

# Global Universal Design Educator's Online News

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Produced and distributed for the Global Universal Design Educator's Network,

Elaine Ostroff, Editor and Publisher

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## EDITOR'S NOTE

About this issue: you'll find news from nine countries. There are government supported actions and policies in accessible and universal design in five countries that you can cite in your own

advocacy for proactive government policy. Queensland, Australia continues to lead the way with its integration of universal and sustainable design in housing, within a 'smart growth' context. Finland, through its Ministry of the Environment has updated its 1997 housing policy; Delhi, India has announced its intention to be a 'disabled friendly' and barrier-free city by 2008; in Sweden, the Disability Ombudsman is providing guidelines and technical assistance for making government authorities accessible and in Great Britain a new standard has been released to manage inclusive design in mainstream products and services. You'll learn about new educational opportunities, in several venues. Two new advanced study options are available: an M.A. in Germany offers an interdisciplinary approach and a certificate program in Scotland developed by OPENspace includes scholarships for people with disabilities. A conference in Mexico is an open forum for all design disciplines and you can use a new online teaching unit on human-centered design (Apologies! This unit was mentioned in the February –March Ed Note but was not included in that issue).

Other articles include design award programs illustrate the creative response by both businesses and students. The UK Helen Hamlyn Research Center with Design Business Association and the US-based International Housewares Student Design Competition both elicited responses that make daily life easier for everyone. Georgia Tech's new research project addresses the lack of universal design in the marketplace. The Calendar has new events into 2006...we hope that you will learn, enjoy and participate as you can.

Information from the Online News may be freely copied and quoted as long as the individual author, and/or web site and this source is cited. Previous issues of the Online News are available online at the Global Universal Design Education Network website at: <http://www.universaldesign.net>.

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## **NEWS FROM THE GLOBAL NETWORK**

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### **AUSTRALIA**

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#### **Housing Design for All: Universal Housing Design in Queensland**

The Office of the Public Advocate has released a universal housing design discussion paper 'Housing design for all: universal housing design in Queensland.' The discussion paper is the outcome of a collaborative effort by the Universal Housing Design Working Group – Queensland. The working group includes representatives from the housing industry, advocacy groups, state and local governments, and the community services sector.

This paper examines the issues facing all stakeholders and proposes a unified and sensible strategy for change. The paper is intended to progress the issue of universal housing design with all relevant stakeholders and contribute to the Queensland Government's work on sustainable housing.

The paper is available in PDF at:

[http://www.housing.qld.gov.au/builders/smart\\_housing/news/mar\\_05.htm#b](http://www.housing.qld.gov.au/builders/smart_housing/news/mar_05.htm#b)

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## **FINLAND**

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### **Ministry of the Environment Decree on Accessible Housing**

This decree was issued 1 October 2004 and entered into force 1 March 2005. It is part of the National Building Code of Finland. The document contains regulations and also guidelines, which contain approved solutions. The decree covers: residential buildings as well as sites and building plots for these, apartments and habitable rooms in other buildings as well as other spaces and areas serving these, used for housing, and the change of intended use of a holiday home to a permanent residence.

For the full decree, see: <http://www.ymparisto.fi/download.asp?contentid=26493&lan=en> (this is a PDF document)

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## **GERMANY**

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### **Barrier-Free City -- Munich**

New in 2005, one can see which urban rail or underground stations in the city district of Munich have lifts, ramps or travelators. In addition to that you will be informed about the height difference between the platform edge and the floors of the trains. Moreover, the tram and bus lines are listed which predominantly use vehicles that are built with a lower height so it is easier to board ("low-floor buses") or that have boarding aids.

