

# 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 five continents and evidence of the deepening practice of universal design around the world. Read about some 'best practices' of universal design in reports from: the Nordic Countries 'City for All;' from the United Kingdom, the pioneering Harry Potter website and a shopping device in Bristol that uses a scanner and a telephone; from the United States in the high level of universal design in the Boston-based Accessible Design awards; a process of design development with users at an eco-resort in the US Virgin Islands; a popular addition to the Western New York Home Show; an affordable, universally designed apartment complex in Berkeley; the awards program honoring children's museums that create inclusive exhibits; and a world-wide report on improved accessibility in transportation systems.

Learn about technical assistance resources that include: a new Italian program about urban spaces and buildings; a Spanish handbook from Valencia on universal design in parks and public spaces; from the United Kingdom, a 'Toolkit' on inclusive design practices in consumer products; from the United States, the latest AARP report on Livable Communities, a report on schoolyard habitats, a national 'Fall's Prevention Plan,' and another helpful website on making challenge courses accessible. Review the new legislative efforts from Canada and Israel to assure participation of people with disabilities in all aspects of community life; notice the trends reported in the US about the rise in accessible housing from the AIA and the support of mayors across the country for Visitability.

You'll be reminded of the influence that the aging demographics continues to have, from reports from Asia about standardization measures from three countries and from Australia in a new program for architects along with health and aging ministries to make a 'Community for All Ages.' Find out how design education is about to be addressed by the US Access Board. Use the Calendar that goes into 2007 to find locations for your participation in educational events. We highlight two US events: the September Workplace Accommodation conference in Atlanta and the November annual Build Boston symposium.

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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### ASIA

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#### **Korea, China, Japan meet for standardization of daily goods**

A symposium for the standardization of daily goods and supplies for people who are elderly and physically challenged was launched on April 28 at the Korea Technology Center (KTC), jointly hosted by the KTC and the Korean Standards Association (KSA), to exchange information and promote cooperation among experts from Korea, China and Japan.

Topics of discussion included ways of bringing forth a “barrier-free society” where there are no obstacles or barriers causing inconvenience to elderly and disabled people, universal standardization of daily goods and supplies, including electronic products and medical appliances and its adoption to manufacturing.

For more on the meeting, see: <http://korea.be/content/view/410/153/>

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### AUSTRALIA

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#### **Community Design for All Ages**

On April 22, 2005 during the National Conference of the Royal Australian Institute of Architects (RAIA) in Melbourne, Australia, Acting Minister of Health and Ageing and Minister for Ageing Julie Bishop officially launched the ‘community for all ages’ initiative. To meet the needs of an ageing Australian population, the initiative encourages designers, architects and builders to identify innovative solutions to create environments that allow individuals to continue to live at home with a good quality of life throughout their lives.

For the press release, see:

<http://www.health.gov.au/internet/ministers/publishing.nsf/Content/health-mediarel-yr2005-jb-bis043.htm>

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## CANADA

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### **Accessibility for Ontarians with Disabilities Act**

Ontario's legislative assembly has passed Bill 118, the Accessibility for Ontarians with Disabilities Act, 2005. It became law on June 13, 2005. The new act is strong and effective legislation that will allow people with disabilities to participate in building a stronger province. The purpose of the new act is to benefit all Ontarians by achieving accessibility for people with disabilities. This will be done by developing, implementing and enforcing accessibility standards concerning goods, services, accommodation, facilities, buildings and employment. Improvements will be phased in, in stages of five years or less, moving towards an accessible Ontario in 20 years.

For more highlights on the Act, see:

<http://www.gov.on.ca/citizenship/english/about/b100505.htm>

For more information on Accessibility Ontario, see:

<http://www.gov.on.ca/citizenship/accessibility/>

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## ISRAEL

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### **Knesset approves Accessibility Chapter of the Equal Rights for People with Disabilities Law**

On Tuesday 22<sup>nd</sup> March 2005, the Knesset approved unanimously the Accessibility Chapter of the Equal Rights for People with Disabilities Law, mandating that all public places and services provided to the public must be accessible to people with physical, sensory, emotional and developmental disabilities. The list of places to be accessible includes place that are open to the public and every service that is given to the public; roads, traffic intersections and bridges; to all services given in an emergency situation; and even to residential buildings and workplaces that are built after the law comes into force.

The law states that all places and services open to the public will be made accessible to people with physical disabilities (lifts, ramps, etc); people with sight impairment (talking lifts, information in Braille); people with hearing impairment (amplification systems in theatres); people with emotional disabilities or autism (such as not having to wait in line); people with developmental disabilities (such as having information available in a simplified form), etc.

