



WELCOME!

You're Invited to
CURATED CONVERSATIONS



*Embracing Neurodiversity in Interior
Design- Unique Minds- Collective Strength*

MAY 22ND, 2025



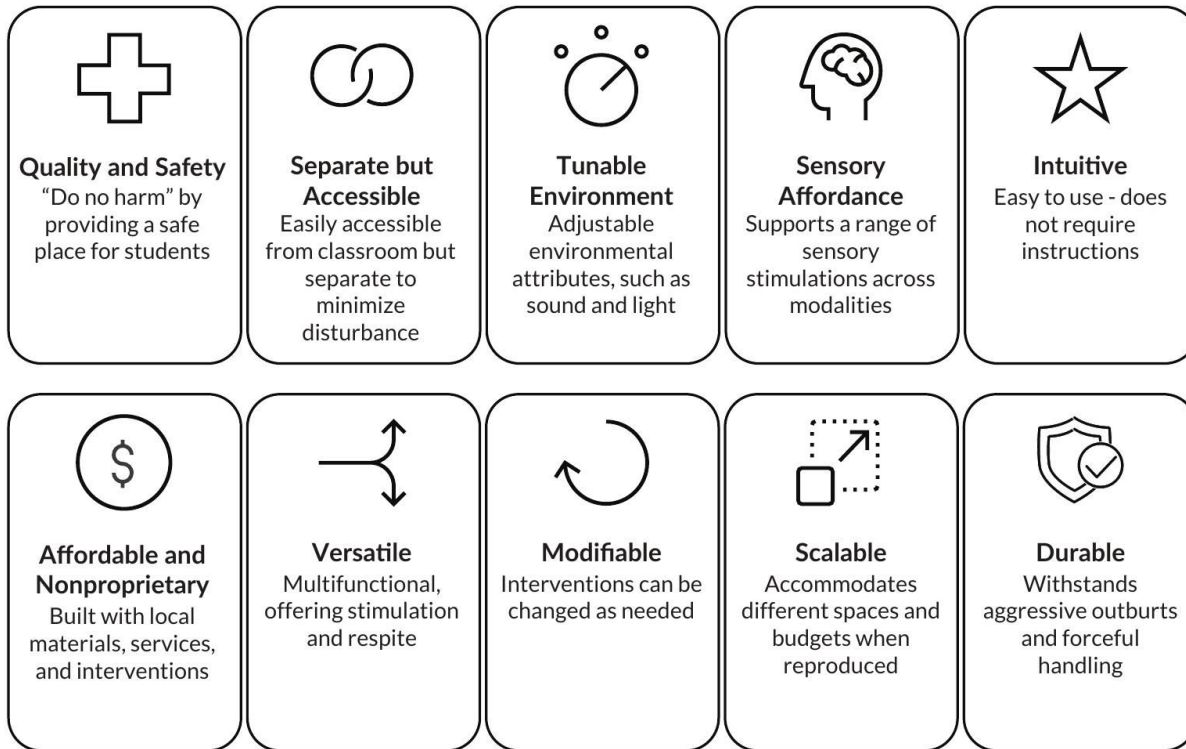
What is Neurodiversity

- ❑ **DEFINITION**: Neurodiversity refers to the concept that neurological differences are natural variations of the human brain.
- ❑ **EXAMPLES**: Includes conditions such as autism, ADHD, dyslexia, and others.
- ❑ **PERSPECTIVE**: These differences should be recognized and respected as part of human diversity.
- ❑ **ADVOCACY**: Promote the inclusion and accommodation of neurodivergent individuals in all aspects of society.
- ❑ **FOCUS**: Recognize both the strengths and challenges of neurodivergent individuals.



Neurodiversity in My Life

“Neurodiversity is personal to me—my brother is autistic, my husband has ADHD, and both my sisters live with anxiety and sensory sensitivity. You might not always see neurodiversity, but it’s real and deserves respect, understanding, and inclusion.”



Design Elements that Impact Neurodiversity

- ❑ **SENSORY SENSITIVITY:** Strategies for managing lighting, sound control, and textures.
- ❑ **FLEXIBLE AND ADAPTABLE SPACES:** Importance of spaces that can be easily modified to suit different needs.
- ❑ **ORGANIZED AND PREDICTABLE LAYOUTS:** Benefits of clear pathways and logical arrangements to reduce anxiety.
- ❑ **BIOPHILIC DESIGN:** Incorporating natural elements like plants, natural light, and outdoor views.



