

Global Universal Design Educator's Online News

Volume 11 Number 1, Spring 2010



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EDITOR'S NOTE

Competitions and awards, new publications, exciting projects and so much more fill this edition of the newsletter.

Read about recent recognition of successful universal design applications – Universal Design Award Winners Announced (Germany), Design for All Foundation Awards (Germany), London Olympic Park, AARP Livable Communities Awards (US), JETS – National Engineering Design Challenge Winners (US) and Steinfeld Received UB Presidential Award (US).

Several new publications facilitate the incorporation of universal design whether indoors or outdoors, whether in a product or a process -- Casa Projeto e Estilo (Brazil), Age-Friendly Communities - Book of Proceedings (Canada), Danish Designers Manifesto (3rd Edition), Eco-Access - Inclusive Design of Public Places (South Africa), Inclusive Housing: A Pattern Book (US), NeuroRehabilitation and Universal Design (US), Just Below the Line (US) and Design for All: Implication for "World" Bank Operations.

Don't forget to check out some new (and not so new) projects, policies, initiatives and resources to help guide the incorporation of universal design attributes - I-Sit Easy Chair (Denmark), Mediate (Methodology for describing the accessibility of transport in Europe), SAMARTHYAM - National Centre for Accessible Environments (India), Inclusive Design Web-site (UK), An Introduction to Universal Design in Dwell (US), Designing the Parks (US), FTA - Livable and Sustainable Communities Web-site (US) and Talking Signs (US), Universal Design in HUD's Neighborhood Stabilization Program (US).

And aspects of universal design and accessible design continue to be legislated in more countries: Spain (All Newly Built Buildings Will Have to Be Accessible) and Taiwan (Universal Design Guidelines for Housing Development in Taipei).

The article "Universal Design Hitting Home as Care Costs Rise" presents an economic perspective as to "why" do universal design. We're glad to see that universal design continues to become mainstream as YouTube begins auto captioning for its immense catalog of videos.

You might notice that several pieces are quite brief. Given the plethora of news available and that often times new resources are not available in English, we are now including "brief mentions" of such non-English resources for your information. We also mention projects that we want to bring to your attention and yet due to space limitations, cannot explore in any depth.

As always, please 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: 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

BRAZIL



Casa Projeto e Estilo

There is a new Brazilian magazine on home accessibility about to be released by the publishing house Principis Editora.

It will be in Portuguese and aimed at architects, decorators, designers, and lastly consumers. It is not yet clear to us if the editorial intent is accessibility or Universal Design and thus issues such as aging-in-place or if they will expand into mutual influence on inclusive design between domestic and hotel environments

[Thanks to Scott Rains, The Rolling Rains Report,

<http://www.rollingrains.com/> for this news item]

Some information in Portuguese about the publication is available at:

<http://cirandadelivros.com.br/index.asp?secao=25&categoria=142&subcategoria=0&id=1240>

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CANADA

Age-Friendly Communities -- Book of Proceedings

In June 2009, the City of Toronto hosted an *Age-Friendly Communities* consultation. A product of this consultation is the *Book of Proceedings* which recorded the day's discussions and ideas for future actions. The questions posed during that consultation were:

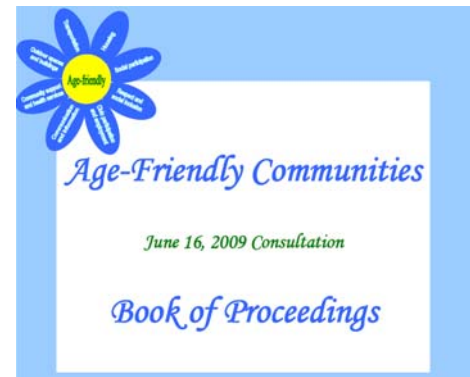
- How can we together move Toronto forward in becoming more age-friendly?
- How can we engage more colleagues, community organizations, neighborhood groups and individuals in stepping up to join this conversation?

