

Global Universal Design Educator's Online News

Volume 10 Number 2, Spring 2009



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EDITOR'S NOTE

Around the world upcoming conferences are spreading the word about universal design. These conferences include: the Second International Conference on the Inclusive Museum (Australia), IAUD Congress – 2010 (Japan), MX Design Conference (Mexico), and AIA 2009: An Architecture Recognizing Diversity (US). Multiple award programs continue to recognize the value of universal design. They are: Universal Design Award (Germany), Schindler Award (Switzerland), Accessible Design Awards Program (US) and UN Habitat - Dubai International Award for Best Practices to Improve the Living Environment (World).

We're discovering many print (frequently available online) resources to aid those interested in implementing universal design in a range of contexts: Travel Without Boundaries (India), Promoting Safe Egress and Evacuation for People With Disabilities (Ireland), 17 Municipalities Present a "User Manual" in Universal Design (Norway), Increasing Home Access: Designing for Visitability (United States). Additionally, more videos illustrating the dynamic impact of universal design are becoming available: RIBA launches new guidance for inclusive design (United Kingdom) and Universal Design Video (United States). Many are found on the popular web-site, YouTube.

Initiatives for research as well as support include the RERC on Accessible Public Transportation (United States) and E-Mentoring program looking for mentors and protégés (United States - with international reach)

The popular press and refereed journals continue to publish pieces which discuss the challenges, successes and needs for universal design -- Asian Social Science Journal Recognizes Universal Design (China), London Mayor says Tate Modern extension plans "need further examination" (United Kingdom), and A Home You Can Grow Old With (United States).

Efforts are underway to embrace the tenants of universal design in various global communities such as Stockholm – Project Easy Access (Sweden) and Hawaii – HCR #12 – Creates Task Force for Aging in Place, Multigenerational Living (United States), and Inclusive Home Design Act of 2009 (United States)

As always, please do check out the Calendar for upcoming events. Information from the Online News can still 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/>.

Also please note: Any Internet links mentioned in this newsletter were verified as functioning as of the publication date. Web sites and e-mail addresses, however, change frequently, so changes may have occurred after that date.

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NEWS FROM THE GLOBAL NETWORK

AUSTRALIA



Second International Conference on the Inclusive Museum

The Inclusive Museum Conference is held annually in different locations around the world. The inaugural Conference was held at the National Museum of Ethnology, Leiden, the Netherlands in 2008 and the second one will be held this year at University of Queensland, Brisbane, Australia. The overall theme for this year's conference is Enabling Diversity Sustaining Development.

Full details at: <http://z09.cgpublisher.com/>

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CHINA

Asian Social Science Journal Recognizes Universal Design

Leading of Public Facilities from Non-Barrier Design to Universal Design is the title of an article in the March 2009 edition of Asian Social Science. "The universal design is the best way for today's design of public facilities. It develops from the non-barrier design and turns to be perfect. Starting from concluding the differences of non-barrier design and universal design in practice, this paper analyzes and describes the process of from non-barrier design to universal design, aiming at form a complete, systematic, and correct recognition toward the universal design."

You can read the full article at: <http://ccsenet.org/journal/index.php/ass/article/viewFile/270/245>

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GERMANY



Universal Design Award (2009)

Design for Everyone: The international "universal design award" was presented for the second time this year. A total of 92 entries from 18 nations were submitted for the "universal design awards 09" competition. The award

categories were -- universal design: Residential, Phone, Entertainment, Leisure, Lifestyle, Mobility, Work, Public areas, Communication, Services and assisted living: products, architecture and services for people in special situations which help preserve and promote a lifestyle which is as independent as possible.

Learn more about the award program and the winners at: http://www.ud-germany.de/cms/ud/en/universal_design_award_09/the_award

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INDIA

Travel Without Boundaries

The special Inclusive Tourism issue of India's Success and Ability magazine features several articles about the achievements and potential for Inclusive Tourism in India

You can read the issue (PDF) at:
<http://www.rollingrains.com/graphics/Success%20%26%20Ability.pdf>
(courtesy of Rolling Rains Report)

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IRELAND



Promoting Safe Egress and Evacuation for People With Disabilities

The National Disability Authority has launched an important publication titled 'Promoting Safe Egress and Evacuation for People with Disabilities'. The publication is aimed at ensuring the speedy and safe evacuation of public buildings by people with a disability, particularly in the event of an emergency.

To read more about and to access the report, see: <http://www.nda.ie/egress>

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JAPAN

IAUD Conference -- 2010

International Association for Universal Design (IAUD) has chosen Hamamatsu as the venue for the next IAUD hosted Conference. Exact dates and details are to be decided, but likely to be late October and early November, 2010.

