



The Royal Institute of British Architects (RIBA), in association with Bespoke Hotels, is delighted to unveil **HEWI** as a founding partner of the Bespoke Access Awards, the international design competition launched earlier this year with the goal of making the hotel experience more inclusive for disabled people.

The Bespoke Access Awards are a unique design competition, devised with the aim of addressing the guest experience, from the front door to any room or service within a given hotel, as well as publishing both winning ideas and shortlisted proposals for the benefit of the hotel industry worldwide. Within this, HEWI will act as sponsors of the **HEWI Access Product Award**, which seeks to identify the most innovative product design submissions.

HEWI

A renowned systems provider, formed in 1929, HEWI produce an extensive range of stylish accessible products using a variety of quality materials including polyamide, stainless steel and chrome, each renowned both for its hygienic and hard-wearing qualities. Specialising in products such as support rails, removable shower seats, alongside a complimentary selection of accessories, they are acutely aware of the need to enhance both awareness and accessibility within the hotel industry, and have seen their expertise increasingly in demand across the sector.

“The UK hotel sector is currently going through a significant period of expansion, with properties across the country being built and refurbished”, commented Stephen Maley, UK Sales Director at HEWI UK. “It is vital at this time that we seek to raise awareness of both design considerations around accessibility, as well as dispel preconceptions of accessible facilities as over-medicalised and somehow lacking when it comes to design. The Bespoke Access Awards is a perfect vehicle to address this, and we are therefore delighted to be associated with the category of Product Design.”

Alongside the **HEWI Access Product Award**, two further strands of inclusive design are identified for entrants: Architecture and Service Design. Across these three



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categories, prize funds totalling over £30,000 will be awarded, including the Celia Thomas Prize, given to the best overall entry, worth £10,000.

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www.hewi.com
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