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Plan of Accessibility of the Building of the Parliament of Georgia For Persons with Mobility and Vision Disabilities

SUMMARY DOCUMENT

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and Institute for Development of Freedom of Information (IDFI),
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Recommendations on Increase of Accessibility of the Building (Tbilisi) of the Parliament of Georgia

Navigation

Within the building of the Parliament of Georgia (Tbilisi), based on its complexity, it is necessary to set up an audio navigation system. It is quite difficult for a visitor or a parliamentary staff member with limited visibility to reach target destination and move around the building. The aforementioned system includes building of internal GPS system, in which location of each room, sanitary facility, staircase, elevator, meeting room will be integrated. Upon entrance of the building, visitors with limited visibility, in addition to the pass, will be given special remote control and headphones and after entering a rooms' number on the aforementioned remote control, the visitor will be able to listen to the instructions on how to reach a certain room in the building.

Parliamentary staff with limited visibility shall be given the navigation devices for permanent use. The navigation system shall be accompanied by an instruction in a Braille font. As of today, this kind of a navigation system is not available in Georgia; however, it is actively used abroad. Therefore, we believe that in order to design and set up the abovementioned system, foreign specialists shall be invited to Georgia. Furthermore, involvement of people with limited visibility in these processes is also crucial.

Tactile Path

In order to make it easier for people with limited visibility to orient in space, on the outer perimeter of the Parliamentary building, before reaching the entrance, as well as within the building and in the internal yards of the building, tactile path shall be laid. By pointing the walking stick to the tactile path, a person can safely reach the destination. When setting up the tactile path, it is necessary to consider the following parameters: the tactile path shall be set up at and reach a concrete place. Its width shall be 30cm, as for height of each of its slides, it shall vary between 0,4 – 0,5cm. The path can be constructed by using of granite slides.

The main purpose of the tactile path is to lead blind people or people with limited visibility to important facilities of the building, such as the pass bureau, staircase, elevator, meeting room, entrance to the yard, tactile map and other. However, taking into account that most of the floors in the Parliamentary building are covered with carpets, at most of the places it will be impossible to set up tactile paths.

Tactile Map

Tactile map is a relief plan of the building and is composed with maximum accuracy and simplicity. It includes symbols representing important destinations within the building and these symbols are explained in the right side of the map in a Braille font. The size of the map shall not exceed A3 format. If it is impossible to include the building in A3 format, then it is necessary to sort the information on the map by its size and form and create a number of maps. Each of the aforementioned maps shall include information on location of each of the maps.

Staircase

Warning sign shall be placed at the beginning of the staircase. At the beginning and end of the staircase shall be placed special lightning in order to make it easier for people with limited visibility to see the sign. Furthermore, each of the staircases shall be covered with metal or rubber materials.

Anti-slips shall be added to the staircases that are covered with carpets. Black anti-slips shall be added to the white marble staircases, as for the black and dark grey staircases, silver anti-slips shall be added to them. See photos N 3 and N 4, as well as photos N 17 and N 18.

Handrail

In the whole building, two level handrails shall be added to both sides of the staircases (first level – at 70 cm and the second one – at 90 cm).

The handrails shall be placed in 5 cm distance from the walls and shall have a color other than the color of the walls and the staircases.

The handrails shall be 4 to 5 cm thick. The ends of the handrails shall be rounded.

Glass handrails within the Building

All the glass handrails in the building shall have 10 cm long colored lines and they should be placed in the middle of the glasses as shown in photos N 13 and 14.

Pandus

In a number of places within the building panduses shall be constructed.

As for the existing panduses, they shall be covered with anti-slips.

Pandus shall have a 4-5 cm long line of a contrast color.

Panduses shall be constructed between the wings of the building as shown in photos N 19, N 20 and N 21.

As for the pandus at the entrance of C block of the Parliamentary building, it shall be extended as shown in photos N 26 and N 27.