The map is available in PDF at: [http://www.mvv-muenchen.de/web4archiv/objects/download/1/barrierefrei\\_041212\\_stadt.pdf](http://www.mvv-muenchen.de/web4archiv/objects/download/1/barrierefrei_041212_stadt.pdf)

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### **M.A. in "Barrier-free Systems" – the Only One in Germany**

This coming summer the University of Applied Sciences in Frankfurt/Main will be offering a unique M.A. degree program on 'Barrier-free Systems'. The interdisciplinary course is the result of the cooperation between three departments – architecture, informatics and engineering, and care and social sciences. A third of the course will be spent on projects aiming to develop problem-solving strategies using a combination of thinking and acting. The purpose of these

strategies is to enable people of all ages, irrespective of age or any disability, to live an independent and self-defined life.

For more details, see: <http://www.campus-germany.de/english/10.4533.1.7.html>

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## **INDIA**

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### **Delhi to Become Barrier Free by 2008**

Delhi will be a disabled-friendly and barrier-free city by the year 2008, Rajiv Gandhi Foundation Chairperson Sonia Gandhi announced while releasing a document 'Accessible Delhi - a road map 2003-2008.' The document, conceptualized in collaboration with the National Centre for Promotion of Employment for Disabled People and the Council of Architecture, contains the blueprint for enabling access to all public places and facilities in the city to disabled people.

The blueprint clearly defines accessible entries and exits and reserved parking lots at railway stations. As per the plan, facilities like appointed place for disabled-friendly coaches, public telephones, availability of elevators and horizontal transport to cross over from one platform to another, and audio-visual signage will be created.

More information can be found at:

<http://www.apcdproject.org/publications/newsletter10/news.html>

NOTE: the Asia-Pacific Development Center on Disability (APCD Project), <http://www.apcdproject.org/>, is a great resource for Asia-Pacific regional news.

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## **JORDAN**

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### **King Abdullah II Receives FDR Award at United Nations**

During a United Nations ceremony on March 23, 2005, Jordan's King Abdullah II accepted the 8th Franklin Delano Roosevelt International Disability Award on behalf of his nation. The award is given by the World Committee on Disability (WCD), the international arm of Washington, DC-based National Organization on Disability, and Franklin and Eleanor Roosevelt Institute (FERI) to emphasize the importance of participation of persons with disabilities in the life of their societies.

Jordan was the first nation in the Middle East to enact disability specific legislation and introduce building codes aimed at accessibility.

Full award details at:

<http://nod.org/index.cfm?fuseaction=page.viewPage&pageID=1430&nodeID=1&FeatureID=1495&redirected=1&CFID=1980685&CFTOKEN=21283645>

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## MEXICO

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### **Design Perspectives Envisioning Design for the XXI Century**

This major international conference will be held on October 26th, 27th, 28th, 2005 at the University Iberoamericana in Mexico City, where the first studies of Design in Latin America started 50 years ago.

The theme for the conference is "Design Perspectives: Envisioning design for the 21st century". Its aim is to bring together ideas from the entire design community (professionals, researchers, educators, graduate students, etc) in order to explore, visualize, argue and draw the possible future of design. This conference is an open forum for designers from all disciplines (industrial, textile, graphic, new media).

Full conference details are at: <http://www.dis.uia.mx/conference/aboutmxdc.html>

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## SWEDEN

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### **Accessible Libraries**

The International Federation of Library Associations and Institutions (IFLA) will hold it's Accessible Libraries Satellite Meeting, 10-12 August 2005 in Gothenburg (Sweden) and it is hosted by IFLA Libraries for the Blind and Libraries Serving the Disadvantaged Sections and Västra Götaland's regional library service. This venue was chosen because Västra Götaland has done much in recent years to promote access to library services for people with reading disabilities; what began as part of a European project – Open Media/Open Learning – is now a dynamic, ongoing reality within the region's public library system.

