

**RETRACTION NOTE: BARRIERS AND DRIVERS OF UNIVERSAL
DESIGN ADOPTION AMONG PRACTICING ARCHITECTS IN
FLANDERS**

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<https://doi.org/10.66033/japr2025-404>

The Editorial Office of the *Journal of Architectural and Planning Research (JAPR)* hereby retracts the article:

“Barriers and drivers of universal design adoption among practicing architects in Flanders,”
published in Volume 39, Issue 1, pp. 13–29, Ielegems et al., 2025.

Following publication, Prof. Dr. Jan Vanrie contacted the journal raising serious concerns regarding the authorship and originality of the article. Specifically, it was indicated that the published paper appears to substantially overlap with a previously published work in the same journal (Volume 36, Issue 3, pp. 181–197, Ielegems et al., 2019).

In response, the Editorial Office initiated an investigation and contacted all listed authors. Elke Ielegems, Jasmien Herssens, Erik Nuyts and Jan Vanrie confirmed that:

- they were not aware of the submission and publication of this article,
- they did not approve the manuscript for submission, and
- the email address used for correspondence does not belong to them.

Based on the available evidence, the journal has determined that this case involves a serious breach of publication ethics, including unauthorized use of author identities and potential duplicate publication. These actions violate the journal’s editorial policies and established ethical guidelines.

Therefore, with the agreement of the authors and in accordance with publication ethics standards, the article has been formally retracted.

The journal regrets that this issue was not identified prior to publication and apologizes to the affected authors and readers for any inconvenience caused.

REFERENCES

- Ielegems, E., Herssens, J., Nuyts, E., & Vanrie, J. (2019). Drivers and barriers for universal designing. *Journal of Architectural and Planning Research*, 36(3), 181–197.
- Ielegems, E., Herssens, J., Nuyts, E., & Vanrie, J. (2025). Barriers and drivers of universal design adoption among practicing architects in flanders. *Journal of Architectural and Planning Research*, 39(1), 13–29. <https://doi.org/https://doi.org/10.66033/japr2025-102>