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## Design of Places of Worship for People with Special Needs

Tedi Kurniawan\*

Community College of Qatar, Qatar

\*Correspondence: E-mail: [tedi.kurniawan@ccq.edu.qa](mailto:tedi.kurniawan@ccq.edu.qa)

### ABSTRACTS

The purpose of this study is to describe the criteria for designing places of worship for people with disabilities. This paper was based on a review of the literature from a variety of sources, with a focus on Indonesian sources. The paper also included instructions on how to design places in the building for washing and ablation (wudhu) as well as worship (shalat). This research will presumably serve as a reference and guidance for architectural and environmental design, notably in hospitals, schools, and public buildings for people with special needs (i.e. wheelchairs, crutches, and canes for the blind).

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## 1. INTRODUCTION

One of the important places in building, especially in the Islamic countries, is place for worship (shalat). Worship is crucial since Muslim people do praying 5 times per day.

For this reason, the main idea for writing this paper is to explain the designed place for worship. In Indonesia, the designed place for worship in the building is regulated in Peraturan Menteri Pekerjaan Umum No.14/PRT/M/2017. This design is the provision of places of worship inside the building, as a way to facilitate building users to carry out their religious obligations.

Although many reports showed the designed place for worship, information for building this place for people with special needs are limited. People with special needs are people with special characteristics that are different from people in general because of their disability, especially from the physical side. Because of the characteristics and barriers, they have, people with special needs require special forms of service that are tailored to their abilities and potential (Soetan *et al.*, 2021). For example, their blind people need to modify the reading text into Braille. Deaf people communicate using sign language. People with disabilities and physical disabilities need special assistance in terms of room design (Maryanti *et al.*, 2021).

Due to the limitations of people with special needs, a special building or room design is required. Several designs of space and dimensions in the building have been discussed (Rahmat, 2021; Al Qushai *et al.*, 2021; Sudarjat, 2022; Kurnawan, 2022). One of the design things that will be discussed is the place of prayer. Prayer is something that is important and cannot be abandoned by Muslims, even though they are in a state of special needs. Therefore, the purpose of this study is to describe the criteria for designing places of worship for people with disabilities. This research will presumably serve as a reference and guidance for architectural and environmental design, notably in hospitals, schools, and public buildings for people with special needs (i.e. wheelchairs, crutches, and canes for the blind).

## 2. METHODS

The paper was a literature study, gained from some information about the standard size of space and the environment, and, specifically, this report focused on the design of place for worship for people with special needs.

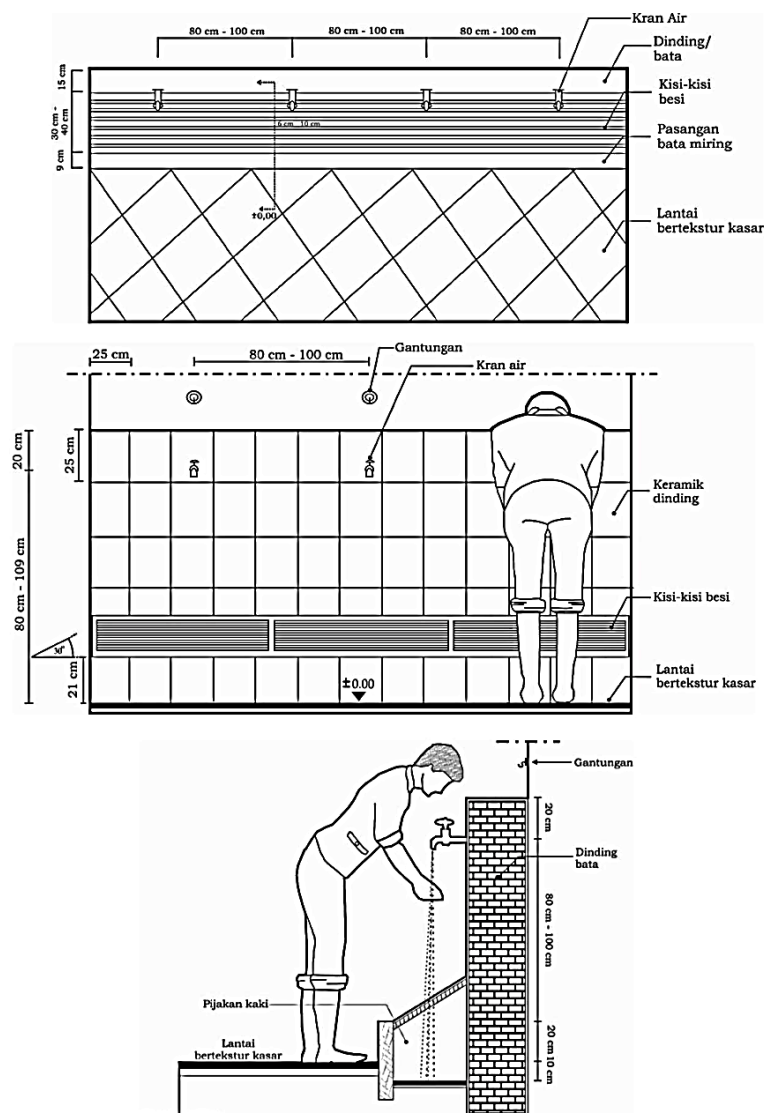
## 3. RESULTS AND DISCUSSION

To make places for worship, several requirements are:

- (i) The worship space must be placed together with the building or specifically separately in a suitable, holy, easy to get and accessible location equipped with informative directions and markers.
- (ii) The prayer room can be a prayer room, mosque or praying room in a public building or a meditation room for international facilities.
- (iii) Worship rooms for men and women can be provided separately or combined and equipped with worship facilities.
- (iv) It is recommended that the entrance to the prayer room or mosque is not directly facing the Qibla direction.
- (v) The prayer room or mosque is equipped with an ablution room with the following conditions:
  - a. The ablution room for men and women must be separated.
  - b. The ablution room with the toilet or bathroom must be separate.