Check out this web-site in the future for further details on the conference:

<http://www.iaud.net/en/>

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MEXICO



MX Design Conference 2009

This conference to be held in October in Mexico City will focus on these key concepts: Cultural Diversity, Social Activism, Professional Ethics, Social Responsibility, Sustainable Design, Ecodesign, Universal Design, Slow Design, Social Design, Design for All, and Accessibility.

For full details, see:

<http://www.dis.uia.mx/conference/2009/indexE.html>

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NORWAY

17 Municipalities Present a “User Manual” in Universal Design

Norway is the international leader in universal design policy with its high level of planning and policy. Since 2005, 17 Norwegian municipalities have been involved in a national development project under the auspices of the Ministry of the Environment. They have been exploring and putting into practice universal design as a strategy for building local communities characterized by adequate accessibility, equality, participation and free choice for all. Now a comprehensive report has been compiled in which the municipalities share what they have learned with the rest of the country.

You can read more about the report here: <http://www.universal-design.environment.no/artikkel.shtml?id=36>

Note that the report is only available for download or in print in Norwegian.



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SWEDEN



Stockholm – Project Easy Access

The city of Stockholm has set a goal, to be achieved at the latest by 2010, to be the most easily accessible capital of the world. Increasing accessibility for disabled persons to points and places in the city results in ease-of-access for everybody.

For full details on this program and the various resources available to make it happen, see: <http://www.stockholm.se/Fristaende-webbplatser/Fackforvaltningssajter/Trafikkontoret/En-stad-for-alla/In-English/>

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SWITZERLAND

Schindler Award 2008

The Schindler Award sets participants the task of designing an inclusive urban landscape, accessible to all inhabitants. The emphasis is on intelligent and sustainable architectural solutions that make it possible for people of all ages and capabilities to enjoy barrier-free mobility in their urban environments. The response in 2008 was very encouraging; the award attracted nearly 1000 applicants, with 125 projects qualifying for the final judging round.

The five winners of the Schindler Award 2008 are coming from Germany, Czech Republic, Slovakia, France and Finland - First Prize: "Triangle", Second Prize: "Vienna Carpet", Third Prize: "Rough Sketch", Fourth Prize: "Border Line", Fifth Prize: "All Together".

For full details of the award and it's winners, check out:

http://www.schindleraward.com/award_index/award_award08.htm

Note – the next competition will be held in 2010 with details to become available in 2009

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UNITED KINGDOM

London Mayor says Tate Modern extension plans 'need further examination'

A series of planning steering decisions, made by delegated authority by deputy mayor for policy and planning Simon Milton, were published and noted that *"There are outstanding concern relating to access/equal opportunities. Further discussions are required to ensure that the building fully meets the principles of inclusive design."*

A spokesperson for the Mayor said: *'The Mayor was highly supportive of the proposals for an extension at the Tate Modern, in particular its bold and imaginative design. He did raise valid issues in respect of accessibility which officers are seeking to resolve before it's referred back to him by Southwark Council for a decision.'*

RIBA launches new guidance for inclusive design

The Royal Institute of British Architects (RIBA) has launched a new educational film for architects, designers and clients which explores innovative inclusive design. It can be seen on YouTube in 7 segments. Titled "Inclusive Design: creating a user's world," the videos focus on three diverse but well-known venues as case studies, The Roundhouse in London, The Eden Project in Cornwall and The Willows School in Wolverhampton, the video demonstrates in detail how inclusive design can be incorporated seamlessly into a variety of buildings, enabling them to be accessible to all.

For more information about the video and details on how to access via Youtube or to request a copy, visit:

<http://www.architecture.com/NewsAndPress/News/RIBANews/News/2009/RIBALaunchesNewInclusiveGuidance.aspx>

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UNITED STATES

Accessible Design Awards Program (Massachusetts)

This Massachusetts-based awards program is open to projects anywhere in the world. Universal design exemplifies a commitment to making places that enhance the experience of all users. Universal design in the US includes excellent integration of accessibility requirements but exceeds the legal requirements by building in features that anticipate diverse user needs and benefits (e.g., indoor air quality, lighting, acoustics, redundant information, navigation). This program recognizes excellence in the design of buildings or facilities that are accessible for persons of all abilities. Project categories include public buildings, private residences and historic renovation. The deadline is April 14, 2009 and the winners will be displayed at Build Boston November 18-20, 2009.