Wheelchair Lift

To the stone staircases of the wings, wheelchair lift shall be added. The wheelchair lift will be attached to the staircases and will help a person using the wheelchair to use the staircase.

The lifting platform shall also be constructed at the cinema hall.

For example:

<http://www.garaventlift.com/en/products/wheelchair-lifts/inclined-platform-lifts.html>

Door

All the existing doors shall be minimum 90 cm wide so that a person using wheelchair can easily enter the building.

Door handles shall be of a color that is contrasting from the color of the doors. If the door and the door handle are of same color, then a different color edging shall be added around the door handle. The edging shall be 2.5 cm wide.

Marking of the Glass Door

The door at the central entrance of the Parliament shall be marked with blue lines as shown in photos N 1 and N 2.

Tags on the Doors

All the doors and sanitary facilities in the building shall have captions in Braille font. None of the captions shall be smaller than Word 18 font. The Braille captions shall be added to the walls along the doors as well.

Halls

Contrast lines shall be added to the stairs in Ilia Chavchavadze and First Republic meeting rooms. Furthermore, a temporary pandus shall also be available in the aforementioned meeting rooms.

Meeting Room

The staircases at the entrance shall be marked with dark lines. 10 cm White, tactile lines shall be added to the glassrails.

Furthermore, it is impossible to come to the tribune using wheelchair, therefore, special, moving pandus shall be constructed as seen in photos N 5 and N 6.

The Cinema Hall

The staircases at the entrance of the cinema hall, as well as inside the cinema hall shall be marked with lighting as shown in photos N 9 and N 10. It is desirable to add anti-slips to the inclined floor areas, see photos N 11 and N 12.

Corridors

Direction signs in B block of the Parliamentary building are pale. Direction sign “B block” is dark green and it is difficult for a person with limited visibility to notice it. The background color of the sign and its font color shall differ from each other.

The type and quality of the lightings in the halls shall be changed.

Briefing Room

Side pandus shall be constructed in the briefing room. In addition to the side pandus, it is important to add contrast color lines to the staircases and anti-slipers to the side pandus, see photos N 22 and N 23.

Sanitary Facilities

Important changes shall be applied to the sanitary facilities in the building.

As of today, a person using a wheelchair can only use men’s restroom. It is important to create an adopted restroom for women as well. The entrance door of the restroom shall not be less than 90cm. Washing sink does not meet standards, as it does not have a special, deep cut.

Elevator

On first floor of the hall in C block of the building an elevator sign shall be added next to the truck elevator. The sign shall be placed not more than 160 cm distance from the floor.

Cafeteria

In the cafeteria, it is desirable to place contrast color tablecloths on the tables. Transparent glass tables are very inconvenient for limited visibility individuals. The tablecloths’ color shall be different from the color of tableware.

Media Center and Library

The inscription at the library door is pale. It shall be changed to more sharp and easily readable inscription. It is necessary to equip the library with audio and electronic versions of books, as well as to install sound programs on computers. As for the individuals with limited visibility, they can easily read books by using of CCTV device (see the link for an example).

It is desirable to print important documents, such as the Constitution of Georgia and UN Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities, in Braille font.

Lighting

The level of lighting shall match the purpose of the space. For example, the lighting that is enough for the restrooms is not enough for reading spaces. Minimal level of the lightning for different spaces is given below:

Space for reading and working with printed documents	500
Meeting and conference spaces	300
Entrances, halls, space around various devices (for example: ATMs, Coffee devices)	200
Satinary facilities	150
staircases, elevators	100

Balconies

The passage for a wheelchair shall be constructed at balcony doors. The passage can be metallic, metaloplastic or other solid material.

Temporary panduses can be created at the staircases of the balconies.

Contrast color lines shall be added to the staircases of the balcony located over the central entrance of C block.

External Perimeters

Pools

Handrails shall surround the square pool in the internal yard of the Parliamentary building.

