# Engaging Diverse Partners

## In the Design Process

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*@mhirror*

Royal College of Art
THE HELEN HAMLYN CENTRE FOR DESIGN

# The RA Programme

The Research Associate programme teams recent RCA design graduates with industrial partners typically working on year-long design projects.

To date, the programme has completed nearly 250 people-centred design projects with over 120 companies from a variety of sectors, some of which you can see here from last years programme.

# INCLUSIVE APPROACHES

Improved access

+

Increased pleasure

=

Inclusive design

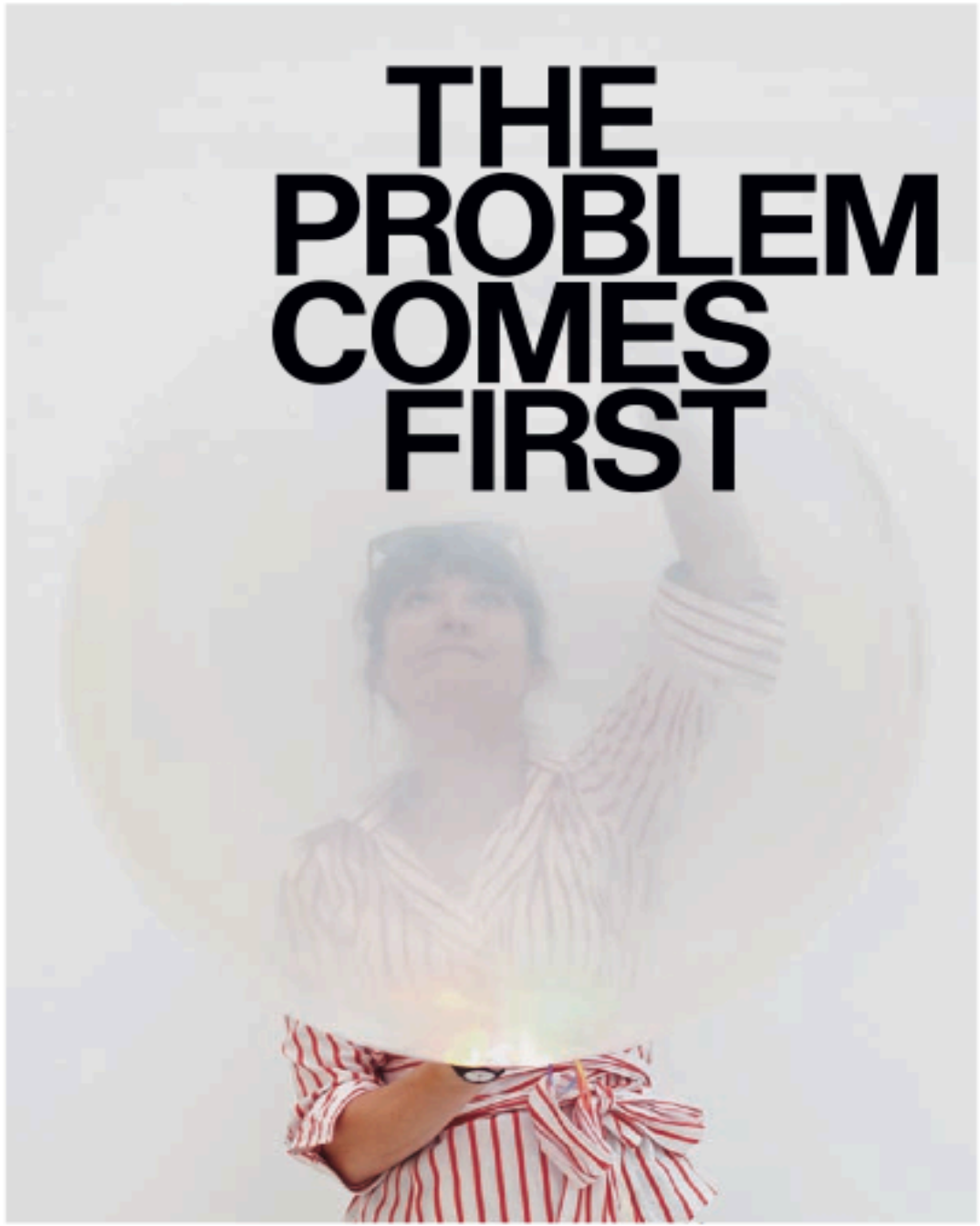
# DESIGN CENTRED around PEOPLE

# IT IS ABOUT WIDENING PERSPECTIVES

Design is often seen as being about **problem-solving**

A significant part of the process should be about **problem-framing**

# THE PROBLEM COMES FIRST

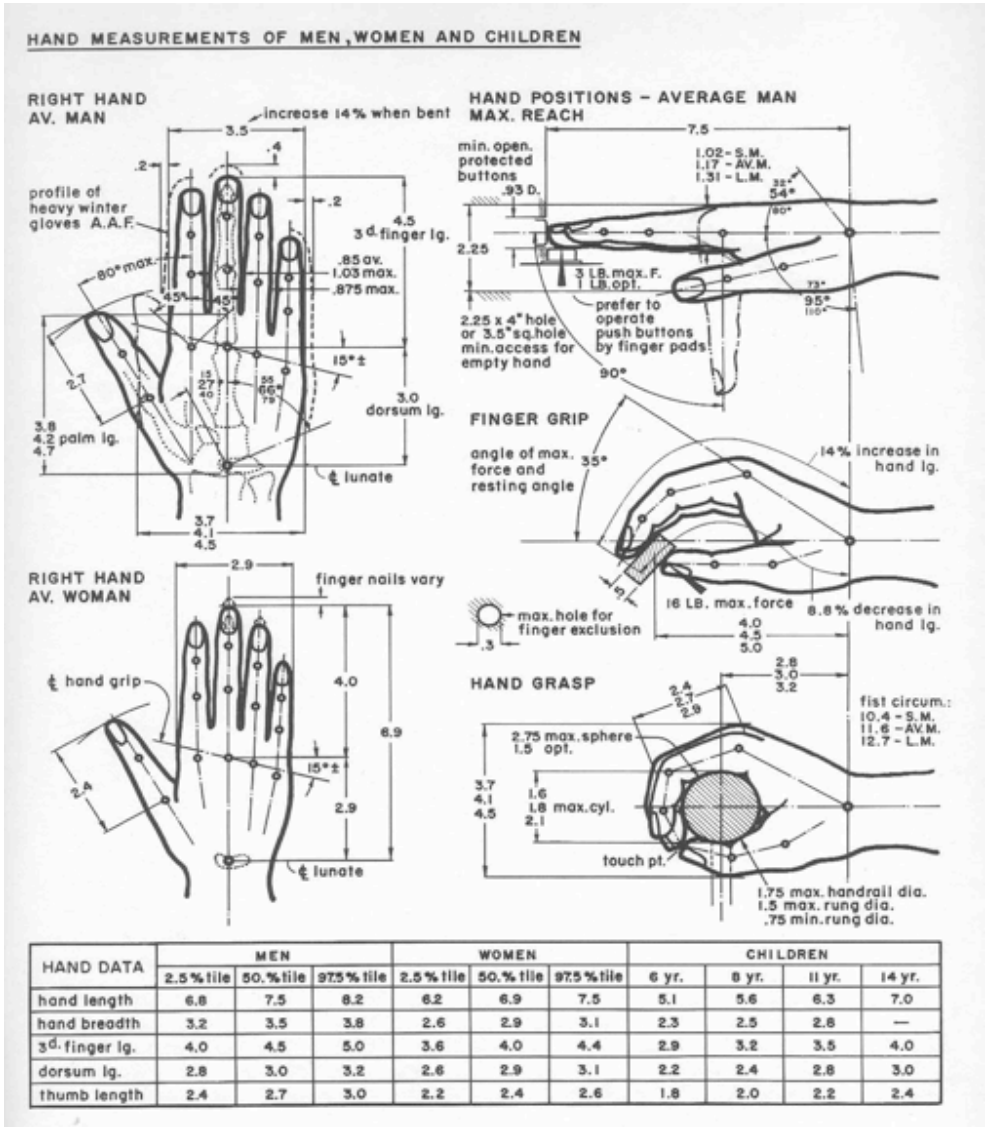


TO UNDERSTAND REAL PEOPLE

YOU NEED REAL INFORMATION

# Partners at the core of each project

# Information

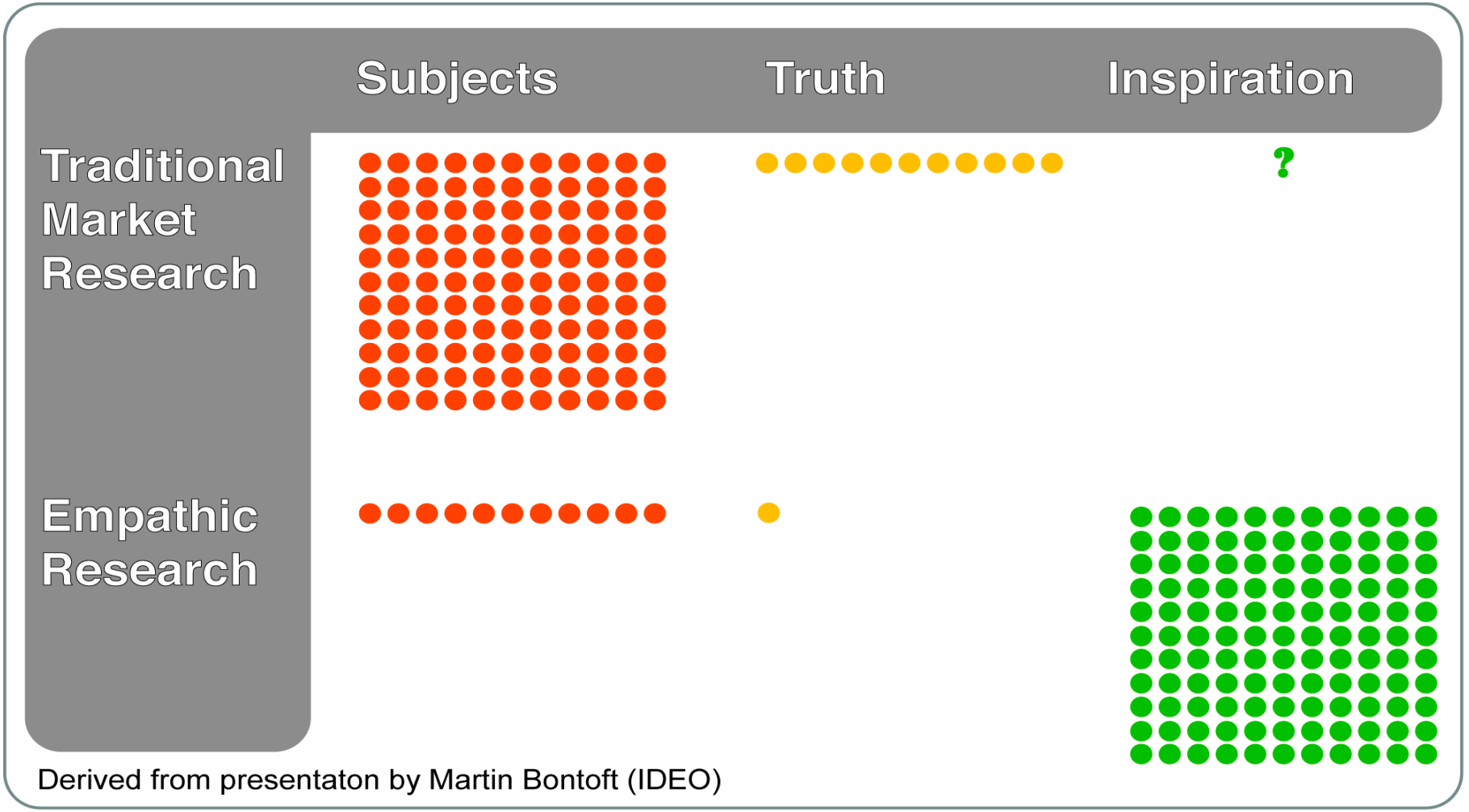



| HAND DATA | MEN | | | WOMEN | | | CHILDREN | | | |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| | 2.5% tile | 50.% tile | 97.5% tile | 2.5% tile | 50.% tile | 97.5% tile | 6 yr. | 8 yr. | 11 yr. | 14 yr. |
| hand length | 6.8 | 7.5 | 8.2 | 6.2 | 6.9 | 7.5 | 5.1 | 5.6 | 6.3 | 7.0 |
| hand breadth | 3.2 | 3.5 | 3.8 | 2.6 | 2.9 | 3.1 | 2.3 | 2.5 | 2.8 | — |
| 3d. finger lg. | 4.0 | 4.5 | 5.0 | 3.6 | 4.0 | 4.4 | 2.9 | 3.2 | 3.5 | 4.0 |
| dorsum lg. | 2.8 | 3.0 | 3.2 | 2.6 | 2.9 | 3.1 | 2.2 | 2.4 | 2.8 | 3.0 |
| thumb length | 2.4 | 2.7 | 3.0 | 2.2 | 2.4 | 2.6 | 1.8 | 2.0 | 2.2 | 2.4 |