Full details at: <http://regionbibliotek.vgregion.se/ifla/welcome.asp>

Information on IFLA available at: <http://www.ifla.org/>

Information on Västra Götaland's regional library service available at: [www.regionbibliotek.vgregion.se/ifla](http://www.regionbibliotek.vgregion.se/ifla)

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## **Guidelines for a Public Administration**

The task of the Accessibility Centre of the Disability Ombudsman, HO, is to spread knowledge about accessibility. Therefore, commissioned by the Government, the Centre has drawn up guidelines for how to make government authorities accessible. The guidelines deal with: the work process – working for accessibility, communication - via phone calls, letters and forms, information – in printed documents and on the Web, premises – their design, and the workplace – personnel policy and office equipment.

As a complement to the Guidelines, HO has designed an inventory form and checklists. These can be of use to authorities when they make an inventory of activities, arrange conferences or buy office materials.

For the Guidelines in English in Word or PDF Format, see:  
<http://www.tillganglighetscentret.se/start.asp?lang=en&sida=1450>

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## **UNITED KINGDOM**

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### **2004 DBA Design Challenge Winner Announced**

Organized by the Helen Hamlyn Research Center's Small Business Programme and the Design Business Association (DBA), The DBA Design Challenge is a creative response to this situation. It illustrates and underscores the key role design can play in improving quality of life for disabled and older people. On February 23 the winning firm, Pearson Matthews presented its project to the Royal College of Art. Their project, clevername™, involved wound-care through the self-application of plasters and bandages by such excluded users as those with poor eyesight or limited manual dexterity.

Some of the other projects considered were: Rodd Industrial Design focused on redesigning a household white good and applying a fresh approach to an old problem that will make life easier for all, Lacock Gullam explored the opportunities to make bus travel more accessible by developing the bus stop environment and simultaneously considering its potential as a community hub, and Enterprise IG and Enterprise IG investigated similarly interesting challenges.

For project detail and more information on the challenge, see:  
<http://www.hhrc.rca.ac.uk/events/DBAChallenge/2004/index.html>

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## **Improving the Design of Neighbourhoods (I'DGO) Project**

A team of University researchers from the United Kingdom are working with government organisations, designers, older people and disabled people to find out how the design of the outdoor environment can improve the quality of life (QoL) of older people.

The first task was to identify the aspects of quality of life likely to be affected by the outdoor environment and 15 focus groups with older people were conducted across the UK to determine this. From this, the following thirteen aspects of QoL were identified (listed in alphabetical order):

1. Autonomy (independence; self-actualisation; self-esteem)
2. Care and support (looked after by enablers / family)
3. Control (Self-efficacy; motivation)
4. Emotional well-being (mental health; opportunities for relaxation)
5. Enjoyment (satisfaction with the neighbourhood including cleanliness and attractiveness; going out, feeling good and relaxed)
6. Good neighbourhood (lack of noise; safety; security; cleanliness)
7. Mobility (ease of access to facilities / amenities and open space; ability to go out; wayfinding ability)
8. Perceived safety (from attack / assault / robbery; frightening young people)
9. Physical health (opportunities for exercise; access to fresh air)
10. Safety and comfort (not falling or having accidents; safety from traffic)
11. Sense of community (belonging; social support networks)
12. Social interaction (extent of interaction with people in the neighbourhood; involvement in social activities)
13. Stimulation (opportunity for variety; sense of purpose)

The next stage of the research is to look at how different elements of the design of the outdoor environment help or hinder the aspects of quality of life identified above. This stage involves a number of different questionnaires with residents and surveys of people's neighbourhood environments. The combined analysis of this will provide a useful guide for designers in thinking about how to more effectively design outdoor environments such that they are inclusive.

Further information on the Inclusive Design for Getting Outdoors (I'DGO) project is available at [www.idgo.ac.uk](http://www.idgo.ac.uk), or from Rita Newton at [r.newton@salford.ac.uk](mailto:r.newton@salford.ac.uk)

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## **Inclusive Environmental Access and Design Course**

OPENspace has developed this course, based at Heriot-Watt University, as part of an Accredited Scottish Training Scheme in collaboration with the Scottish Disability Equality Forum. The basic course, which will be run twice each year, allows qualification at Graduate Certificate level with intention of extending to Masters level in the near future. It is intended for those involved in the built or natural environment from the point of view of its accessibility and its design, management or function. Scholarship funding has been allocated by the Scottish Executive for disabled people to be able to attend the course over the next two years.