Marking of Sidewalk

The sidewalks shall be marked with white paint.

Photo Gallery



Photo N1: The entrance door from the inside - existing



Photo N2: The entrance door from the inside – innovated - project

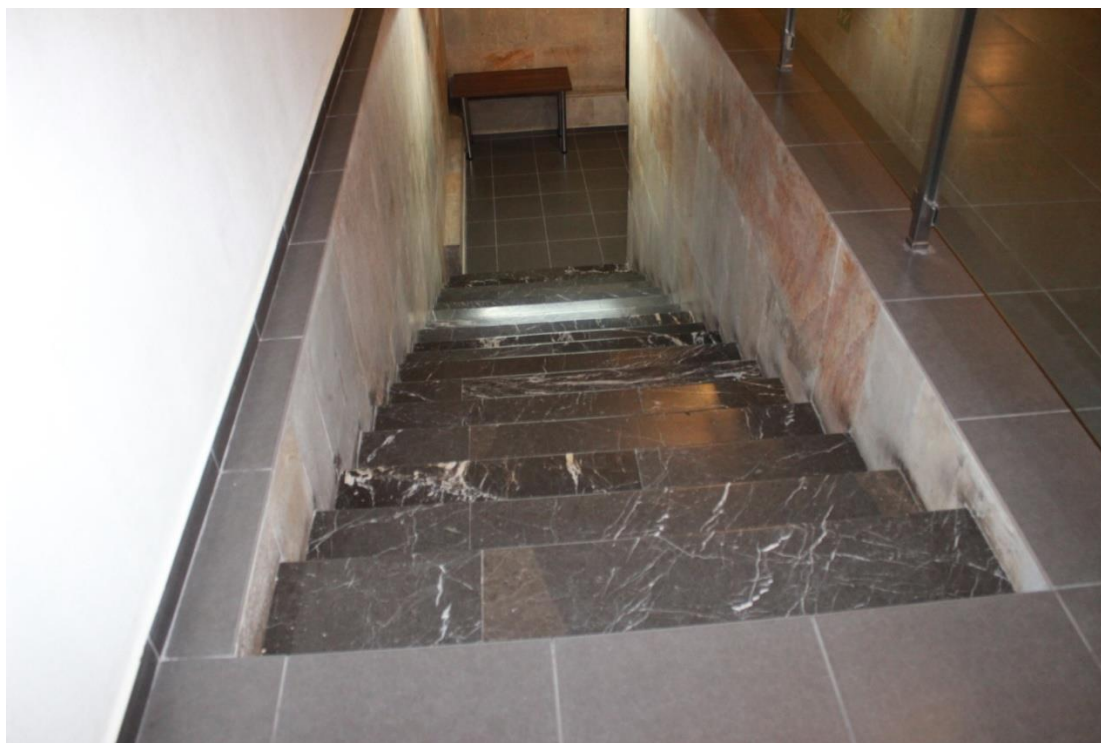


Photo N3: The stairway to the cinema hall - existing