Full details (PDF) available at:

<http://www.architects.org/documents/awards/accessible/AccessibleCfE2009.pdf>

A Home You Can Grow Old With

This *Washington Post* article provides an exhaustive primer on the idea that living spaces should be designed to accommodate the greatest possible range of people, regardless of whether you call it transgenerational, universal, accessible, adaptable or visitable design.

The article also refers to the National Aging in Place Council which has a guide to aging in place.

For the full article, see: <http://www.washingtonpost.com/wp-dyn/content/article/2009/02/20/AR2009022000041.html>

To learn more about the National Aging in Place Council and to check-out "A Guide to Aging in Place," see: <http://www.naipc.org/AGuidetoAginginPlace/tabid/74/Default.aspx>

AIA 2009 Convention: An Architecture Recognizing Diversity

The American Institute of Architects highlights diversity in their 2009 Convention in San Francisco, April 30 to May 2. There are many presentations that address universal design, including four sessions led by or involving members of the International Network of Designers with Disabilities. The Network is sponsored by the Institute of Human Centered Design Access to Design Professions project, with support from the National Endowment for the Arts. The sessions are: Designing For Everyone: Universal Design's Importance in a Socially-Responsible Practice; T27 Designers with Disabilities at Work: Sustainability and Social Justice: Sustainability and Social Justice and Out of Sight, Out of Mind: Aesthetic Messages Written in the Built Environment About People with Disabilities and The Complexity of ADA Compliance: Creating a Design Process that Accounts for the Diversity of Users.

For more information see <http://www.aiaconvention.com/live/61/>

E-Mentoring program looking for mentors and protégés

Access to Design Professions, a project of the Institute for Human Centered Design with a grant from the National Endowment for the Arts, has mentorships between design professionals and students or entry-level designers with disabilities who are interested in design. This is an electronic mentor-ship that uses the Internet for the majority of contact. Ultimately, the goal of E-Mentoring is the recruitment and support of individuals with disabilities in design professions in order to improve design for all people.

To participate, please contact Ruth Lusher (rlusher@HumanCenteredDesign.org).

ADP/E-Mentoring Brochure and Poster

Please feel free to view or download a copy of the ADP/E-Mentoring brochure and/or poster by selecting one of the links below. The brochure and poster are available as PDF files. (Note: In order to view PDFs you must have Adobe Reader installed on your computer. If you do not have this software installed, you can [download Adobe Reader](#) for free on Adobe's web site.)

- ADP/E-Mentoring Brochure (PDF),
http://www.adaptiveenvironments.org/adp/adp_brochure_10-2-08.pdf
 - ADP/E-Mentoring Poster (PDF),
http://www.adaptiveenvironments.org/adp/designer_ementoring_poster_oct2008.pdf
-

Hawaii – HCR #12 – Creates Task Force for Aging in Place, Multigenerational Living

This bill proposes the formation of a Home for Life Task Force to coordinate research and action to reduce barriers to aging in place and to facilitate multigenerational living; and that the task force would be directed to examine the following:

- (1) Building and zoning codes that present barriers to converting an existing single-family dwelling into a multigenerational home
- (2) Modifications that can be made to existing homes that would allow older adults and persons with disabilities to age in place or remain in their own homes for a longer period of time
- (3) Mechanisms by which personnel may be trained to analyze and make recommendations for structural modifications to existing structures
- (4) The use of universal design principles in new construction projects and renovations of existing structures

And be directed to:

- (1) Create a comprehensive guide for older adults and persons with disabilities that lists resources available for structural modification of their homes, including sources of low-cost or free supplies, voluntary labor, and available grants or loan programs
-

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- (2) Prepare a guide to incorporating universal design principles into construction design and renovation, to be made available to architectural and building professionals and the public;
- (3) Collect examples of best practices in retrofitting existing homes, designing and building multigenerational housing, and using universal design principles in both retrofitted and new construction, and solicit ideas and suggestions from professionals and students of architecture, interior design, gerontology, and construction
- (4) Encourage the Building Industry Association of Hawaii to include in its annual "Parade of Homes" one new universal design home, one home that was renovated using universal design principles, and one home adapted for multigenerational living
- (5) Organize an exhibit of best practices to be made available for viewing across the State;
- (6) Solicit ideas from older adults and persons with disabilities relating to the designs they believe would facilitate comfortable continued living in their own homes
- (7) Submit a report of its findings and recommendations to the Legislature and to the Joint Legislative Committee on Aging in Place no later than twenty days prior to the convening of the 2010 Regular Session

Full details on the resolution (PDF) can be found at:
http://www.capitol.hawaii.gov/session2009/bills/HCR12_.pdf