For the announcement, see: <http://www.openspace.eca.ac.uk/News.htm>

For more information on the course, contact: course director Professor Peter A Aspinall, tel: 0131 451 8160 or email [p.aspinall@hw.ac.uk](mailto:p.aspinall@hw.ac.uk) or Peter Ingram Monk on email [pimonk@tiscali.co.uk](mailto:pimonk@tiscali.co.uk).

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## **New British Standard Addresses the Need for Inclusive Design**

British Standards Institution (BSI) is pleased to announce the release of a brand new British Standard – BS 7000-6:2005 Guide to managing inclusive design. This provides a comprehensive framework to help all private enterprises, public sector and not-for-profit organizations ensure that disabled people's needs are considered throughout the lifecycle of a product or service. The goal is to meet the needs of consumers of diverse age and capability in a wide range of contexts because appropriate access to information, products, services and facilities is a fundamental human right.

For more information, see: [http://www.bsi-global.com/Quality\\_management/InclusiveDesign.xalter](http://www.bsi-global.com/Quality_management/InclusiveDesign.xalter)

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## **UNITED STATES**

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### **International Housewares Association Student Design Competition**

Products with universal design, safety and hygienic features that solve everyday problems shared top honors in the 2005 annual Student Design Competition sponsored by the International Housewares Association. The annual challenge to students: redesign a current housewares product to meet the needs of the future or create a concept for a new product. Winning projects are selected for their innovative concepts, understanding of production and marketing principles and quality of entry materials.

Winning first place this year and \$2,500 is Dan DeBrunner, a senior at Columbus (Ohio) College of Art & Design. The Assist is a product that makes traveling up and down the stairs easier and safer. A railing mounted to a wall alongside an existing stairway, it features a bar that acts like a walker to provide stability. A basket for carrying items can be attached to the railing. DeBrunner was inspired to tackle a humanitarian issue. In his research, he learned that the number one accident in the home is falling. He created the Assist to help with maneuverability and balance.

For full details, see: <http://www.housewares.org/industry/news/releases/91.asp>

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### **Partnerships for Aging in Place**

The National Home Modifications Coalition (NHMAC) will be hosting Partnerships for Aging in Place – Morton Kesten Summit, on June 6-7 at the National Association of Home Builders, 1201 15th Street, NW in Washington, DC. The meeting is an Independent Aging Agenda Event of the 2005 White House Conference on Aging (WHCoA) with the goal of identifying recommendations to be submitted to the WHCoA Policy Committee concerning the role that home design, home modifications, community services, and housing policy play in supporting aging in place. The first meeting was held in Philadelphia on March 11 at the American Society

on Aging / National Council on Aging annual conference where topics such as funding, research, services, increasing housing options, policy, capacity building, and consumer education were identified as components needing further discussion and consideration. The conference, scheduled to start at 1:00 pm on June 6, will followed by a reception and a dinner. It will reconvene on June 7 from 8:30 am until 5 pm. In addition to NAHB, cosponsors include AARP, the National Research Center on Supportive Housing and Home Modifications at USC, Rebuilding Together and The Home Safety Council.

For online registration by credit card, see the form at <http://www.homemods.org/whcoareg.html>. Registration is \$75, and can also be mailed to the NHMAC, Inc.; 14811 Downey Court, Dale City, VA 22193 or paid at the meeting. For additional information contact Leon Harper at (703) 590-9512 or [leonudharper@aol.com](mailto:leonudharper@aol.com).