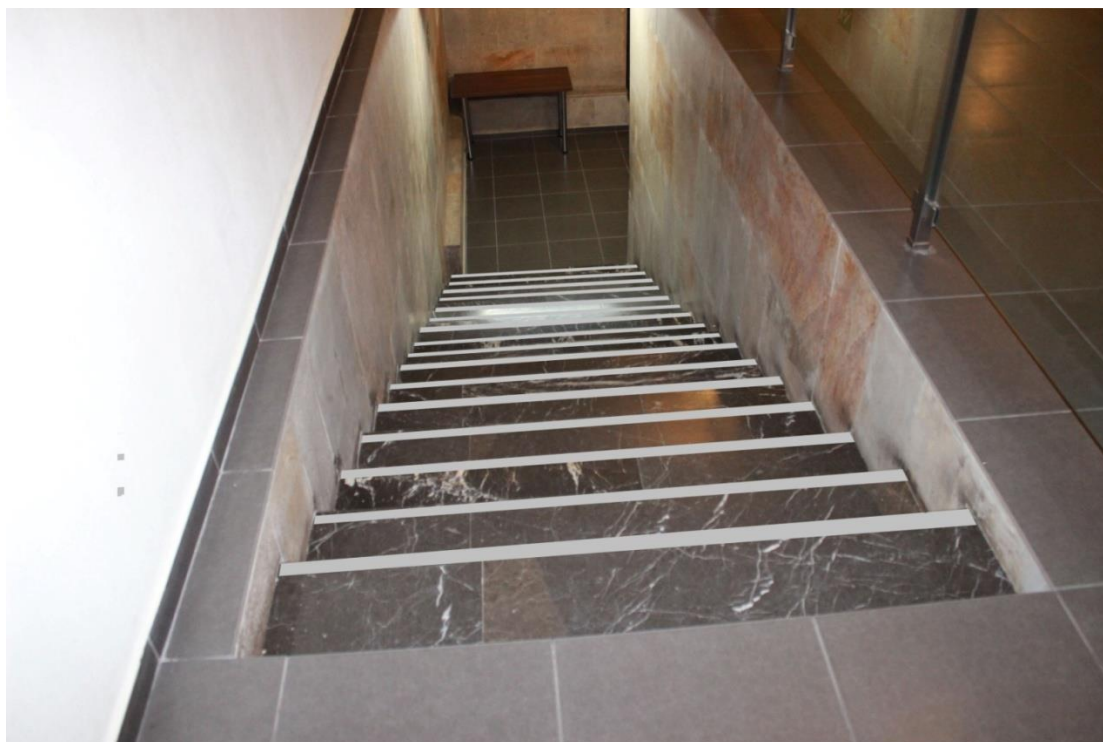


Photo N 4: The stairway to the cinema hall - innovated - project

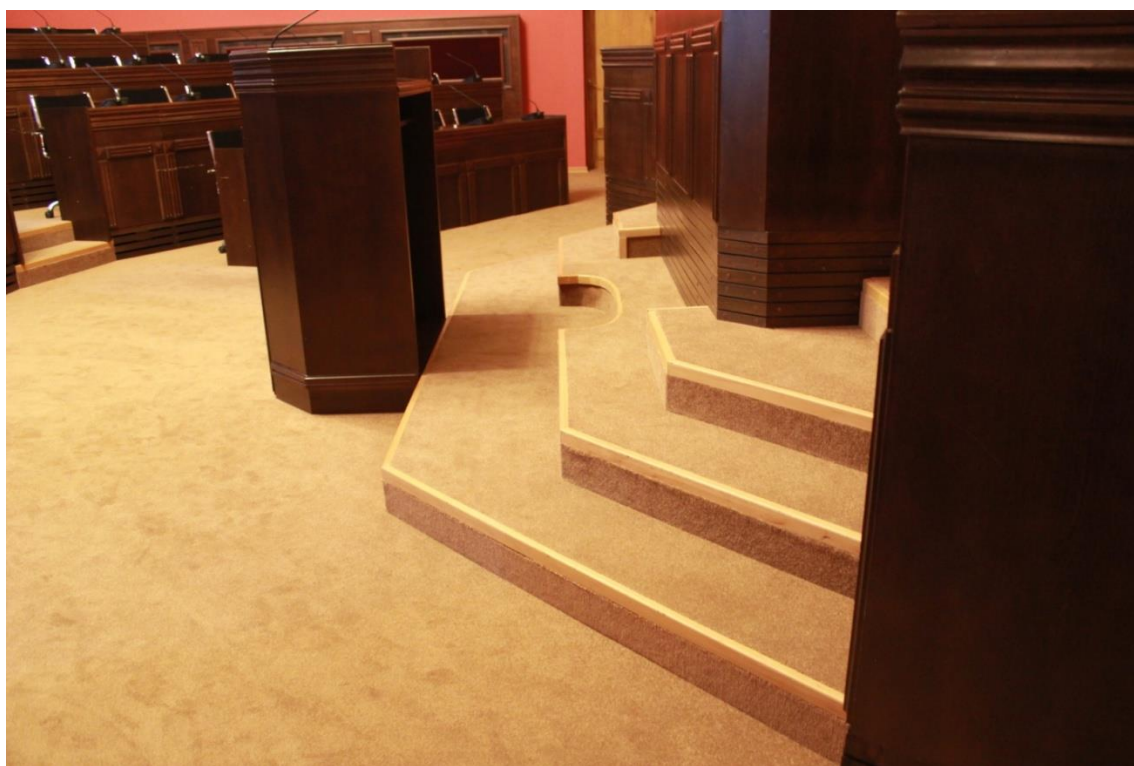


Photo N 5: Steps to the tribune - existing



Photo N6: Steps to the tribune – innovated - project



Photo N 7: Glass shelf - existing



Photo N 7.1: Table - existing



Photo N 8: Glass shelf – innovated - project