# Empathy

Photography by: Algo

# Everyone has something unique to contribute…



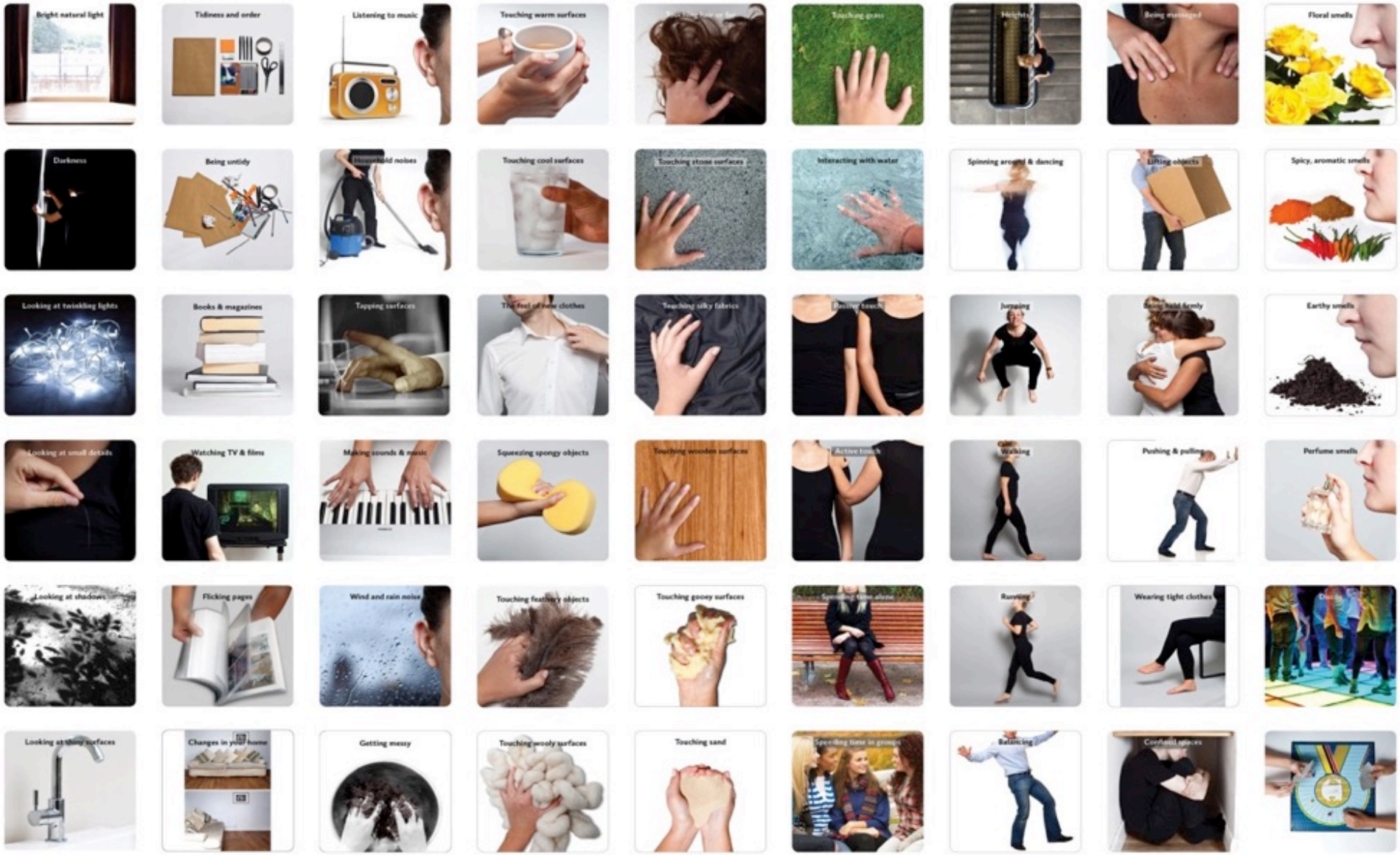
Green Spaces