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### **Tools for Introducing Human - Centered Design Now Available**

Tools for Introducing Human -Centered Design is a new teaching unit that is now available for viewing and downloading at the Universal Design Educator's Online website. Developed by Elaine Ostroff and Leslie Kanés Weisman to promote universal design awareness and practice, especially among design educators, students and practitioners, the unit includes a large slide show and a building survey form. The two components can be used independently or in tandem with each other. They were developed in part with support from the National Institute on Disability and Rehabilitation Research, as part of the grant that created the website at [www.udeducation.org](http://www.udeducation.org).

The slide presentation is fully illustrated and annotated with lecture notes. It provides background on the civil rights and disability rights movements, the origins of universal design, global demographics and sustainable design; explains and illustrates the principles of universal design with examples from several design disciplines; and introduces the universal design building survey. The presentation is available in two formats, one for individual use and the other for groups. The individual version includes the lecture notes with each slide, for viewing on a computer. The group version contains just the slides, and the full lecture notes can be downloaded and printed separately. This version can be used to make group presentations, for example by a faculty member to a class of students, or a professional to their colleagues.

The user friendly building survey is the first to include in one form, universal design performance criteria, ADA requirements for existing buildings, and some sustainability issues. Its primary purpose is to raise people's awareness about the difference between minimum access standards in public facilities and the more inclusive goals of universal design. Like the slide show, the survey can also be used in a variety of ways that include term projects or class assignments; pre-design research in design studios; post occupancy evaluations of built projects; and as a "performance checklist" of issues and considerations to think about when designing public accommodations. The survey is available as an accessible PDF file.

There is no charge for these materials but users must register in order to download the slide show.

See [http://www.udeducation.org/teach/course\\_mods/survey/index.asp](http://www.udeducation.org/teach/course_mods/survey/index.asp)

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## Universal Design in Practice

The project is officially titled "Analyzing Universal Design Resource Needs for practitioners in industry and government." It will investigate stakeholders in industry and government who are involved in the process of creating and purchasing universally designed products and will study the practical use of print and web resources by stakeholders. The motivation for the studies stems from the continued lack of universally designed products available on the market, despite recent legislation that was intended to boost developments in this area. It is thus critical to determine the utility of various current and in-development universal design resources in order to provide academic, governmental, and standards institutions with a more complete picture of the needs and behaviors of those on the front-lines of electronic device production, with respect to universal design.

Full project details available at: <http://www.isye.gatech.edu/lhci/udip/>

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## Visitability: The Way of the Future in Homebuilding, Course

The city of Bolingbrook Illinois now has about 2,000 new homes built over the last three years that are visitable (and by the time the Village builds out to a population of 88,000 in another 10 years, an additional 3,500 homes will meet Visitability standards). The homes were built since 2003, when a new law was passed, requiring every new home in the city to have basic Visitability. The activist Mayor, Roger Claar, and the City Attorney have co-authored an article called "Visitability: The Way of the Future in Homebuilding" in the January 2005 issue of Illinois Municipal Review, which goes out to mayors, city council members, and other policy makers across the state.

The Bolingbrook ordinance and the full text of the referenced article is available in PDF and HTML format at the Concrete Change web-site: <http://www.concretechange.org/>

For those of you planning on attending this year's RESNA Conference in Atlanta, GA, there is a unique opportunity to learn more about Visitability. On Thursday, June 23<sup>rd</sup> from 1:30pm-5:30pm, Eleanor Smith will co-lead a guided bus tour of visitable and universally designed communities around Atlanta. In addition to exploring these innovative housing types and developments, the course will also provide a comprehensive overview of the current state of visitability. The full title of the course is "Visitability as an Approach to Inclusive Housing Design: History, Strategies and Implications for Public Policy Explained through a Guided Tour of Universally Designed Communities" and is listed in the RESNA registration materials as IC-07 and requires a separate registration fee. See: <http://www.resna.org/Conference/2005Conference/2005conf.php>.

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## Global Universal Design Educator's Network e-mail list

The Trace Research and Development Center is the host of the educator's email list. Note that the email list and the Online News are two distinct features. The list is interactive, unlike the Online News that you receive bi-monthly. If you want to be part of an interactive e-mail exchange with other people who are interested in teaching and learning about universal design

education, you must subscribe as explained below. Once you subscribe you will receive directions for how to use the list.