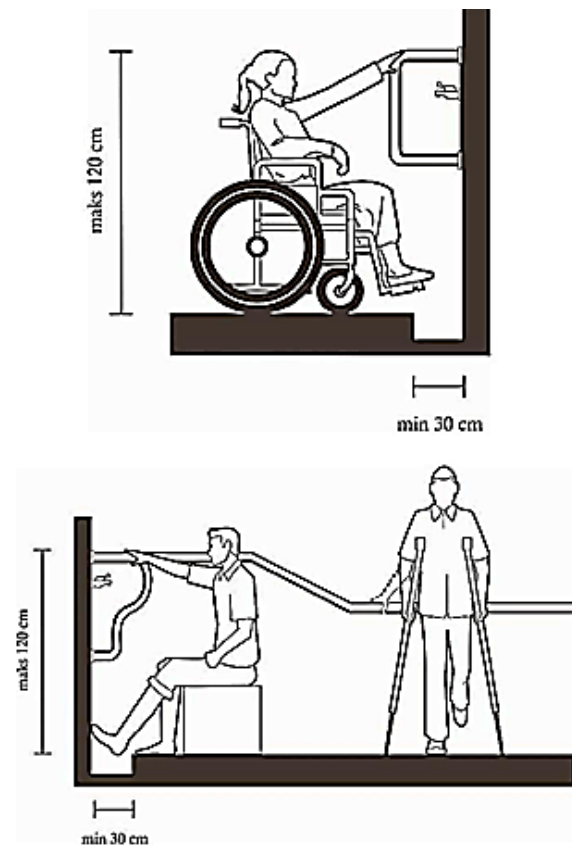
- c. The floor of the ablution room must use a coarse-textured material, not slippery and easy to clean.
  - d. The ablution room must be accessible easily and safely by building users and building visitors.
  - e. The distance between water taps in the ablution room is 80 cm - 100 cm with a water faucet height of 80 cm - 100 cm, and
  - f. The ablution room must have adequate lighting and ventilation systems.
- (vi) Completeness that can be provided in the ablution room, among others:
- a. Seat.
  - b. Foot step.
  - c. A place to put personal items during ablution.
  - d. Hanger.
  - e. Mirror.

**Figure 1** is a design view of a general ablution place (sambal standing). Broadly speaking, the ablution place must consist of a water faucet for washing and a place for disposal. **Figure 2** is a view of the ablution place that can be used while sitting.

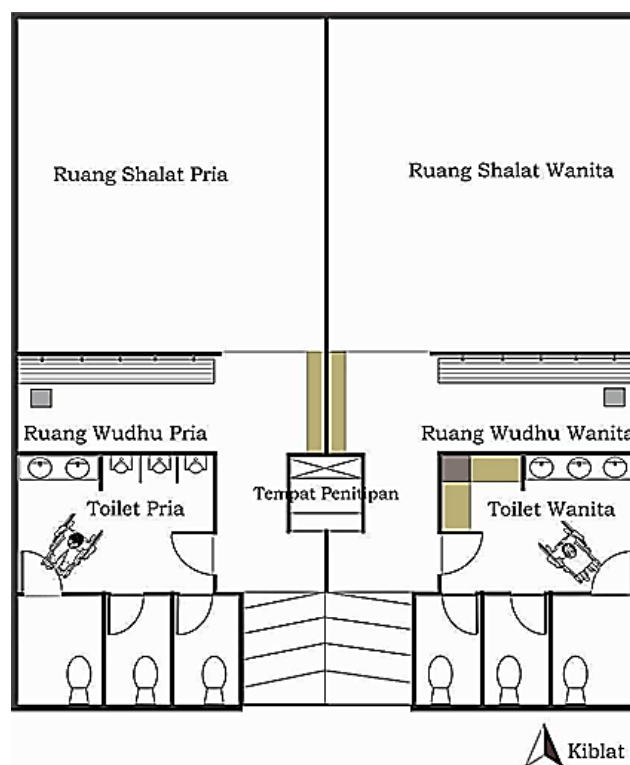


**Figure 1.** Dimensions where ablution stands (plan, view, and cut). The image was taken from <https://eprints.uny.ac.id/63842/4/BAB%20II.pdf>.





**Figure 3.** Dimensions of the ablution seat for persons with disabilities. The image was taken from <https://eprints.uny.ac.id/63842/4/BAB%20II.pdf>.



**Figure 4.** Example of a mosque/prayer room floor plan. The image was taken from <https://eprints.uny.ac.id/63842/4/BAB%20II.pdf>.

#### 4. CONCLUSION

The explanation on the standard designed places of worship for people with special needs is reported. This paper was written based on a literature study from various sources, particularly sources in Indonesia. The paper was also completed with how to design places, including washing and ablation (wudhu) and worship (shalat) in the building. This study is hopefully used as a reference and a guide for architectural and environmental construction, particularly in hospitals, schools, and public facilities for people with special needs (i.e. wheelchairs, crutches, and canes for the blind).

#### 5. AUTHORS' NOTE

The authors declare that there is no conflict of interest regarding the publication of this article. The authors confirmed that the paper was free of plagiarism.

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