The resulting *Book of Proceedings* gives a sense of the priorities, possible champions and ideas about further engagement, put forward by participants on that day.

Full document (PDF format) at:

<http://www.agefriendlycommunities.org/images/stories/PDFs/Age-Friendly%20Book%20of%20Proceedings%20doc.pdf>

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DENMARK

Danish Designers Manifesto (3rd Edition)

Danish Designers is a professional hub for approximately 900 individual members, working professionally with design. Our mission is to promote the most intelligent use – as well as the understanding of the true value – of design and of the thinking, skills and capacities of Danish designers. Viewing “Design as the key to better solutions to your own specific problem, design as the door to experiences that move you and activate your senses, design as means to improve every-day life, to simplify what doesn't need to be complicated and to make the inaccessible accessible. Design as a way of making it easier for every one of us to understand and to relate to the world and the local environment we are part of.”



[Thanks to Karin Bendixen, Danish Centre for Accessibility, k.bendixen@dctf.dk for making us aware of this]

You can access the manifesto, in English, (PDF format) at:

http://www.adaptiveenvironments.org/newsevents/dd_manifesto_2010.pdf or in (Word format) at: http://www.adaptiveenvironments.org/newsevents/dd_manifesto.docx



i-SIT Easy Chair

i-SIT easy chair, based on the Design for All Principle was unveiled by Magnus Olesen A/S, a Danish furniture company at the Furniture Fair in Stockholm in February; the chair was designed by Design Concern. The chair is the end result of two and a half years work in the user driven innovation project i-SIT throughout a process that involved both young as well as elderly users with and without disabilities.

Learn more about the chair (PDF) at: <http://www.i-sit.dk/i-SIT-stolen.37.aspx>

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EUROPE

Mediate (Methodology for describing the accessibility of transport in Europe)

Mediate aims to establish a common European methodology for measuring accessibility to public transport. This will contribute to the creation of inclusive transport systems providing better and easier access for all citizens.

You will find more information at: <http://mediate.euregio.net/>

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GERMANY

Universal Design Award Winners Announced

105 entries from ten countries from around the world were submitted in this year's competition. The jury of experts presented 11 entries with the "universal design award"

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2010". The jury made up of users and consumers awarded the "universal design consumer favorite 2010" five times – 11 products were honored with both awards.

The annual universal design award honors outstanding products and services that reflect the principles and characteristics of universal design: products that show respect for the way we treat our dwindling global resources and that deal actively with the changing demography in industrialized societies.

For general information on the award, see: http://www.ud-germany.de/cms/ud/en/universal_design_award_2010/the_award

For this years winnders, check out: http://www.ud-germany.de/cms/ud/en/universal_design_online_exhibition/universal_design_award_2010/winners_of_both_awards_2010/page/all/

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INDIA

SAMARTHYAM – National Centre for Accessible Environments



SAMARTHYAM is a national (India) information, technical assistance and research organization. Under its project "National Centre for Accessible Environments", it evaluates, develops, and promotes accessible & universal design in built & outdoor environments, transportation systems and products. Its mission is to improve environments through access audits, design innovation, research, capacity building trainings and design assistance.

Learn more at: <http://www.samarthyam.org/>

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SOUTH AFRICA

Eco-Access – Inclusive Design of Public Places

Eco-Access has produced an information document to make decision-makers in South Africa aware of their responsibilities for accessible design by increasing their understanding the rationale of inclusive design – that the needs of all people must be considered when planning and developing facilities.

Access the document (in PDF format) at: <http://www.eco-access.org.za/old/images/Accessibility.pdf>

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SPAIN

Design for All Foundation Awards

In February of this year, these awards were given out to recognize commitment to the concept, implementation or promotion of 'Design for All.' These awards recognize the joint effort, internationally, of companies, organizations and administrations to achieve a world where environments, services and products respect and take into account human diversity, and where accessibility could be a normal feature in the lives of people, promoting their equal participation in society, improving their life quality day by day.