# Outdoor environments for adults with autism

## Kingwood

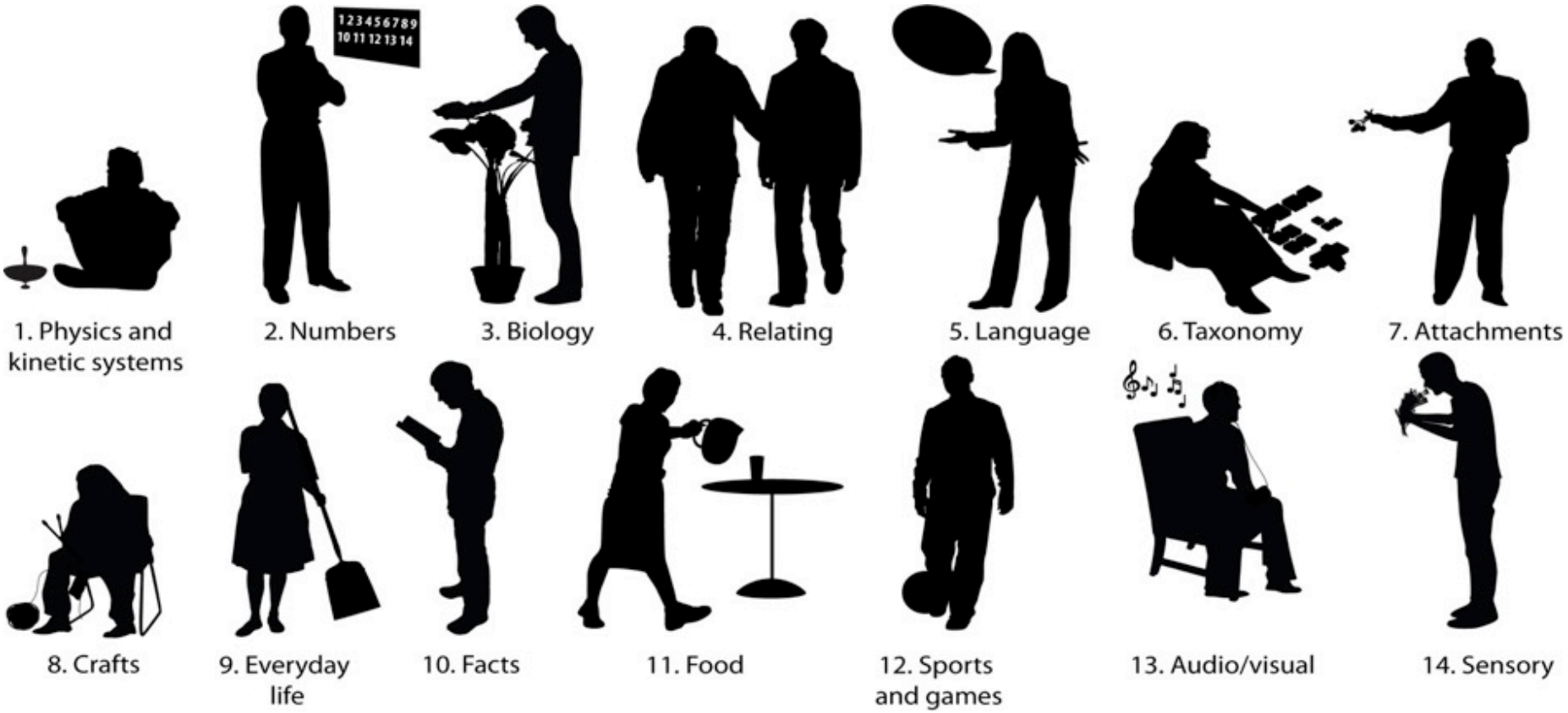
(Chris McGinley/Katie Gaudion)

