcher, to working within the field of HCI.

The SiDE Research Hub, based between the University of Dundee and Newcastle University, researches four areas: Accessibility, Connected Home and Community, Creative Industries, and Inclusive Transport. I will present a selection of in-depth examples from our projects, such as the Portrait Project, the Ambient Kitchen and the SiDE Driving Lab, which capture SiDE’s focus and exemplify our collective objective: Social Inclusion through the Digital Economy.

I will give an overview of my Architectural PhD research, ‘The way-finding journey with a large Public Building: A user centered study of the holistic way-finding experience’. This study investigated the social, spatial, temporal and physical ‘hot-spots’ (enabling and disabling elements of a building), as experienced by people with a range of visual impairment. I will present the methods developed and findings uncovered in this research, before discussing how they were the starting point for new research within realm of HCI through our newly funded project BESiDE.

**BESiDE: Built Environment for Social Inclusion in the Digital Economy**, the Accessibility team’s most recently RCUK funded project, is where Human Computing Interaction is meeting Architecture. Partnering with architects, professional bodies and care home providers, and working across disciplines of computing, architecture, medicine and design, this research will address a knowledge gap in how to design the built environment to better support older people. Adopting a range of methods, including observations, critical analyses from stakeholder interactions, and data from personal and ambient sensors in conjunction with floor plans of project partner care homes, we will provide understanding of care home designs that enable mobility.

This seminar will be of key interest to anyone immersed in the field of human-centered design, as well as those working within fields of rehabilitation and enablement, and those interested in themes of wellbeing, technology, independence and mobility within the built environment.

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