Pittsburgh International Airport-Presley's Place

- ❑ **REAL PLANE CABIN EXPERIENCE:**
 - Features a real plane cabin—seats, overhead bins, and working lights.
 - Provides a safe, controlled space individuals to get comfortable with flying.

- ❑ **COMMUNITY INVOLVEMENT:**
 - Developed with input from over 40 organizations and numerous parents.



Pittsburgh International Airport-Presley's Place

- ❑ **CALMING TRANSITION FOYER:**
 - A dedicated area designed to help individuals transition from the bustling airport environment to a more serene space.
- ❑ **SENSORY-FRIENDLY DESIGN:**
 - Fully soundproof rooms to minimize noise disturbances.
 - Calming atmosphere with adjustable lighting and sensory-friendly materials.

Pittsburgh International Airport-Presley's Place

❑ MULTIPLE ROOMS FOR DIFFERENT NEEDS:

- Family Room: A space where families can relax together.
- Individual Rooms: Equipped with bubble tubes and other calming features.
- Adult Area: A soundproof area specifically for adults.

❑ ACCESSIBILITY FEATURES:

- Public bathroom includes an adult changing table and an adjustable sink.

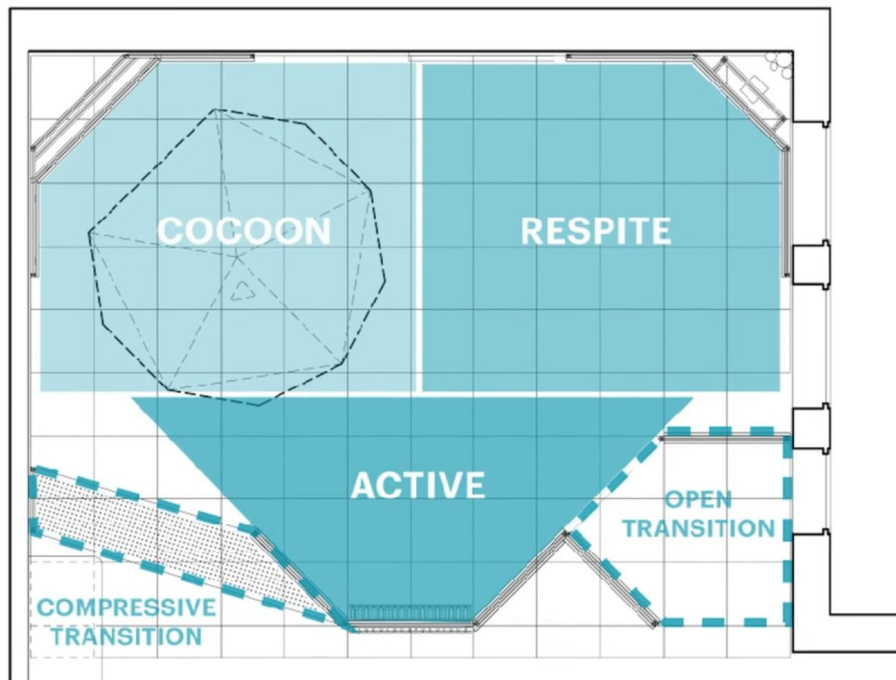




Pittsburgh International Airport - Impacts & Benefits

- ❑ **STRESS REDUCTION:** Provides a safe space for neurodivergent travelers to decompress and prepare for their journey, reducing travel-related stress.
- ❑ **INCLUSIVITY:** Ensures that all travelers, regardless of their neurological differences, have access to a supportive and accommodating environment.
- ❑ **MODEL FOR OTHER AIRPORTS:** Has become a model for other airports, inspiring similar initiatives at places like Seattle-Tacoma International Airport & Kansas City International Airport

Lane Tech College Prep High School - Chicago



- ❑ **WINNER OF ASID 2020 OUTCOME OF DESIGN AWARD - Social Impact**
- ❑ **MODULAR DESIGN**
 - Built with a demountable framing structure, the hub resembles a high-tech playset with zones for both calming and stimulating activities.
- ❑ **CUSTOMIZABLE SENSORY INPUTS**
 - Media wall with a touchscreen, color-changing lights, and sound system tailored to sensory needs.

Lane Tech College Prep High School - Chicago

❑ MULTI-SENSORY ZONES

- Offers audio, visual, kinesthetic, and tactile experiences to help students regulate from states of hyper- or hypo-stimulation.