# Sensory preferences



avoid / dislike
ok
seek / like
Household noises
Watching TV
Hugging

# Special interests




Baron-Cohen, S., Wheelwright,S. (1999)

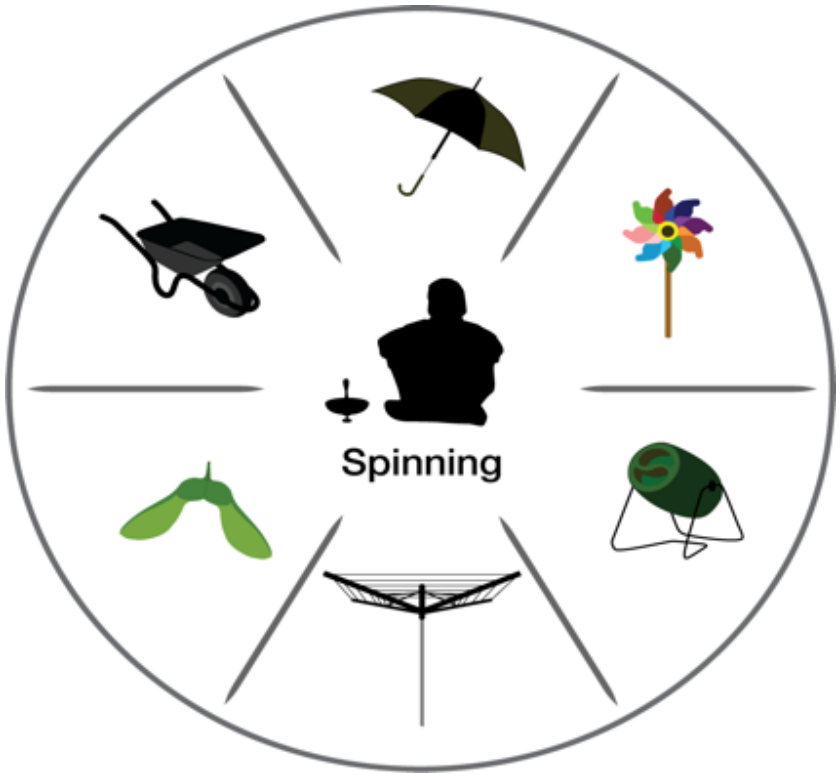
# STRONGLY ATTACHED TO ITEMS

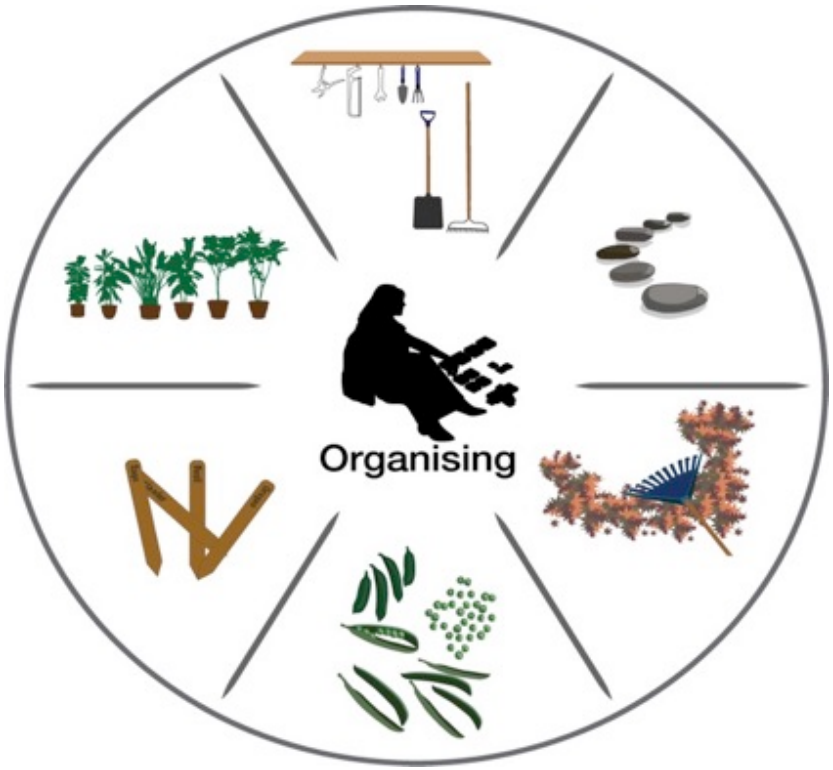
e.g. an article of clothing, a rag, a bottle top, etc.,

**YES [ √ ]** **NO [ ]**

If **YES,** please specify.....LIGHT SWITCHES VENT-AXIA FAN CONTROLLERS SPUR SWITCH.....