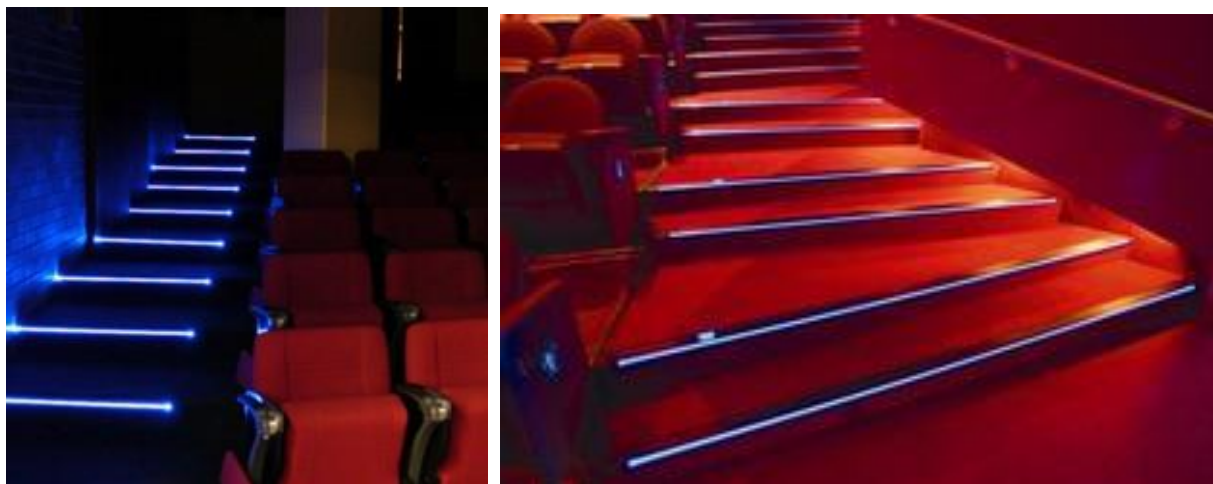


Photo N 9/10: Lighting at the stairs of the cinema hall

Photos are retrieved from the internet, from the following links:

1. <https://www.indiamart.com/bmplighting/theatre-light.html>
2. <http://dekorer.net/component/tags/tag/1096-merdiven-led-aydinlatma.html>

