

A good toilet is:

well-ventilated, odour-free, trash-free, sanitised daily, open to the public, gender-neutral, wheelchair-accessible, mobility *supportive*, locally loved, smoothly padded, fairly funded,

colour-coordinated, mind-opening, emotion-stirring, sanctuary-like,

generously spacious, doubles as a changing room, free-sanitary-products-providing.

Yuna Goda,
Sayuri Okazaki
& Sun Min

We are passionate toilet-lovers. We believe in the toilets' potential as a public space for doing more than just flushing away human waste.

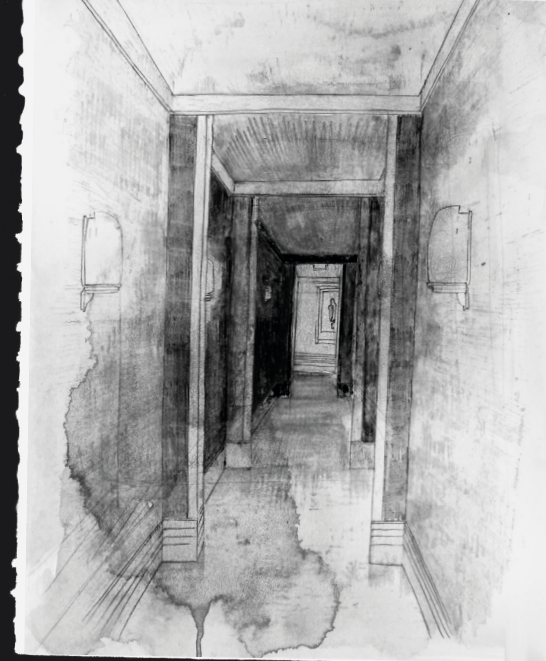
Of all of London's public spaces, toilets are among the most neglected. They are a low priority for the government, facing closure by local councils and - aside from "gender critical" feminists - not discussed that much by their users. Toilets are not so loved by the people.

Through our research, we met multiple toilet-loving interviewees who shared their (nerdy) knowledge of the hidden requirements and characteristics of toilets. We hope our findings will help to bring about toilet justice in London.

BEST JOURNEY

This case offers an important perspective in assessing toilet designs. The 'toilet experience' is extended from the inside of the toilet to the passage leading to it. This exemplifies how toilet-design should also consider the features outside of a toilet booth. Taking accessible toilets for instance, the pathway leading to the toilet needs to be wide and smooth enough for wheelchairs to run safely on. Just having accessible tools inside the booth is not enough. The whole route into the toilet must ensure accessibility.

Brigadiers' restaurant
1 Bloomberg Arcade, London
EC4N 8AR



"I once went to this restaurant called Brigadiers in London. What was nice was not the toilet in particular, not even the room, but the walk to go there. If you ever go there you will understand how mysterious this place looks. It makes you feel like you are in an illegal mafia place or something."

- by Maya Tastet
(Goldsmiths student)

"What a cute miniature

toilet! It's like an Alice in Wonderland picture in my mind. When my 3 year old son

uses public toilets, I usually have to lift them to sit on the toilet seat. But this child-sized public toilet is built at a size where children can go to the toilet by themselves without help from an adult. So it's good for both children and parents!"

- by Midori Matsushima
(London-based mother of two children)

With a door signed 'No Adults', a small toilet seat, a sink and a hand dryer set in a low position, this toilet is completely designed for children.

In London, it seems that there are many 'parent-friendly' public toilets that provide a bed for changing a nursing baby's nappy. However, it is not easy to find child-friendly toilets where children can use toilets by themselves.

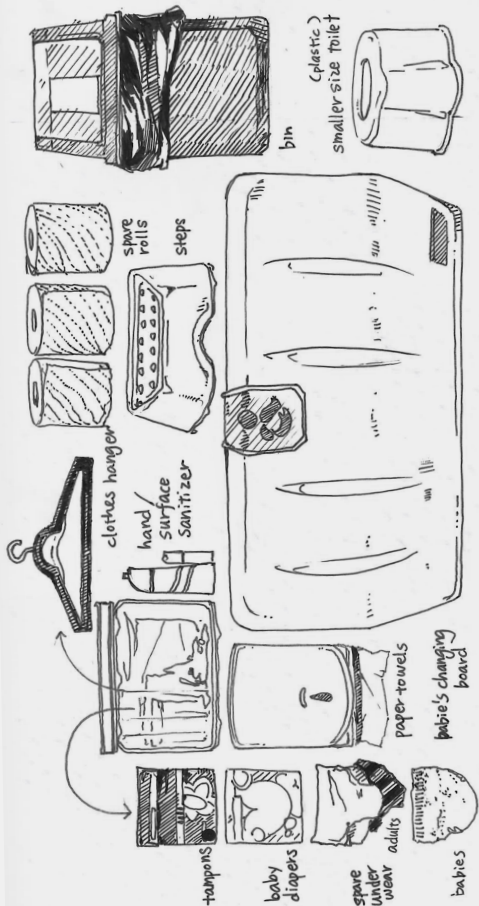
Gloucester Gate Playground
11 Gloucester Gate,
London NW1 4HG