❑ STUDENT CENTERED

- Designed based on research showing that each neurodiverse learner has unique preferences for sensory regulation.

❑ PURPOSE DRIVEN

- Not meant for entertainment, but to help students refocus, calm down, and return to learning on their own terms.

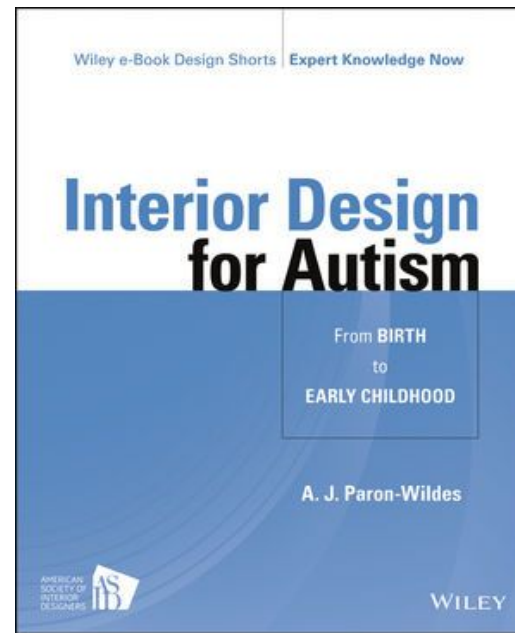




Lane Tech College Prep High School - Impacts & Benefits

- ❑ **INCLUSIVE**: Provides a safe, supportive space for students with autism, developmental disabilities, or sensory processing challenges.
- ❑ **REGULATING**: Helps reduce behavioral issues by offering a place to decompress and regain emotional balance.
- ❑ **EMPOWERING**: Supports teachers by giving students a tool to self-regulate, improving classroom engagement and learning outcomes.





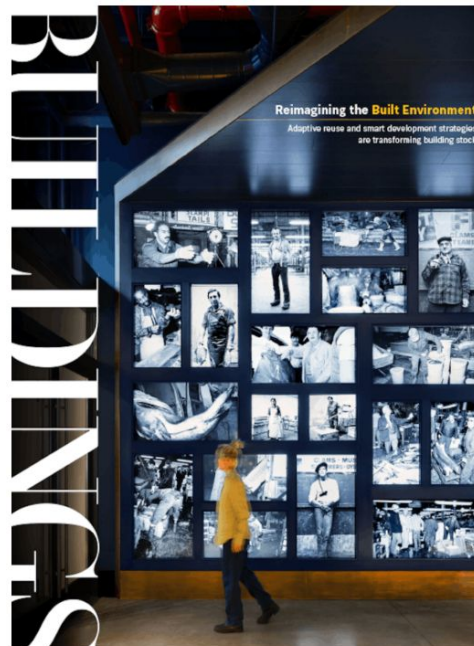
ASID Experts

❑ AJ (Paron-Wildes) Paron: EVP + Design Futurist SANDOW Design Group

- AJ has also been a design consultant for interiors in healthcare and education, specifically dealing with autism. From school settings, therapy environments to her most noted work on the building for the MIND Institute in Sacramento, California; AJ has used her skills as a designer and blended them with her experience of raising a son with autism.

❑ Angie Scott

- Angie Scott, Ph.D., Allied ASID, is a design researcher, educator, and cultural well-being strategist. Angie is internationally known as a health equity leader and creator of an award-winning equity rating. She previously served as a tenure-track Professor of Interior Design and strongly believes that the built environment should be equitable for everyone regardless of race, gender, age, or ability. Her research takes a salutogenic approach to the built environment focused on the intersection of design and well-being with an emphasis on cultural well-being.





Learning Resources

- ❑ **Neurodiversity & Workplace Inclusion CEU**
- ❑ **Lane Tech College Prep High School Key Design Outcomes**
- ❑ **A Look Inside Presley's Place**
- ❑ **ASPECTSS - Architecture for Autism**
- ❑ **When We Design for Autism We Design for Everyone**

Thank you!

NEW DATE

Come Join Us for

CURATED CONVERSATIONS

A series for Connection and Understanding



*Navigating Ethnicity, Culture & More
in the Interior Design Profession*

JUNE 26TH, 2025

5:30 P.M.-7:00 P.M.

FLOOR 360

5117 VERONA RD, MADISON, WI 53711

Save The Date

AMERICAN
SOCIETY OF
INTERIOR
DESIGNERS
WISCONSIN