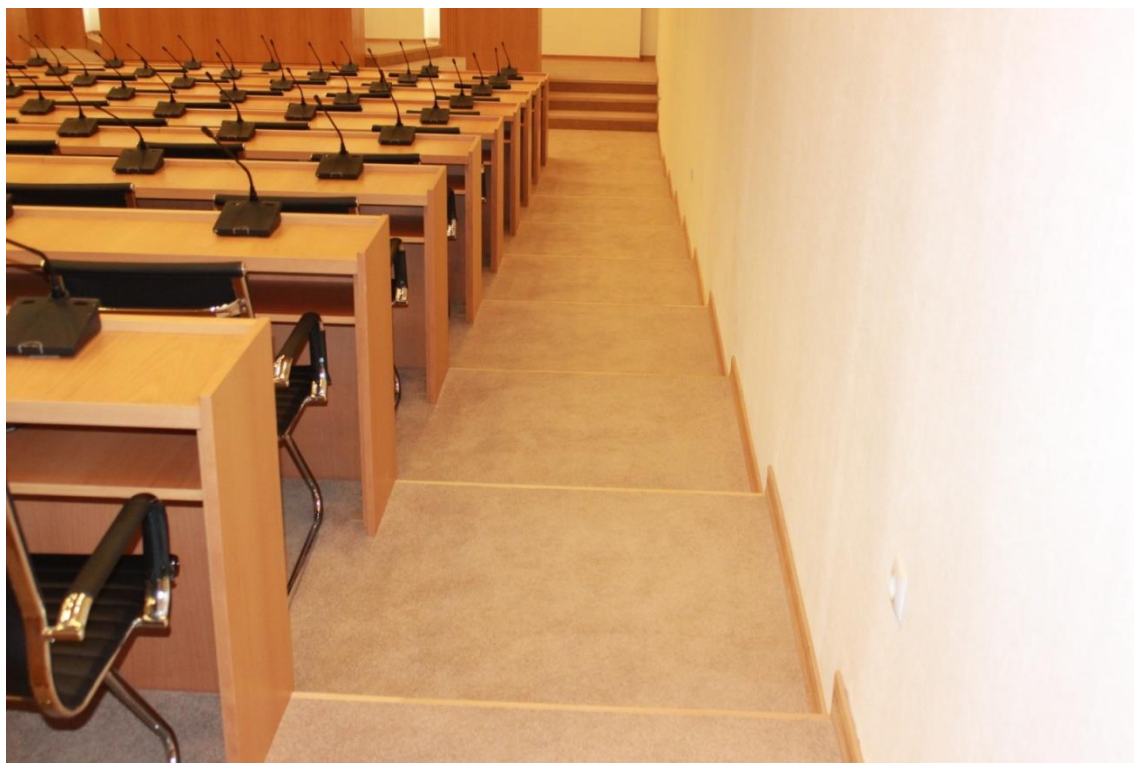


Photo N 11: Stairs of the cinema hall - existing



Photo N 12: stairs of the cinema hall – innovated - project



Photo N 13: Glass handrail at the cinema hall staircase – existing



Photo N 14: Glass handrail at the cinema hall staircase – innovated - project



Photo N15: Switch - existing



Photo N 16: Switch - innovated - project