# Passion to action



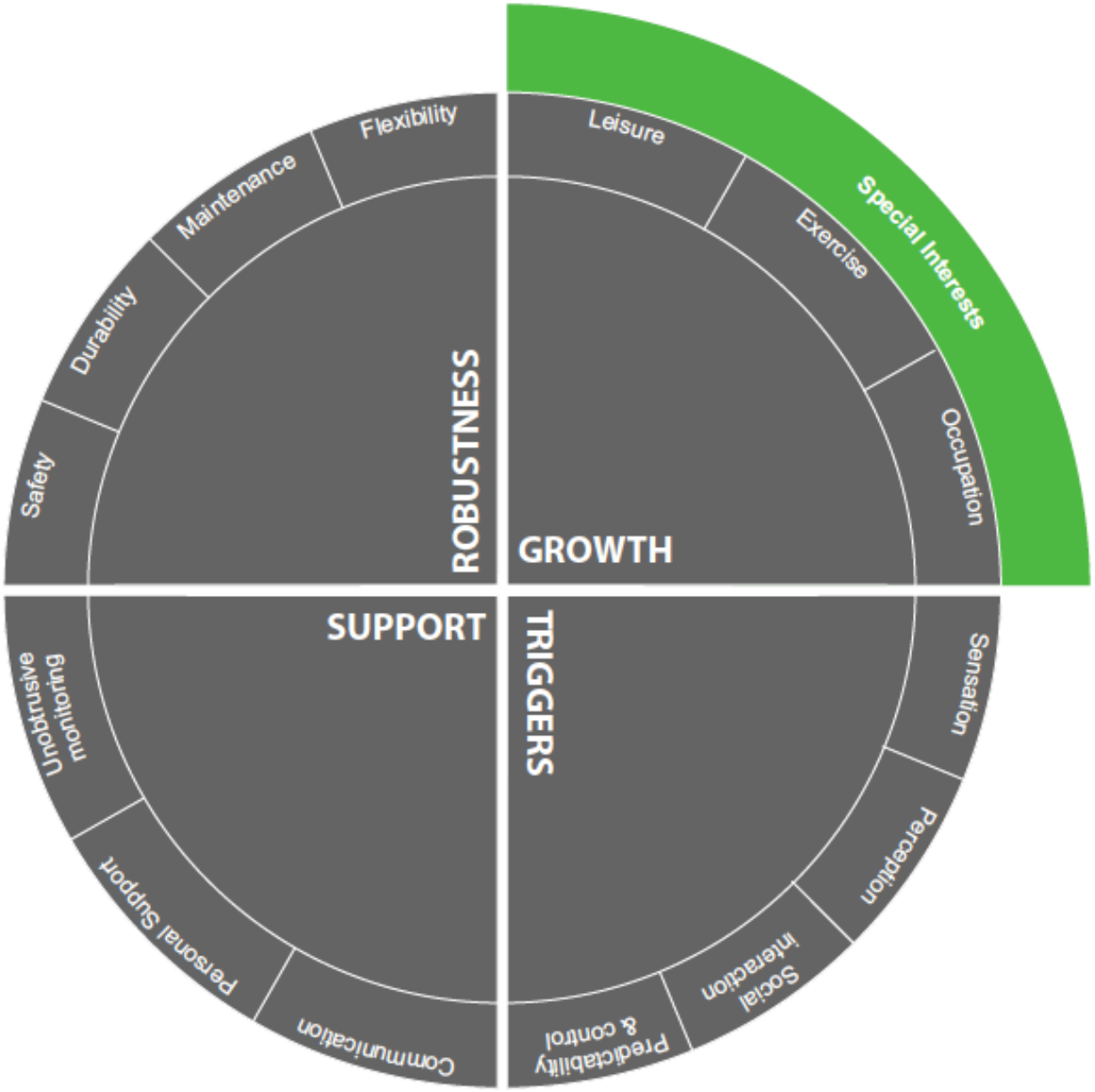
# Design themes

**Growth**
Enhance communication, independence and the development of skills by connecting garden spaces with a person's strengths, interests and aspirations to create occupation, exercise and leisure opportunities.

**Triggers**
Reduce triggers of agitation and anxiety by considering a person's hyper or hypo sensitivities in outdoor spaces.

**Robustness**
Keep residents and staff safe in a robust garden that is tolerant of unintended use.

**Support**
Give staff the tools to deliver people-centred care and ways to facilitate occupation, exercise and leisure activities in outdoor spaces.



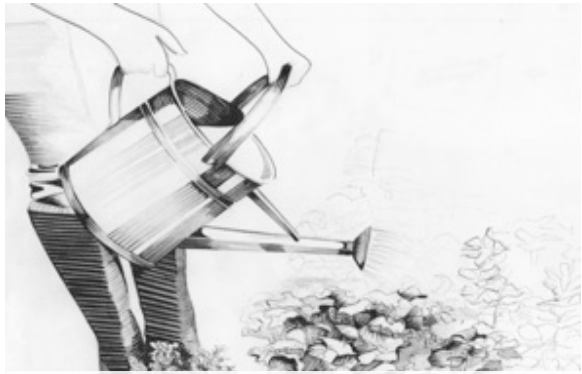
1. Escape

2. Exercise

3. Sensory

4. Social

5. Transition



6. Occupation

7. Wilderness

# Kingwood College Garden Concept Sketch

# Green Spaces

## Outdoor Environments for Adults with Autism

Katie Gaudion and Chris McGinley

kingwood

# Green Spaces

## Outdoor Environments for Adults with Autism

# *Conclusion…*

*We need to answer the right questions…*
***… towards this we should seek to understand those we design for, and the potential for design to impact their lives.***

*Information is useful…*
***… empathy can be insightful and inspirational.***

*It's our responsibility…*
***… to ensure the voice of those you are designing for is captured and represented.***

*Learn from the people you are designing for (and with)…*
***… everyone has something unique to contribute***

Thanks for listening.

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