



Event booklet

Altro Neurodiversity Forum 2025

Inclusive Design for All

Wednesday 2 July 2025

altro.com







Welcome to the Alto Neurodiversity Forum in Birmingham

Following successful events in London, Manchester, Dublin, and Sydney, we're excited to bring this important forum to Birmingham.

Designing spaces that genuinely support neurodiversity means creating environments that work for everyone - regardless of their abilities or neurological differences. This includes ensuring equal access, avoiding confusing floor and wall patterns, and using materials that reduce sensory overload while enhancing safety.

Our forum will explore these topics with expert speakers, interactive sessions, and lively discussions to help you understand how to design spaces that truly support neurodivergent individuals and promote well-being for everyone.

Alto is a family-run business with over 100 years of experience in providing durable, fit-for-purpose floor, wall, and door solutions across commercial sectors. We work closely with architects, designers, and end-users to deliver products that support safe, inclusive, and welcoming environments. Forums like this are vital to our mission of education and empowerment, helping us continue to innovate and meet the evolving needs of the industries we serve.

Thank you for joining us - we look forward to a day of meaningful discussion.



Joe Hurst

UK Social Care Key Account Manager



OPEN	Arrival and registration 12:00
BREAK	Lunch 12:15-13:00
SESSION 1	How Colours Can Help to Create an Autism-friendly Environment 13:15-13:45 <i>Maria Luigia Assirelli</i>
SESSION 2	Thinking Differently: Architectural Design for Hidden Disabilities 13:45-14:45 <i>Stephanie Kyle</i>
BREAK	Coffee break 14:45-15:00
SESSION 3	Designing for Disability: Moving from Intention to Impact 15:00-15:45 <i>Amy Francis-Smith</i>
SESSION 4	Workshop and feedback 15:45-16:30
CLOSE	Any questions and close 16:30



**Maria Luigia
Assirelli**

Maria Luigia Assirelli joined Floyd Slaski Architects in March 2022 and has a passion for designing healing environments. She currently leads Floyd Slaski's mental health portfolio. Previously a Partner at GA Architects, Maria specialised in creating autism-friendly spaces, a focus of her research since 2005. She has contributed to various publications, including those by the National Autistic Society. Maria is known for her positive attitude, deep understanding of team dynamics, and excellent communication skills, which are particularly valuable in stakeholder engagement and design team coordination. Committed to continuous learning and innovation, she actively participates in teaching, research, and lecturing at conferences. To keep her skills current, Maria recently completed a course on "Effective Communication and Interpersonal Skills" at CUL.



Stephanie Kyle

Stephanie is an associate and Inclusive Design Consultant at Floyd Slaski Architects, and the first winner of the AJ100 Change-maker of the Year Award for her contribution to the profession. Passionate about diversity, equity and inclusion in architecture, Stephanie channels her extensive knowledge and creativity into designing innovative and aesthetically beautiful spaces, ensuring that each project not only meets the highest architectural standards but also demonstrates that inclusivity can be both functional and visually inspiring. Stephanie offers specialist guidance to other designers, clients, and decision-makers, ensuring the seamless integration of inclusive design principles throughout every stage of architectural projects. Her expertise surpasses Part M/BS 8300, encompassing considerations for religion, gender-neutral facilities, and a specialist focus on neurodiverse inclusive design and non-visible disabilities. Stephanie's unwavering commitment to inclusivity extends to being Assistant Professor of Architectural Design at the University of Nottingham, inspiring the next generation of architects.



Amy Francis-Smith

Amy Francis-Smith is a multi-award-winning Disabled Architect, Inclusive Designer, and Access Consultant. As a Senior Architect at Pinnegar Hayward Design and former Vice President of the Birmingham Architectural Association, she champions legislative change to enhance accessibility in the built environment.

Named a Design Council Specialist Expert, Amy advises on accessibility, policy, and design strategy. Her extensive experience spans multiple sectors including residential, healthcare and civic spaces, alongside advocacy for improved access policies.

A prominent speaker and educator, she sits on various design panels, including HS2, WMCA's Disability Taskforce, an accessible event advisor for Shaw Trust and teaches at various universities. Featured across the media and recognised as no. 6 on the Shaw Trust's Power 100 most influential disabled people in the UK. Amy has RIBA-published works on diversity in architecture and has been celebrated as a RIBA Rising Star.



Altro Limited, Works Road, Letchworth Garden City,
Hertfordshire SG6 1NW

📞 01462 707600 ✉️ enquiries@altro.com

altro.com