The information for this piece was contributed by: Avi Ramot, [avir@shekel.org.il](mailto:avir@shekel.org.il), fax 972-2-6725208 of Shekel, The Israel Center for Accessibility

For more information on Shekel, please visit: <http://www.shekel.org.il/run.html>

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## ITALY

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### **BAS – Building Accessible Services**

The Istituto per le Tecnologie della Costruzione (Construction Technologies Institute, Rome) is involved in the BAS (Building Accessible Services) project that addresses the priority theme “Promoting accessibility for all with regard to the built environment and public infrastructures.” The BAS will undertake extensive dissemination and training activities about building and urban space accessibility. Using case studies on approximately 15 different types of buildings and their surroundings across the European Union, they will assess the level of accessibility and elaborate specific interventions, evaluate the cost and propose improvements. BAS is essentially a practical awareness raising and dissemination activity.

For an overview of the project, see: <http://www.roma.itc.cnr.it/bas.htm>

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## NORDIC COUNTRIES

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### **”Cities for All” Published in English**

In September 2004, the Nordic Council on Disability Policy published an English version of the inspirational book “Staden for alla.” The book addresses accessibility issues in ten cities in the Nordic countries. The cities share their experiences about factors for success and challenges faced in efforts to achieve an urban environment that is accessible for all. The Swedish version of “Staden for alla” was the starting point of the seminar series on this theme in the Nordic countries during autumn 2004.

The complete publication is available in PDF format at:  
[http://www.nsh.se/elektroniska\\_publicationer/Cities\\_for\\_All.pdf](http://www.nsh.se/elektroniska_publicationer/Cities_for_All.pdf)

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## SPAIN

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### Valencia Spain Adopts Universal Design in Parks

The director of Social Welfare in Valencia, Spain has released, *Parques Accesibles de la Comunidad Valenciana*, a handbook on accessible public space utilizing Universal Design in Valencia, Spain. As Alicia de Miquel explains, "We have moved ahead in the elimination of architectural barriers." With this Universal Design approach Valencia has moved human rights to the design phase - not as an add-on afterthought.

For the English announcement, see Rolling Rains Report:  
<http://www.rollinggrains.com/archives/000543.html#more>

For the Spanish announcement, see: <http://www.levante-emv.com/secciones/noticia.jsp?pldNoticia=117478&pIndiceNoticia=6&pIdSeccion=4>

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## UNITED KINGDOM

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### Barriers to Inclusive Design in the UK (PhD research)

Hua Dong's PhD studies at the Engineering Design Centre, University of Cambridge involved an exploratory study with the consumer product industry in the UK to gain an understanding of barriers and drivers for inclusive design. Her work includes the results of three recent UK-based studies : interviews with eight design consultancies, a survey of manufactures and retailers, and a survey of design consultancies. Based on this research, she developed the i~design Primer and the i~design Toolkit to raise awareness of inclusive design, to provide information for industry, and to improve communication between designers and clients.

Full details of the research, in PDF format, are available at: <http://www-edc.eng.cam.ac.uk/~hd233/booklet.pdf>

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### Bristol's Companion Scanner Brings the Grocer to Your Home

A pilot program between Bristol City Council, Brunel University, and Somerfield supermarket is changing the way individuals with limited mobility shop for necessities. Instead of relying on others to run errands on their behalf, individuals living in the city of Bristol can now take advantage of the "Companion" program.

The “Companion” is a simple handheld scanner device that allows older adults and homebound residents to shop for groceries from home using a telephone line. A barcode reader scans items from a specially designed catalogue or directly from the barcode on a package, and then sends an email to the supermarket containing the completed order. A personal shopper in the store packs each order and a Somerfield’s driver delivers the order on the same day. The system verifies each selection by announcing the choices made by the user, thereby ensuring the correct product was ordered.

For a BBC article on this, see: <http://news.bbc.co.uk/1/hi/england/bristol/4243111.stm>

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### **Harry Potter Website Pioneers New Accessibility Features**

The official site of Harry Potter author J K Rowling, [www.jkrowling.com](http://www.jkrowling.com) is accessible to disabled, deaf and visually impaired Internet users. Designers of the site, Lightmaker, worked closely with Royal National Institute for the Blind and Macromedia® to develop this pioneering new version.

The site pioneers Macromedia Flash® technology and demonstrates best practice design, with partially sighted people involved in testing its usability while it was in development. The site is navigable by the keyboard without the need for a mouse and contains an Accessibility Menu, so that users can quickly gain access to accessibility features.