Inclusive Home Design Act of 2009

The Inclusive Home Design Act has been reintroduced in the US Congress again this year (H.R. 1408) – it has previously been introduced in 2002 (H.R. 5683), 2003 (H.R. 2353), 2005 (HR.1441) and 2007 (H.R. 4202). It would require that all newly-built single-family homes and townhouses receiving federal funds meet four specific standards:

- Include at least one accessible ("zero step") entrance into the home
- Ensure all doorways on the main floor have a minimum of 32 inches of clear passage space
- Build at least one wheelchair accessible bathroom on the main floor
- Place electrical and climate controls (such as light switches and thermostats) at heights reachable from a wheelchair

The legislation applies to new construction, not renovations of existing homes. In multi-story homes, the requirements apply only to the main floor.

For the full text and the status, checkout: <http://www.govtrack.us/congress/bill.xpd?bill=h111-1408>

Increasing Home Access: Designing for Visitability

This AARP housing brief examines the different types of Visitability initiatives and evaluates their potential for improving the prospects for aging independently in one's home and community. Barriers to the implementation of Visitability are discussed, as are opportunities for further acceptance of these design parameters in the construction of new homes.

The full report and other information can be found at: http://www.aarp.org/research/housing-mobility/accessibility/inb163_access.html

RERC on Accessible Public Transportation

Edward Steinfeld, professor and director of the School of Architecture and Planning's Center for Inclusive Design and Environmental Access (IDEA), and his son, Aaron Steinfeld, a systems scientist at the Carnegie Mellon University (CMU) Robotics Institute, are working together to form the Rehabilitation Engineering Research Center on Accessible Public Transportation. Researchers from UB will try to obtain a better understanding of the requirements for effectively boarding and moving within transit vehicles, while CMU is looking at ways to involve riders with disabilities in the process to get firsthand information about the problems they face when using public transportation. The RERC was established with funding from the National Institute on Disability and Rehabilitation Research.

Read more about this RERC at: <http://www.ercapt.org/>



Universal Design Video

The Ohio State University (OSU) Extension Services has created a 20 minute video which provides an introduction to universal design elements, discusses how Universal

Design features are helpful and appropriate for all members of your family, and highlights examples of universal design features in a kitchen and bathroom. The video was made possible by the generous support of Lowe's Home Improvement Warehouse and Dave Fox Remodeling.

You can view the video (Windows Media) at: <http://ehe.osu.edu/ud/ud-video.htm>
For information on ordering the DVD, visit: <http://ehe.osu.edu/ud/index.htm>
Also check out the many resources available regarding Universal Design at the
<http://ehe.osu.edu/ud/index.htm>

YouTube Videos – Universal Design

The OSU and RIBA videos prompted the question – are there videos available on YouTube about universal design? The answer is yes! Here is a sampling of the few that we found that may interest you:

AARP: Case for Universal Design -- http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=BngijcXPq_k
AARP: Universal Design Home Tips -- <http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=LhW2nfozW9k>

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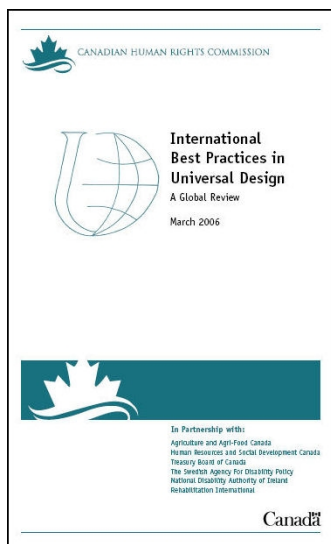
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CRDA: Universal Design Demo Home – 3 videos,
<http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=vaxHQ9QvKow>,
<http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=8UxFjwKRESI> ,
<http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=T20XrwVBtmA>
HGTVP.com: Aging in Place: Universal Design --
<http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=TIKBuuMhbTA>
Universal Design in Museums -- <http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=sZ7hOfXEzO8>
WHO and Universal Design -- <http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=Kmt4qTD70BY>

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WORLD



GAATES Honored with UN Habitat - Dubai International Award for Best Practices to Improve the Living Environment

The Global Alliance on Accessible Technologies and Environments (GAATES) publication, "International Best Practices in Universal Design: A Global Review" has been named as one of the world's 100 "Best Practices" for 2008 by United Nations - Habitat - Dubai International Award for Best Practices.

This publication which compares accessibility codes and standards from around the world has been distributed to over 5000 people worldwide and is available in English, French, Arabic, Spanish, Serbian and the alternate DAISY format. GAATES, incorporated in 2007 is an international not-for-profit organization that brings together individuals and organizations dedicated to promoting accessibility of electronic and communication technologies and accessibility of the built environment.