Read about the awards and the award winners at:
<http://www.designforall.org/en/awards2010.html>

All Newly Built Buildings Will Have to Be Accessible

The Town Building Technical Code of Spain is going to be modified. This regulation addresses the basic conditions of building accessibility and usage that prevents the discrimination of citizens with any type of functional limitation when it comes to their access and use of the installations, buildings and spaces, both public and private.

The measures concerning safety, already regulated by the Technical code, have increased to take into account the use by people with limited functionalities. The amendment of the Code also eliminates the so-called 'second level accessibility' that allowed some less strict regional

rulings to be passed. From now on, there will be only one itinerary which is compulsory and unique, the 'accessible itinerary'.

Read about this further at: <http://www.designforall.org/en/novetats/noticia.php?id=884>

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TAIWAN



Universal Design Guidelines for Housing Development in Taipei

TaipeiCity government has issued a new publication on Universal design Guidelines for Housing. This book provides a checklist, suggestions and practical tips for citizens to create a friendly housing environment for all family members. This publication is available in Chinese only.

Document (in PDF format), can be accessed at:

<http://163.29.37.121/FileUpload/309-2955/Original/%E9%80%9A%E7%94%A8%E8%A8%AD%E8%A8%88%E6%89%8B%E5%86%8A%E5%B0%81%E9%9D%A2.jpg>

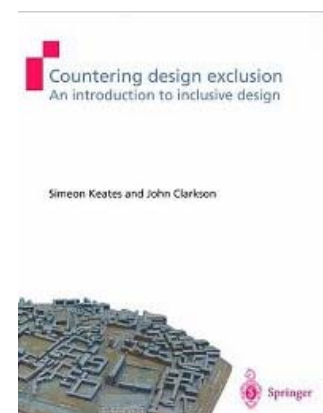
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UNITED KINGDOM

Inclusive Design Web-site

There is a web-site that is based on the book "Countering Design Exclusion – An Introduction to Inclusive Design" by Simeon Keates and John Clarkson, created to raise awareness of the issues involved and to suggest design approaches. Two sections you want to make sure you check out are:

- Introduction – Includes examples of poor and better inclusive design examples.
- Product Assessment – There are many methods of assessing the utility and usability of products. Several methods are discussed that can be implemented at different stages of the design process.



<http://www.eng.cam.ac.uk/inclusivedesign/>



London Olympic Park

In February, The Olympic Delivery Authority's 'Inclusive Design Strategy' was recognised at the Royal Town Planning Institute's (RTPI) with an 'Award for Equality and Diversity'

The judges' comments stated: 'The Olympic Delivery Authority has turned traditional design principles on their heads. By taking a holistic view of people's needs, it is using the power of the Games to change the way that people think about designing places... There is a strong indication that these principles will influence future sports facilities design.'

A press release about the award is at: <http://www.london2012.com/press/media-releases/2010/02/olympic-park-inclusive-design-hailed-as-setting-new-standard-for-industry.php>
Find more information about the award at: <http://www.rtpi.org.uk/cgi-bin/item.cgi?ap=1&id=3351>

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UNITED STATES

AARP Livable Communities Awards

For the third year, AARP and the National Association of Home Builders (NAHB) have collaborated to recognize forward-looking builders, developers, and architects who make residential living more comfortable for people of all backgrounds and abilities.

The winning projects represent a unique combination of style, universal design, and energy efficiency to make them desirable homes and neighborhoods for people of all ages to live in.