\* To subscribe go to <http://trace.wisc.edu:8080/mailman/listinfo/universaldesign-ed> where you can subscribe online. You will also learn more about the purpose of the list.

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## CALENDAR AND CALLS FOR PAPERS

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**June 1, 2005:** Deadline for preliminary submission to The World Habitat Awards. Full details on the award can be found at:

<http://www.bshf.org/en/?topselected=World%20Habitat%20Awards>

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**June 6-7, 2005:** Partnerships for Aging in Place, Washington, DC. This is a White House Conference on Aging event sponsored by the NHMAC with the goal of identifying recommendations to be submitted to the WHCoA Policy Committee For additional information contact Leon Harper at (703) 590-9512 or [leonudharper@aol.com](mailto:leonudharper@aol.com).

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**June 13, 2005:** Deadline for John M. Clancy Award for Socially Responsible Housing. This award is intended to recognize and encourage excellence in the planning, design, construction and maintenance of socially responsible urban housing by honoring an organization, a group, or an individual who has been a major force behind one or more built housing developments characterized by such excellence. Any public- or private sector multi-family project anywhere in the U.S. that provides shelter for low- and/or moderate-income residents may be submitted from anywhere in the world . For more details, visit [www.johnclancyaward.org](http://www.johnclancyaward.org).

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**June 15, 2005:** Universal Villages: Livable Communities in the 21<sup>st</sup> Century, Washington, DC. Conference is sponsored by the AARP Global Aging Program. The conference will feature three panels: Livable Communities - Affecting Change through Government Action, Best Practices - Livable Communities Around the World, and Designing the Livable Communities of the 21st Century. For full details, see: [http://www.aarp.org/special\\_static/gaplivable/](http://www.aarp.org/special_static/gaplivable/)

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**June 17, 2005:** Registration ends for Urban Habitats Competition. Habitat for Humanity of Greater Charlottesville and the Charlottesville Community Design Center are seeking realistic, innovative, universal models for multifamily housing that prevent gentrification and displacement. Full details at: <http://www.urban-habitats.org/>

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**June 21, 2005:** Deadline for Higher Education Facilities Design Awards 2005. Submission is highlight any “sustainable design and universal design elements.” Full details available at: [http://www.architects.org/emplibrary/HigherEducation\\_2005.pdf](http://www.architects.org/emplibrary/HigherEducation_2005.pdf)

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**June 23-27, 2005:** RESNA's 28<sup>th</sup> International Conference, Hyatt Regency, Atlanta, GA. <http://www.resna.org/Conference/2005Conference/2005conf.php>

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**June 21, 2005:** Deadline for Papers for Various ASID events. One type of program sought is that addressing Universal Design/Aging in Place. Full details available at: [http://www.asid.org/asid2/designer/Call\\_for\\_Presentations\\_06.pdf](http://www.asid.org/asid2/designer/Call_for_Presentations_06.pdf)

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**July 6, 2005:** iDec2. The 2nd International Design and Engagability Conference (iDeC) will bring together, researchers, designers and organizations that focus on providing accessible, usable and engaging products and services. See: <http://www.usabilitynews.com/news/article1855.asp>

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**July 22-27 2005:** HCI International 2005, including: 11<sup>th</sup> International Conference on Human-Computer Interaction jointly with Symposium on Human Interface (Japan) 2005, 6<sup>th</sup> International Conference on Engineering Psychology and Cognitive Ergonomics, 3<sup>rd</sup> International Conference on Universal Access in Human-Computer Interaction, 1<sup>st</sup> International Conference on Virtual Reality, and 1<sup>st</sup> International Conference on Usability and Internationalization, Las Vegas, Nevada, USA. The conference objective is to provide an international forum for the dissemination and exchange of scientific information on theoretical, generic, and applied areas of HCI, usability, internationalization, virtual reality, universal access and cognitive ergonomics. See: <http://www.hci-international.org/>