Read more about the award at: <http://www.accessibletourism.org/?i=enat.en.news.587>
Read more about the award-winning book at: <http://www.gaates.org/009BestPract.shtml>

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CALENDAR AND CALLS FOR PAPERS

April 5-9, 2009: INCLUDE 2009 -- Inclusive Design into Innovation: Transforming Practice in Design, Research and Business, Royal College of Art, London, UK. For full details, see: http://www.hhc.rca.ac.uk/1345/all/1/include_2009.aspx

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April 22-24, 2009: The Inclusive Tourism Conference, ICAT 2009, Singapore. For full details, see: <http://www.icat2009.com.sg/index.php>

May 7, 2009: International conference: Do Web Accessibility Guidelines Guarantee Universal Design?, Oslo, Norway. Sponsored by The Norwegian Resource Network for Universal Design. More information available at: <http://medialt.no/news/en-US/international-conference-do-web-accessibility-guidelines-guarantee-universal-design/589.aspx>

May 7-8, 2009: Accessibility and Safety for All, Thessaloniki, Greece. This Conference is organized in co-operation with ITC (National Research Council Construction Technologies Institute of Italy) and the CIB Working Commission W084. Details available (PDF) at: <http://heyblom.websites.xs4all.nl/website/newsletter/0807/fmw084.pdf>

July 7-10, 2009: Second International Conference on the Inclusive Museum, University of Queensland, Brisbane, Australia. Full details at: <http://z09.cgpublisher.com/>

September 22-25, 2009: Second International Conference Education for All, Warsaw, Poland. The three conference tracts will be -- Universal design – more than just architecture, Beyond the borders of traditional disability, and Inclusive education – can it become a fact? Full details at: <http://www.disability.uw.edu.pl/>

September 30-October 1, 2009: Second ENAT International Congress on Tourism for All, Vienna, Austria. Full details at: <http://www.accessibletourism.org/?i=enat.en.events.595>

October 10-11, 2009: International Forum on “Ageing-in- Place” and Age Friendly Cities, Akita, Japan. Registration form available at: [http://www.ifa-fiv.org/attachments/059_Registratation%20Form%20AIP%20Akita%2019%20February%20\(4\).doc](http://www.ifa-fiv.org/attachments/059_Registratation%20Form%20AIP%20Akita%2019%20February%20(4).doc)

October 28-30, 2009: MX Design Conference, 2009, Mexico City, Mexico. Key concepts that are the focus of the conference include: Cultural Diversity, Social Activism, Professional Ethics, Social Responsibility, Sustainable Design, Ecodesign, Universal design, Slow Design, Social Design, Design for All, and Accessibility. For full details, see: <http://www.dis.uia.mx/conference/2009/indexE.html>

November 9-12, 2009: RI Regional Conference: "Strategies for Implementation: Good Practices for Accessibility and Inclusion", Dubai, UAR. More information available at: <http://www.riglobal.org/>

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December 2-4, 2009: iNTA-SEGA2009 – Bridging Innovation, Technology and Tradition, Bangkok, Thailand. Topics include -- Alternative Building Design, Materials and Construction for Climate Change, Building Innovation for Comfort and Quality of Architecture and Urban Spaces, In search for the New Vernacular, Appropriate Built Environment Technology, Systems/ Experiments and Research Methods/ Case Studies, and Universal Design. Full details at: <http://www.inta2009.arch.ku.ac.th>

May 3-6, 2010: International Federation on Ageing – 10th International Conference, Melbourne, Australia. The three themes that form the program framework - Global Warming and the Environment; Social Inclusion; The Changing Economy; and Human Rights - are expected to stimulate new conversations as well as explore in more depth more traditional subject areas. For full details, see: <http://www.ifa2010.org/>

June 4-10, 2010: The 12th International Conference on Mobility and Transport for Elderly and Disabled Persons (TRANSED 2010), Hong Kong. Theme will be “Sustainable Transport and Travel for All.” The conference will be hosted by the Hong Kong Society for Rehabilitation. Information is available at: <http://www.transed2010.hk/front/> (for more information on Global Transportation events and news, check out <http://www.globalride-sf.org/newsletters/>)

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NOTE: Previous issues of the Online News are available online at the Global Universal Design Education Network website at: <http://www.universaldesign.net>

Adding your information, questions to the Online News:

Send e-mail to elaine@ostroff.org for inclusion in the upcoming quarterly 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.

You can subscribe yourself to the Online News through the link “Join our mailing list” in the email announcement of the Online News. There is no charge.

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