To learn about the awards and learn who the winners are, visit:

http://www.aarp.org/family/housing/livable_communities/

Livable Communities: An Evaluation Guide (PDF) is at:

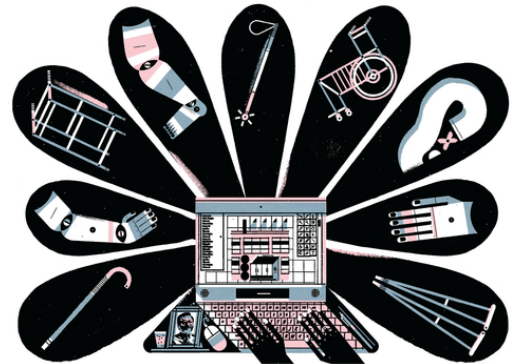
http://assets.aarp.org/rqcenter/il/d18311_communities.pdf

This article includes links to video tours of the winning projects:

<http://www.builderonline.com/design/universal-design-holds-universal-appeal.aspx>

An Introduction to Universal Design in Dwell

Here is a series of articles that look at universal design from a slightly different perspective. As the introduction says "Mention universal design and see your companions' eyes start glazing over. Though formally flashy chairs and posh penthouses may reside at the sexier end of the design world, universal design actually affects us all. So pay attention and prepare to learn something - your less hale days aren't far off; none of ours is."



The series includes: an Introduction, For all Mankind, Visible Touch, Going Out of Tune, and Sense and Sensibility.

<http://www.dwell.com/articles/an-introduction--to-universal-design.html#ixzz0leMPEsgT>

Designing the Parks



Designing the Parks is a partnership among eight diverse organizations committed to sustaining healthy, vibrant public parks as a core of civic life. Embodied in this vision is a framework for planning and designing public parks that are innovative, responsive, respectful, sustainable and inclusive. Related to this, the National Park Service's Denver Service Center has launched the Designing the Parks Annual Awards Program. By creating this awards program – the first of its kind dedicated only to public parks - Designing the Parks hopes to continue to foster quality discourse on the role and significance of public parks in community life and the importance of innovative, responsive, high quality planning and design.

Read more about Designing the Parks partnership and the new awards at:

<http://www.designingtheparks.org/>

FTA – Livable and Sustainable Communities Web-site

This page highlights how Federal Transportation Authority programs fit into the larger [Department of Transportation](#) (DOT) Livability Initiative and the Federal Sustainable Communities Partnership. The Partnership for Sustainable Communities represents an exciting time where the DOT, the [Environmental Protection Agency](#) (EPA), and the [Department of Housing and Urban Development](#) (HUD) are working together like never before to provide

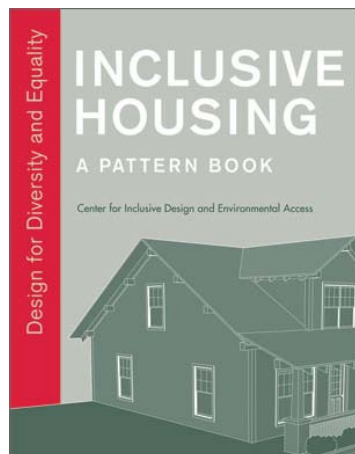
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citizens with access to affordable housing, more transportation options, and lower transportation costs, while protecting the environment in communities nationwide.

Full details and information at: http://fta.dot.gov/publications/publications_10935.html



Inclusive Housing: A Pattern Book

The Center for Inclusive Design and Environmental Access (IDEA) has produced a practical new book. Inclusive Housing focuses on housing that provides access to people with disabilities while benefiting all residents and that incorporates inclusive design practices into neighborhood and housing designs without compromising other important design goals.

Learn more about the book at:

<http://books.wwnorton.com/books/Inclusive-Housing-A-Pattern-Book/>

You can access a preview of part of the book (PDF) at:

<http://www.udeworld.com/visbooklet/visitabilitybooklet.pdf>

JETS – National Engineering Design Challenge Winners

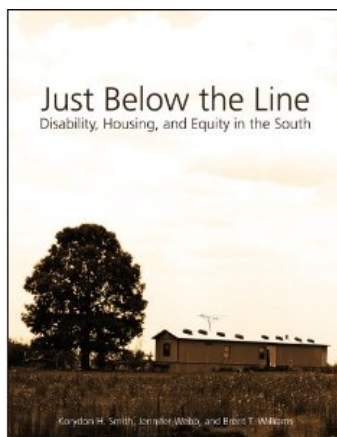
The NEDC challenges high school students from across the country to design and build a workplace accommodation device to help a person with disabilities from their community.