For an article from Adaptive Environments, see:  
<http://adaptiveenvironments.org/index.php?option=News&articleid=511&PHPSESSID=a37f5793fb838ef24f6ab79e729a9336>

To visit the site, see: [www.jkrowling.com](http://www.jkrowling.com)

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## **UNITED STATES**

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### **AARP Report – “Beyond 50.05 – Livable Communities: Creating Environments for Successful Aging”**

This report, the fifth in AARP's *Beyond 50* series, presents a new agenda for examining, building and retrofitting our communities to support successful aging. Specifically, it: 1) explores how people age 50 and older can continue to be independent and able to exercise choice and control in ways that are beneficial to and affordable for them and society, 2) demonstrates the connections among community engagement, housing, transportation, and successful aging, 3) highlights the consequences of community features that fail to account for the diversity of, and continual change in, residents' needs, and 4) illustrates how persons age 50 and older contribute to, and benefit from, well-designed communities that promote community engagement.

The full report can be downloaded from:

[http://assets.aarp.org/rqcenter/il/beyond\\_50\\_communities.pdf](http://assets.aarp.org/rqcenter/il/beyond_50_communities.pdf) (note that it is in PDF format)

Related materials can be found at: [http://www.aarp.org/research/housing-mobility/indliving/Articles/beyond\\_50\\_communities.html%20%20](http://www.aarp.org/research/housing-mobility/indliving/Articles/beyond_50_communities.html%20%20)

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### **Accessible Design Awards**

The Boston Society of Architects and the Massachusetts Architectural Access Board announced the six winners of this year's Accessible Design Awards. All the winning sites are in Massachusetts.

Some of the juror's comments on the award winners are:

"The project was cited for the universal integration of accessibility in creating a space that encourages intimate involvement with the sea otter exhibit at the Aquarium."

"This project was cited for the elegant integration of accessibility to create a usable and aesthetically pleasing design throughout this private residence."

"The project was cited for its universal approach where all would use the same accessible route, which made use of bridges, common seating areas, and creative re-grading."

For more information on the awards and winners, see:

<http://committees.architects.org/access/gallery.html>

Also available, in a PDF file, are the jurors comments:

[http://committees.architects.org/access/pdfs/2005\\_Accessible\\_Design\\_Awards.pdf](http://committees.architects.org/access/pdfs/2005_Accessible_Design_Awards.pdf)

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### **Accessible Design for Schoolyard Habitats**

The excitement of designing and creating a Backyard Wildlife Habitat or Schoolyard Habitats site occasionally overlooks the needs of people. This is especially true for people with disabilities; the original plans may require adjustments to ensure access to the site. With a little forethought, habitats can be accessible to all members of a community, including people with disabilities, senior citizens, and families with strollers. This web site then goes on to provide guidance on making a Wildlife Habitat accessible, as well as universally designed to welcome everyone.

For more information, check out the National Wildlife Federation web-site:

<http://www.nwf.org/schoolyardhabitats/accessible.cfm>

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### **AIA Architects Report Open, Accessible Housing on Rise**

The June AIA Architect periodical published the results of a quarterly survey of residential design trends.

"A majority of firms also report that homes are becoming more accessible, with features such as wider hallways, fewer steps, and other features that can accommodate an aging or less mobile

population. Related to this trend is the growing popularity of single-floor design in homes to promote easier mobility.”

The full report is available at: <http://www.aia.org/aiarchitect/thisweek05/tw0624/tw0624econ.htm>

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### **Build Boston Annual Symposium**

Build Boston, the largest regional tradeshow and convention for the design and construction industry, will hold its 21<sup>st</sup> annual conference on November 15-17, 2005. It includes over 350 exhibits and over 200 workshops and other professional development opportunities. The U.S. Access Board, Adaptive Environments and the BSA's Indoor Air Quality Committee have designed a comprehensive series of workshops that examine universal design standards, regulations, codes, technologies and design innovation.

To learn more about Build Boston and the Universal Design track, visit:  
<http://www.buildboston.com/home.asp>

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### **Eco Resort to be Built with Inclusive Design**

Estate Concordia, an eco-resort currently in development on the US Virgin Island of St. John, will be built with inclusive design at its conceptual center—making it unique among resorts worldwide. In a partnership that will take travel and tourism accessibility to places it has never been, the principals of Multi - Design for People, a firm specializing in inclusive built environments, products, and information graphics, have joined with the developer of Estate Concordia, and students at the Rhode Island School of Design, to design a groundbreaking inclusive resort for the 21st century.