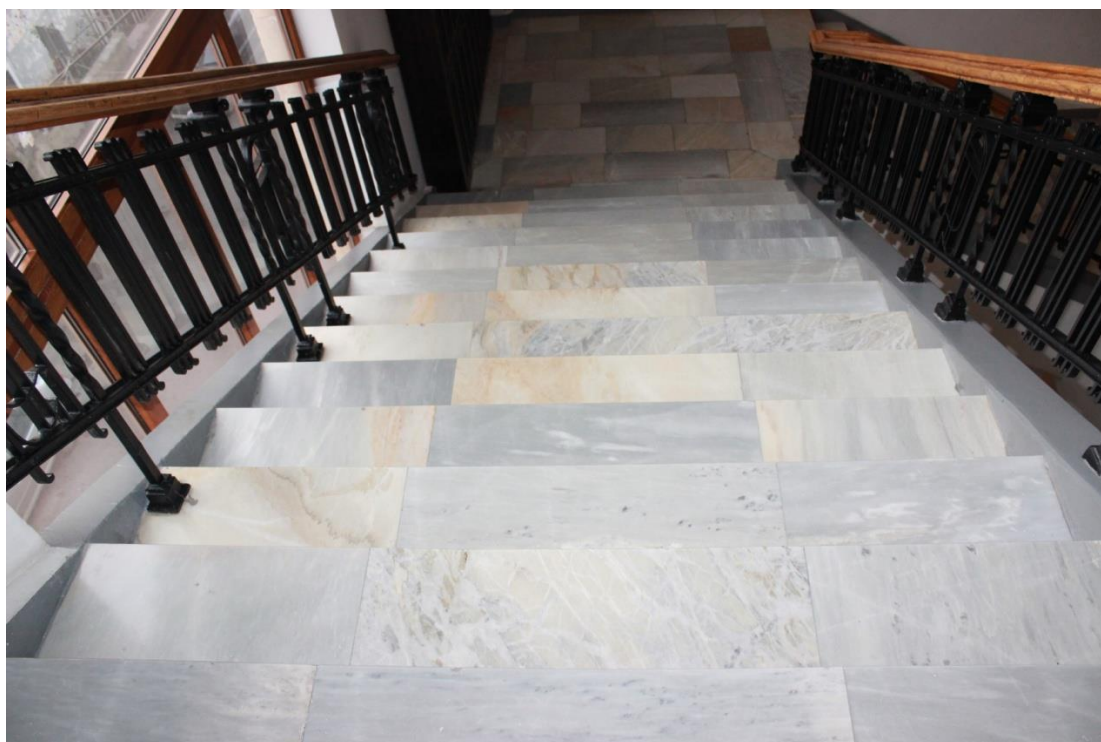


Photo N 17: Staircase – existing

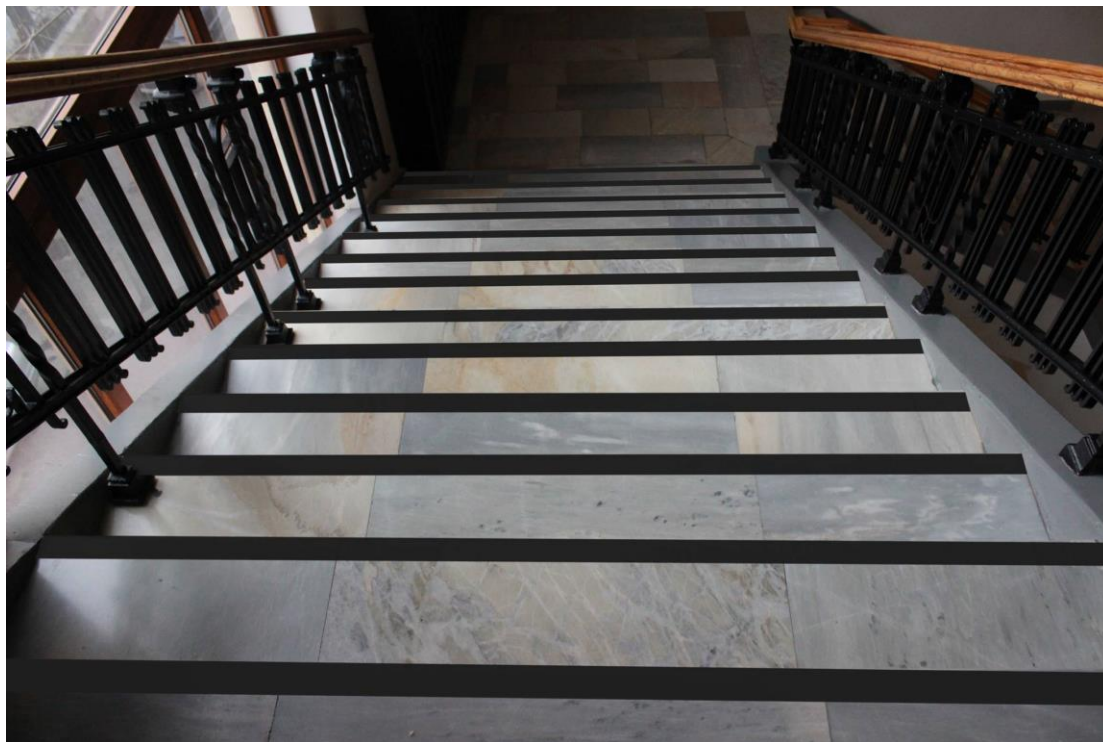


Photo N 18: Staircase – innovated - project



Photo N 19: Passage corridors between the wings – existing



Photo N 20: Passage corridors between the wings – innovated – project



Photo N 21: Passage corridors between the wings, without a carpet – existing



Photo N 22: Briefing room – existing