The Bishop Kelly High School students won both the award for Best Application of Universal Design Principles and the overall competition for their design of a "Portable AT Writing Device (PAWD)" to help people who have tremors write by hand. The device was initially designed as an easy-to-use, ergonomic, and portable tool for a specific individual. Subsequent versions were redesigned to work with right- or left-handed users, fit a range of hand sizes, and easily load and unload a variety of writing implements



Read about the award program and the winners at:

<http://www.jets.org/programs/nedc/index.cfm>



Just Below the Line: Disability, Housing and Equity in the South

Just Below the Line: Disability, Housing and Equity in the South, recently published by the University of Arkansas, explains how reworking the policies and practices of the housing industry in the South can serve as a model for the rest of the nation in meeting the physical and social needs of persons with disabilities and aging boomers. The South with its high rates of poverty, older residents, residents with disabilities, extensive rural areas, and out-of-date housing policies and practices serves as a “canary in the coal mine” for the impending, nationwide housing crisis.

With America on the brink of the largest number of older adults and persons with disabilities in the country’s history, the deceleration in housing production during the first decade of the twenty-first century, and a continued reliance on conventional housing policies and practices, a perfect storm has emerged in the housing industry. Policy makers, designers, builders, realtors, advocates, and housing consumers will be able to use this book to promote the production of equitable housing nationwide.

Written by Korydon H. Smith, Jennifer Webb, and Brent T. Williams, Foreword by Edward Steinfeld.

For more information: <http://www.uark.edu/~uapinfo/titles/sp10/smith.html>

NeuroRehabilitation and Universal Design

The November 2009 special issue of NeuroRehabilitation was focused on residential design for persons with neurological disability. Dr. Nathan Zasler, guest editor for this special issue comments, "This special thematic issue of NeuroRehabilitation on residential design serves as a 'one-stop' resource for individuals interested in serving the housing needs of persons with neurodisability and/or for those making modifications to their own home..." Because of the importance of this issue, IOS Press has made its content available at no cost.

Select article titles include: Enhancing Quality of Life Through Universal Design, Ten New and Emerging Trends in Residential Group Living Environments, Residential Design and Outdoor Area Accessibility, Residential Design for Real Life Rehabilitation and several more.

To access the articles in this issue (PDF or HTML), visit:

<http://iospress.metapress.com/content/w73627vu76q2/?p=feba6288943942a982f6a0a2e0082e61&pi=0>

Steinfeld Received UB Presidential Award

Edward H. Steinfeld, award-winning professor of architecture in the (University at Buffalo – State University of New York) School of Architecture and Planning and an international pioneer in the field of inclusive design and environmental access, received the university's second annual Presidential Award for Faculty Excellence in March.

Learn more about Edward, his achievements and the award at:

http://www.buffalo.edu/ubreporter/2010_03_03/steinfeld_faculty_award

Talking Signs

Talking Signs, pioneered and developed at Smith-Kettlewell Eye Research Institute, Rehabilitation Engineering Research Center in San Francisco, California more than 15 years ago, provide orientation, information and wayfinding access through directional speech messages that are transmitted silently over infrared light which are heard privately with hand-held receivers. They are broadly referred to as remote infrared audible signage, or RIAS. RIAS is an intuitive, one button technology which is as easy to use as pointing. The article titled "NewMap - The National Empowerment for Wayfinding Model Accessibility Project" gives a nice overview on talking signs and how they improve accessibility.