As part of this project, in late July they brought a group of participants—three adults and two children with disabilities— to stay at Concordia Campground's accessible Eco-tents and participate in a weeklong series of activities. The 'design team' spent the week with the participants during all planned activities to analyze and discuss their experiences; ultimately offering inclusive design solutions throughout the island of St. John to increase its level of accessibility and Visitability for mature travelers as well as those with disabilities.

For a news release from the RISD, in PDF format, see:  
<http://intranet.risd.edu/pdfs/21stcentury.pdf>

For a news release from St. John's, see: <http://www.maho.org/InTheNews.cfm?id=154>

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### **Falls Free: Promoting a National Falls Prevention Plan**

Falls and fall-related injuries impose an enormous burden on individuals, society, and the nation's health care systems. And as the population of the United States ages, the negative impact of falls continues to increase. Yet many falls, and fall-related injuries, can be prevented with existing knowledge and technology.

In response to escalating concerns related to falls and fall-related injuries among the aging population, and to address the challenges and barriers related to a national falls prevention initiative, The National Council on the Aging (NCOA), with support from the Archstone Foundation and the Home Safety Council, is spearheading an initiative entitled Falls Free: Promoting a National Falls Prevention Action Plan.

Components of this plan incorporate Universal Design elements.—see pages 22 and 25.

For the full plan, see:

[http://www.healthyagingprograms.org/resources/National%20Action%20Plan\\_Final.pdf](http://www.healthyagingprograms.org/resources/National%20Action%20Plan_Final.pdf) (note that this is a PDF document)

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## **IDEA Center Activities**

**Universally Designed Model Home in 2005 Horizons Show:** The IDEA Center and Heartland Homes collaborated on the design of a universally designed model home that was included in the 2005 Horizon Home Show.

Adaptable design features make it easy to modify the house to suit individual needs or preferences of the residents as they change over time. The model house has all the features of a conventional house, but some design features are concealed until needed so the home can look the same as other houses. If modifications are required, they are readily achievable without the use of skilled labor and without changing the inherent structure of the home. For example, in this home, a no step entry, wider doors and hallways, barrier-free shower, maneuvering clearances, kitchen countertops at multiple heights, lower electrical switches, and other access features were clearly visible and integrated into the overall design. Other less obvious features included blocking behind the walls in all bathrooms to provide reinforcement for future grab bars and a concealed knee space at the kitchen sink with base cabinet doors that fold and slide back when needed. For more information on this endeavor, see: <http://www.ap.buffalo.edu/idea/e-Newsletter/index.htm>

**Universal Design Identity Project (UDid):** There is an ongoing discourse about the need for a more clear definition of universal design. Establishing an identity for universal design is an important step to ensuring continued acceptance and use across a broad audience of consumers, design professionals, industry leaders, and academics.

This project is funded in part by a grant from the National Endowment for the Arts and will investigate public perceptions and attitudes toward universal design. Understanding these perceptions and attitudes will help create a clear, unique, and identifiable, identity program and attendant graphic standard for universal design. To learn more about this project, see:

<http://www.ap.buffalo.edu/idea/UDid/index.asp>

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## **Promoting Accessible Design in Education**

The United States Access Board recognizes the critical role education plays in ensuring access for people with disabilities to the built environment. It has begun an initiative to promote accessible design in the education of architects, interior designers, engineers and others. As a first step, the Board held a forum to get advice from various experts on how it should

proceed. The Board sought input on how this effort can be advanced through education curricula, design competitions and awards, and outreach to colleges, universities, and accrediting organizations. The event was held July 25<sup>th</sup> in Washington, DC during a week of events celebrating the 15th anniversary of the ADA.

Many recommendations focused on how accessible design could be made an integral part of the education curricula. Several participants emphasized the importance of covering the “whys” or reasoning behind design requirements and the effectiveness of involving people with disabilities and real-life experiences in courses and programs. It was also recommended that the Board not focus solely on students in light of the continuing education requirements and practices among design professions.

For further information, see: [www.access-board.gov/news/edu-forum.htm](http://www.access-board.gov/news/edu-forum.htm).

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### **Nation’s First Affordable, UD Apartment Complex**

A partnership between San Francisco-based Hearth Homes and Affordable Housing Associates (AHA) in Berkeley, Calif., has produced the nation’s first affordable- and universal-designed housing project. Located in Berkeley on the site of a former paint store, University Neighborhood Apartments features 29 residential units, common areas, and ground-floor commercial space. All of the apartments are for low-income families, and 14 units are reserved for disabled individuals and their families.