Photo N 23: Briefing room with pandus, edges and anti-slips – innovated – project



Photo N 24: Central entrance from the permits bureau – existing



Photo N 25: Central entrance from the permits bureau – innovated - project



Photo N 26: Central entrance – existing

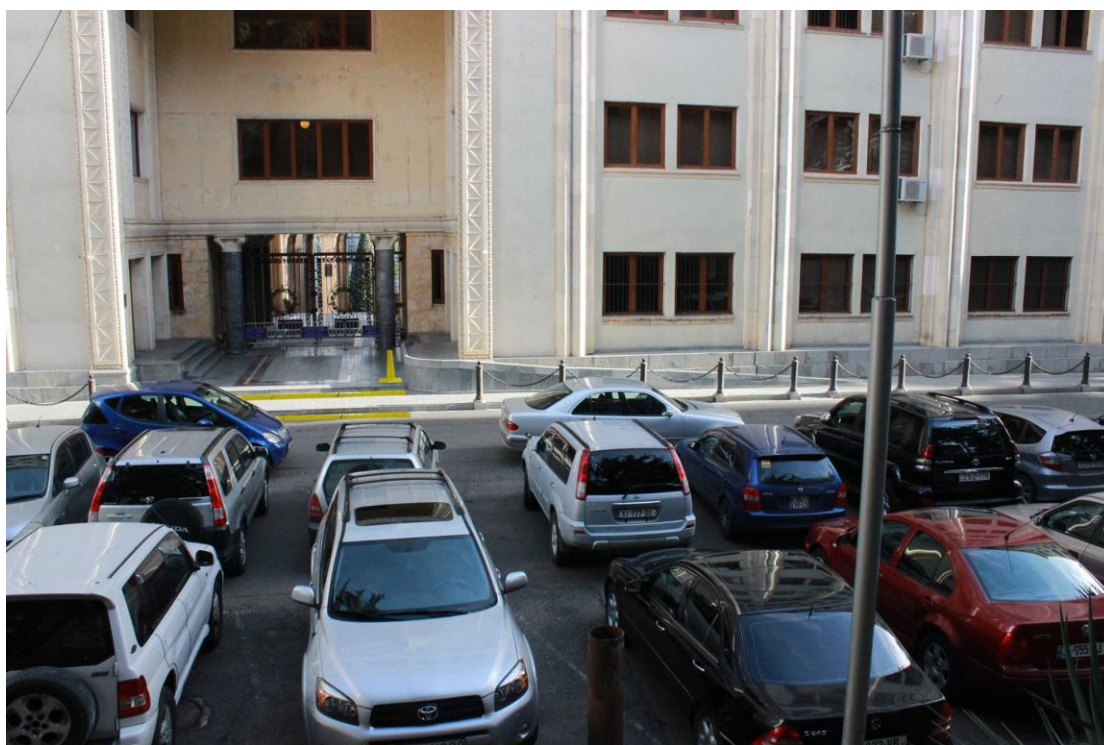


Photo N 27: Central entrance – innovated - project (dactylic trail and extended pandus)