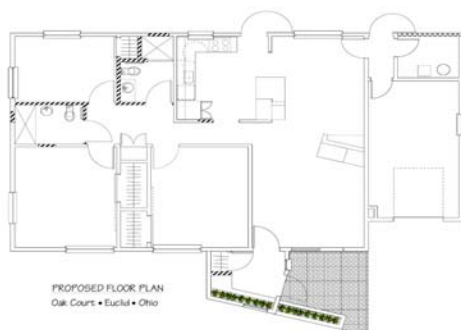


Read this article and more at: <http://www.talkingsigns.com/>

Universal Design Hitting Home as Care Costs Rise

This article concludes that "The bottom line is there are not enough nursing homes to accommodate the baby boomers' future needs, even if they could afford the care. It's about cost and space. So a good look at incorporating universal design applications may be just what the doctor ordered."

Read the full article at: <http://www.spokesman.com/stories/2010/mar/14/universal-design-hitting-home-as-care-costs-rise/>



Universal Design in HUD's Neighborhood Stabilization Program

The City of Euclid, Ohio, has put universal design in Housing and Urban Development's (HUD) \$47 million Neighborhood Stabilization Program (NSP). Euclid, an inner ring suburb of Cleveland, has received funds to renovate abandoned and foreclosed homes, addressing

the current housing crisis, and has made the unique decision to renovate its one-story homes into fully accessible dwellings. Cleveland architect Sally Levine, AIA, LEED AP, has embraced the challenge of respecting the neighborhood context in the first renovation, while creating an inviting and accessible environment for its future residents.

For more information, see: http://www.ihcdstore.org/universaldesign-net/html/article_sally_levine_june_2010.html

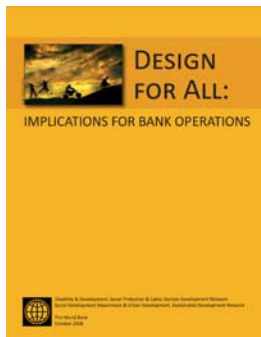
Workplace Features that Aid Function -- Survey

The Center for Assistive Technology and Environmental Access (CATEA) at Georgia Tech studies workplaces to help people with disabilities become more effective in their job. They are conducting a survey about the workplace features that are used to help with tasks or duties. They are most interested in the features that help because of a limitation in an ability due to a loss of function or disability. The survey asks questions about one's abilities and one's job. They will also ask about workplace features.

You can access the survey at: <http://www.surveygizmo.com/s/200473/workplace-features-that-aid-function>

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WORLD



Design for All: Implication for "World" Bank Operations

This paper was created to inform World Bank task team leaders about the benefits of universal design and to recommend ways in which universal design can be integrated as a component in projects of the World Bank. It presents the applications of universal design particularly in infrastructure with the focus on transport, urban development, water and sanitation, education, health, and ICT sectors, as well as post-conflict and natural disaster situations.

The full paper (in PDF format) is at:

http://siteresources.worldbank.org/DISABILITY/Resources/Universal_Design.pdf

YouTube Begins Auto Captioning

YouTube is to offer automatically generated captions for its entire video catalogue, a boon for deaf users and those who want to watch videos in other languages. At a press conference,

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Google software engineer Ken Harrenstein demonstrated the feature and went through the reasons Google invested in the product -- from expanding accessibility to crossing language barriers to improving search. YouTube users can see available captions by clicking on a button in the lower-right-hand part of the video player. They can also choose to see captions in a different language from the language of the video. Harrenstein, who is deaf and gave his presentation in sign language, said he has been working on the product for the past five years.

