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Hospitals Are Labyrinths 2- They Need to Be Less Like IKEA

When being in hospitals, navigation isn't the easiest. If getting from an entrance to a specialized ward is a challenge, circling to find an in-patient room can make the building feel labyrinthic. Maps and signs exist, though oftentimes are placed too far apart to understand that the area identified; is the place being sought out. That said, hospital navigation aids are only functional if you can see them. A paper map won't do any good but alienate those who are visually impaired, holding the possibility for hospital navigation to seem like Mission Impossible.

What my proposed solutions aim to accomplish: are to break down the exclusionary boundaries of hospital navigation, thus allowing users autonomy. First, while high colour contrast texture strips will make the path more discernable for those who can see colour, texture can be useful for those with more severe visual impairments. Alongside raised brail iconography (installed before their corresponding door/ hall/ elevator etc.), low vision users will be able to discern the amenities around them while simultaneously heading to their destination. The strips will be adhesive and come in sectioned pieces for easy installation along walls, floors and handrails. As for the navigation app, users will have to download the app, activating it while in hospital. Large gestures allow for differentiable app functions, while, despite there being an

option for major navigation to be voice-directed, visually impaired users need their sense of hearing, thus directions will be discerned through vibrational patterns.

Admittedly, the braille iconography holds capabilities for alienating those that aren't aware of the meaning behind the signage. Thus, while being helpful to those with visual impairments, others might see the iconography as a strange design choice. This view for strange design choice can also be applied towards the app if considering its minimalism towards the graphical user interface and use of colour.