

5 MM Episode Script

Episode: The Cost of Retrofitting

Welcome to Five Moore Minutes. Useful videos in about 5 minutes that support the teaching and learning of all students. I am your host Dr. Shelley Moore and today's episode is called the cost of retrofitting! Hello my friends.

Today we are talking about retrofitting...you know, where you adapt or modify something that is already built...yea that. Ok so here is the story of a building.

In 2020 I moved into a new building in downtown Vancouver, I lived on the 25th of 26 floors. This building was built in 2019, it was brand new...it was the apartment that had the lavender mist spritzer in the compost room! Anyways...if you have been in downtown Vancouver, you know that the ocean is right there, and you can see the mountains...it's beautiful. And if you are fortunate enough to access a highrise you can imagine the view is amazing. So, this building...was constructed by a MAJOR corporation, who decided (after building) to add a roof top patio so the residents could enjoy the view...how nice of them!

And they did a great job. it was amazing...bbqs, more lavender, couches...the best. Well, within week of being open, the city came and shut it right down...why you ask? Well, when being built, the building had to pass accessibility criteria to get permits approved, but because they added the rooftop patio after the building was built, the elevator went to the 26th floor...NOT the roof! The roof top wasn't accessible. The Major Corporation was like. Well, there are currently no resident who use a wheelchair, so the stairs will be ok. Well, the city said...no way. So, what did they do, they had already invested and building this amazing patio...so the major corporation decided to add an elevator to the 26th floor, to go up ONE floor to the roof.

Now although this was annoying because this new elevator replaced my apartment foyer, I was more than happy to support something that was increasing accessibility...because want to know what is worse that annoying...exclusion. Ok, so this elevator becomes a major event...we are talking holes in the building and helicopters...MAJOR retrofitting...and all I'm thinking is that this must be costing a gazillion dollars. So, I ask my landlord....how much is all this costing?! And she says, "well I can't tell you that, but I CAN tell you that the elevator for that one floor is costing more than BOTH elevators that go from the ground to the 26th floor. And here is the point! Retrofitting will ALWAYS require more resources that designing right the first time. If the major corporation had just anticipated variability from the start and made the elevator go to the roof, the resources required would probably have been close to the same as having the elevator stop at the 26th floor.

So, what can we learn from the mistake of the MAJOR corporation... design for variability FIRST! It will still require resources, but significantly less that retrofitting. This is why inclusive practices are really moving away from adaptations and modifications as forms of accommodating students in classrooms – a much better approach is to just anticipate the accessibility for all learners from the start, as part of the design.

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Episode: People Are Not Supports

Now, I wish I could tell you that the story was over and that the major corporation learned from its mistake...but no.

After the elevator was built and I was SO excited to roll my dinner cart up to the roof to watch the sunset on the rooftop, I went to use the elevator AND IT WAS LOCKED!

LOCKED!

SO, I run to the landlord and say ...what the heck is with the lock?! Uou wanna know what she said, "well it's so expensive they don't want anyone to use it..."

I just slow blinked at her.

Listen, I said, you don't need to hire me...but PLEASE tell the MAJOR COPERATION to hire SOMEONE to talk to them about UNIVER SAL DESIGN!!!!

So here is your challenge for today, look at a lessons or unit you have created and instead of adapting the plan for one or two students try to build the accommodations as part of the plan for everyone. It is a must better use of resources AND if you take the lock off, you will also see that the accessibility will help many more students than those who it was designed for.

Don't be like the major corporation! And if you are ever in Vancouver, make sure you try to watch a sunrise on a roof!

Thanks for watching today's episode of five Moore minutes. Make sure you like and subscribe and share this video with the major corporations who are building high rises.

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