Read more at: <http://youtube-global.blogspot.com/2010/03/future-will-be-captioned-improving.html>

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CALENDAR AND CALLS

***NEW* July 1 2010:** Deadline for entries for James Dyson Award 2010. Get full details at: <http://www.jamesdysonaward.org/>

***NEW* August 25-28, 2010:** 6th World Ageing and Generations Congress, St. Gallen, Switzerland. During the conference there will be an exhibition 'Universal Design: Designing our Future' displaying more than 50 user-friendly products which improve the quality of life for young and old. Learn more at: <http://www.wdaforum.org/en/>

***NEW* September 27-30, 2010:** Accessible Design in the Digital World Conference, Syros, Greece. This conference will provide an opportunity for researchers, designers and practitioners to discuss and debate the possibilities for accessibility and usability in the emerging world of Web 2.0, ubiquitous and pervasive technologies, and user experience. Learn more at: <http://www.addw10.org/>

Oct 9-12, 2010: Universal Design Summit 4, -- Creating Livable Homes and Communities, St. Louis, Missouri. This conference focusses exclusively on universal housing and neighborhoods with the goal to bring about community integration and participation while enhancing the independence of all people at home and throughout their daily lives. Content will include universal design features in housing, sustainability, community design, green design and affordability to create communities usable by all. Full details at: <http://stlouis.uds4.org/>



***NEW* October 14-16, 2010:** VIC 2010: Visions of an Inclusive Community," Tampa, Florida. The educational tracks for this year's conference are as follows: The Built Environment: Home, Work, Play + Community Engagement and Social Sustainability + Community Support Services. Learn more at: <http://www.vic2010.com/>

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***NEW* October 19-21, 2010:** Universal Design in Airports, Houston, TX. In a global world where the traveling public varies in its ability to move, it is important that transportation centers like airports apply the concepts of inclusive design to make travel accessible and easier for everyone. Learn more at: <http://www.slideshare.net/srains/universal-design-in-airports-2010-3195102>

October 30 – November 3, 2010: The 3rd International Conference for International Design, Hamamatsu, Japan. Sponsored by The International Association for Universal Design (IAUD, Patron HH Prince Tomohito of Mikasa). The theme is “For the People and the Earth of Tomorrow.” Details available at: <http://www.ud2010.net/index.en.html>

***NEW* November 9-12, 2010:** The United Nations’ Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities and Rehabilitation in Europe: – Effects on Individuals and Rehabilitation Management,” Copenhagen, Denmark. To read more and find future announcements, check out: <http://www.riglobal.org/528/>

***NEW* November 17-19, 2010:** Build Boston’s annual symposium and trade show, World Trade Center, Boston, MA. Day long Symposium on Socially Sustainable Design on November 18 with national and international experts. Also the first US Design Challenge with the Helen Hamlyn Center of London. More info at www.buildboston.com

***NEW* November 17-19, 2010:** International Conference on Design for Ageing (ICODA) -Timeless Design, Singapore. The conference is sponsored by Singapore’s National Design Centre for Ageing. To read more, check out: http://www-des.tp.edu.sg/des_home/des_industry/des_defa/des_icoda_2010.htm



[I learned of this conference from the Asian Universal Design Network – learn more at: <http://audn.boco.com.tw/english/index.htm>]

***NEW* November 24-26, 2010:** 3rd International Congress on Tourism for All, Valladolid, Spain. The backbone on the 3rd International Congress of Tourist for All, sponsored by ONCE, will be the Cultural Tourism. Learn more about the conference at: <http://www.accessibletourism.org/?i=enat.en.events.906>. (In Spanish) find information about the past 2 congresses at: <http://www.fundaciononce.es/ES/AmbitosActuacion/Accesibilidad/Paginas/Eventos.aspx>

***NEW* April 18-20, 2011:** The sixth International conference on Inclusive Design; Include 2011 will take place at the Royal College of Art, London, UK. The theme will be: The Role of Inclusive Design in Making Social Innovation Happen. Details available at: <http://www.hhc.rca.ac.uk/2968/all/1/include-2011.aspx>

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***NEW* June 5-8, 2011:** The 2nd Festival of International Conferences on Caregiving, Disability, Aging and Technology (FICCDAT) will be held in Toronto, Canada. Details available at: <http://www.ficcdat.ca/main.cfm?cid=1559>

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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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