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**August 2-6 2005:** AHEAD 2005, Milwaukee, WI. The conference will highlight research-informed practice, the knowledge or practice based upon the practical application of objective and accurate information. AHEAD will also include a track in Universal Design and a Universal Design Leadership Institute. For details, see: [http://www.ahead.org/training/conference/2005\\_conf/index.htm](http://www.ahead.org/training/conference/2005_conf/index.htm)

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**August 15 2005:** Submission deadline “Award for Design Excellence,” awarded by the Norwegian Design Council. This award is the leading award for design in Norway. Its purpose is to stimulate the industry to use design as an important tool in product development and market communication. The Award for Design Excellence is a recognition of design quality and a visible proof that companies and designers jointly have developed a good product. A new category for universal design - Design for All - was introduced in 2004. For full details, see: <http://www.norskdesign.no/english/designawards/awards/>

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**August 23-25 2005:** Accessible Design in the Digital World 2005, Dundee, Scotland. The conference will explore the frontiers of inclusive design and will examine some of the challenges in implementing the numerous guidelines and meeting legal responsibilities. Topics include: New methods for inclusive design of accessible objects, Emerging technologies and developments for inclusive and accessible design, The impact of inclusive design and its implementation, and Examples of innovative designs which enhance accessibility. See: <http://www.accessinthedigitalworld.org/2005/>

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**September 6-9 2005:** 8th European Conference for the Advancement of Assistive Technology in Europe, Lille, France. The subtitle of the conference is "from Virtuality to Reality". It focuses on the bridge which leads from the perceived user need to the actual end use of the assistive device. See: <http://www.aaate2005.com/>

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**September 8-11 2005:** National Institute on Recreation Inclusion, Palm Springs, California. Get the most current information on recreation inclusion. Sessions for professionals, educators, students, advocates, parents, therapists, and others seeking: Basic knowledge about the inclusion process, In-depth knowledge about implementing inclusive recreation programs, and Knowledge about managing the inclusive recreation process. See: <http://www.nrpa.org/content/default.aspx?documentId=665>

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**September 15-16 2005:** Workplace Accommodations: State of the Science, Atlanta, Georgia. This conference will establish a national dialogue on the current state and future directions of workplace accommodations. A goal of the conference will be to develop an agenda for future directions in research, service delivery, and product development based on user needs for workplace accommodations. It will include the topic: Universal Design and AT - e.g., how are new universally designed products changing the need for assistive devices; what are the benefits and drawbacks of universal design; what tools/efforts can promote development of universally designed products. See: <http://www.workplacerc.org/sos/>

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**September 28-30 2005:** International Conference on Accessible Tourism, Kenya Nairobi. Conference topics will include: Accessible Tourism (Tourism for all), Accessible accommodation, Accessible transportation, Accessible environment, Universal design, Accessibility as a human right and Travel/tour for special adapted trips. For full details, contact the Kenya Disabled Development Society at: [bodo@avu.org](mailto:bodo@avu.org). Their website is: <http://www.interconnection.org/kdds/index.htm>

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**September 29 – October 1 2005:** World Ageing & Generations Conference 2005, St. Gallen, Switzerland. Though the conference will address all topics in all fields related to "Ageing and Generations," some areas of focus are: Leisure and Tourism: the impact of demographic change on leisure behaviour and tourism strategies, Marketing and Product Design: addressing the needs of the ageing society in the design and marketing of new products and other relevant topics. Full details at: <http://conference.viva50plus.org>

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**October 9-12 2005:** ASSETS 2005, The Seventh International ACM SIGACCESS Conference on Computers and Accessibility, Baltimore, MD. The ASSETS series of conferences is aimed at providing a technical forum for presenting and disseminating innovative research results that cover either (1) applications of computing and information technologies to provide assistive systems to persons with disabilities, or (2) investigation of computing technologies and their use by persons with disabilities. Full details are available at: <http://www.acm.org/sigaccess/assets05/>