MOST CARING

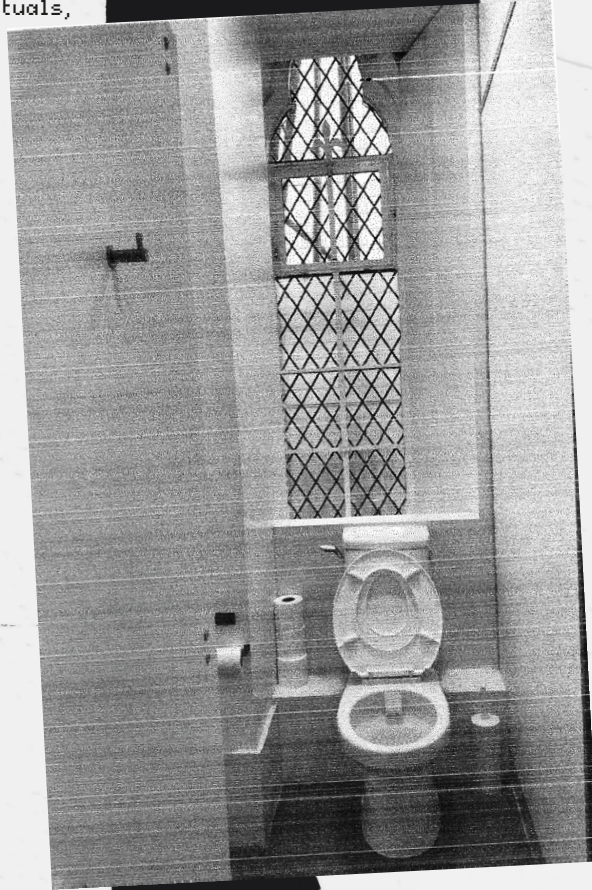
Notions of equality are extremely important in Christianity. According to Chris Hanning, vicar of St. John's Church and Holy Trinity Deptford, a contemporary understanding of Christianity emphasises the value of flexibility. To facilitate an inclusive community, changes must be made to the religion's traditional rituals, structures and architecture. The church toilet distinctly reflects this philosophy.

St. John's Church faces difficulty in making architectural changes. Preservation guidelines protect the church as a cultural heritage asset. Therefore, construction work requires long and difficult application processes. The church has found a way to work around this. Temporary floor boards, detachable carpets and plastic toilet stools have been installed since they do not add "permanent damage" to the building. In doing so, St. John's Church is working to ensure that its future community is an inclusive one.

St. John's Church (Holy Trinity Deptford
St. John's Vale, London SE8 4EA



Items found in St John's Church toilet



MOST COMFORTABLE

Yuna has been diagnosed with Irritable Bowel Syndrome (I.B.S.). She, her father, uncle, and grandfather all share a constant struggle: diarrhoea. Having to stay in the toilet for so long, they have all developed the habit of stacking books by the sink. This led Yuna's grandfather to build a bookshelf inside the toilet: the Poop Bookshelf. Not only does the

Poop Bookshelf represent inheritance but is now also a site of care and belonging, as Yuna's

mother and grandmother decorate and clean the books. The Poop Bookshelf represents the Goda family's tradition. With such a warm and loving context, emotional attachment is inevitable in this toilet.



Pooping-Book Toilet
Yuna's House in Japan

Special Thanks

Raymond Martin from British Toilet Association, Chris Hanning from St. John's Church and Holy Trinity Deptford, Maya Tastet, Midori Matsushima and everyone who answered the survey.

SPECIAL MENTIONS

CHANGING PLACES TOILET

A 'Changing Places' toilet is a type of toilet that is equipped with bars, belts and features that support disabled people to sit on the seat, or to have their clothes changed. Some people with limited mobility find it difficult to use accessible toilets alone. Additional equipment in the Changing Places Toilets ensure the safety, dignity and hygiene of both disabled users and their caretakers.

THE ATTENDANT

The Attendant is a former Victorian public toilet that has been boldly renovated into a coffee bar. The interior of the bar resembles the features of a typical British public toilet: underground, poky and dark. In fact, toilet bowls are placed on the tables and the entrance is rather indistinguishable from that of a working toilet. Despite its interesting aesthetics, the bar still holds issues of inaccessibility - therefore did not make it into The 'Best' Toilet Awards final list.

Sun Min

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