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**October 26-28 2005:** Design Perspectives Envisioning design for the XXI century, Mexico City, Mexico. The theme for the conference is "Design Perspectives: Envisioning design for the 21st century." Conference details at: <http://www.dis.uia.mx/conference/aboutmxdc.html>

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**October 29-31 2005:** International Design Congress—IASDR 2005, Taiwan. The Asian Society for the Science of Design (ASSD) member societies and the Euro-America-based Design Research Society (DRS) have agreed that an all-inclusive academic platform should be established for uniting the design research societies of both the East and the West. The name of the newly formed organization is the "International Association of Societies of Design Research (IASDR) and this is it's first conference which includes the topic of Universal Design. See: <http://www.2005idc.yuntech.edu.tw/>

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**November 16-18 2005:** World Summit on the Information Society. Tunis, Tunisia. The first phase of WSIS took place in Geneva and the second phase will take place in Tunis. This Summit will provide a unique opportunity for all key players to contribute actively to bridge the digital and knowledge divides. Development themes will be a key focus in the second phase in Tunisia and it will assess progress that has been made and adopt any further Action Plan to be taken. See: <http://www.itu.int/wsis/>

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**December 11-15 2005:** New date -- White House Conference on Aging, Washington, DC. The White House Conference on Aging occurs once a decade to make aging policy recommendations to the President and Congress, and to assist the public and private sectors in promoting dignity, health, independence and economic security of current and future generations of older persons. See: <http://www.whcoa.gov/>

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**February 1-6 2006:** International Conference on Aging, Disability and Independence (ICADI), St. Petersburg, FL. The International Conference on Aging, Disability and Independence will bring together researchers, practitioners, business leaders and people involved in aging policy to focus on these issues. Smart Homes, Assistive Technology, Injury Prevention: , Housing, Home Modification and Universal Design, Transportation, Telehealth and Robotics. See: <http://icadi.php.ufl.edu/2006/>

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**April 4-6 2006:** Ergonomics Society Annual Conference 2006, UK. The conference includes a symposium on 'Inclusive Homes, Inclusive Living' including Users' aspirations and barriers in: Neighbourhood, Home, Mainstream utilities , Support services, and The marketplace for homes, systems and products. See: <http://www.ergonomics.org.uk/events/AC2006call.htm>

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**May 30-June 2 2006:** IFA 8<sup>th</sup> Global Conference on Aging, Copenhagen, Denmark. The Copenhagen conference aims to highlight cross-cultural co-operation to meet the challenges of global aging, and at the same time address important region-specific issues of ageing. The conference will be built up around the following themes and dimensions: The Economics of Aging, The Challenges of Aging, Active Aging - Aging Well, and Empowerment – participation. See: <http://www.global-ageing.dk/>

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**October 2006:** International Conference for Universal Design in Japan 2006, Kyoto, Japan. Details will be coming soon at: <http://ud2006.iaud.net/index.html>

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**October 17- 20 2006:** Australian Rehabilitation and Assistive Technology Association (ARATA) 2006 National Conference: Connecting People & Community Through Technology, Fremantle, WA. See: <http://www.e-bility.com/arata/index.php>

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**June 18-21, 2007:** 11th International Conference on Mobility and Transport for Elderly and Disabled Persons (TRANSED), Montréal, Canada. The theme is Benchmarking, Evaluation and Vision for the Future. Conference details at: <http://www.tc.gc.ca/transed2007/>

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### **Adding your information, questions to the Online News:**

Send e-mail to [elaine@ostroff.org](mailto:elaine@ostroff.org) by the 20th of the month before the scheduled bi-monthly issue. Articles should be limited to 300 words. If the issue is too full to include, and the timeliness of the article allows it, we may hold the item until the following issue. Queries about potential submissions are welcome.

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