See AIA article at:

[http://www.aia.org/aiarchitect/thisweek05/tw0729/tw0729pw\\_unineighborhood.htm](http://www.aia.org/aiarchitect/thisweek05/tw0729/tw0729pw_unineighborhood.htm)

See piece in San Francisco Chronicle at: <http://www.sfgate.com/cgi-bin/article.cgi?f=/c/a/2005/07/16/HOG4UDNI0H1.DTL&hw=University+Neighborhood+Apartments&sn=002&sc=288>

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### **Universal Challenge – Making Challenge Courses Accessible**

This website is a resource for people who have disabilities and are interested in participating in a challenge course experience and to the facilitators, practitioners and professionals who want to provide challenge experiences to people who have disabilities. The web site has areas for participants, facilitators and a resources area.

Full details at: <http://ncaonline.org/challenge/>

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### **Universal Design for Learning Awards**

VSA arts and Association of Children’s Museums (ACM) are pleased to present the inaugural year of the Universal Design for Learning Award. The award is an innovative collaboration that will identify model programs in children’s museums that demonstrate learning standards for

inclusive practice. The recipients of the 2005 Universal Design for Learning Award were announced at Interactivity 2005 in Indianapolis, Indiana in April.

Lynn Meadows Discovery Center (Gulfport, Miss.) won for its exhibits that are designed to be accessible by visitors with disabilities including its outdoor tree houses.

The newly reopened Kidspace Children's Museum (Pasadena, Cal.) was awarded for designing all of its exhibits and galleries for accessibility and including accessible points of interaction.

New Haven's Connecticut Children's Museum won for designing programs and exhibits that provide access to varied, rich and textured environments for children of differing abilities.

Boston Children's Museum was awarded for its new traveling exhibit Access/ability.

Announcement at: <http://www.childrensmuseums.org/programs/awards.htm#universal>

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### **Visibility Resolution Passed by US Mayors**

The U.S. Conference of Mayors, a nonpartisan organization for cities over 30,000, represents over 1100 U.S. cities. At their 2005 national conference in Chicago, the mayors passed a Visitability Resolution.

A full copy of the resolution is available at: <http://www.concretechange.org/USConfofMayors.htm>

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### **Workplace Accommodations – State of the Science Conference**

This conference will be held September 15-16 in Atlanta Georgia and it 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.

Full conference details at: <http://www.workrerc.org/sos/index.php>

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## **WORLD**

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### **Accessible Transportation Around the World**

Great strides are being made around the world, particularly in developing countries to improve the accessibility of their transportation systems. A few of the successes reported in the most recent issue of "Transportation Around the World" from Access Exchange International include:

>> Vietnam: The Vietnamese Ministry of Transport is rapidly creating a legal framework to promote accessible transport, including regulations issued in January 2005, requiring new bus stations and terminals to incorporate accessible design, guidance released in February requiring enhanced access on inter-city transport, and work on access standards for city buses scheduled to be completed by September.

>> Brazil: President Luiz Inácio Lula da Silva signed landmark legislation into law on December 2, 2004, mandating universal access to be phased into Brazil's huge public transport fleets in a process to be completed in a ten-year period by December 2014. The law embraces all forms of land, air, and maritime passenger transport, emphasizing the use of universal design to integrate pedestrian ways with transit stops, terminals, and vehicles.

>> Mexico: The Mexican legislature passed national legislation in April which includes a section on public transport and communications, mandating a spectrum of strategies to promote accessible land, air, and maritime public transport for persons with disabilities.

The complete edition of "Transportation Around the World" June 2005 Newsletter is available at: <http://www.globalride-sf.org/newsletters/0506.html>

The main web page for Access Exchange International is: <http://www.globalride-sf.org/>

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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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**September 1 2005:** Deadline for submissions for The International Conference on Aging, Disability and Independence (ICADI) 2006, St. Petersburg, Florida. There will be a track focusing on "Housing, Home Modification & Universal Design" with sessions relating to the concept of universal design of products and built spaces, redesign and modification of existing

homes, and other issues related to the provision of safe housing that promotes independent living. Full details are at: <http://www.icadi.phhp.ufl.edu/>

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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. 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 12 2005:** Deadline for the Request for Proposals for the Universal Design Leadership Project, sponsored by the National Endowment for the Arts. This Program Solicitation requests proposals to carry out a project that will create greater public awareness of and demand for universal designed environments, by educating designers, consumers, educators, developers, city planners, and others on this important design process. Details are available at: <http://www.nea.gov/grants/apply/RFP/UniversalDesign.html>

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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 24-26 2005:** Era05 Oslo – Design without Borders, Oslo, Norway. Era 05 Oslo focus on four themes: 'Borders of your Senses' - Explore the borders of your five senses, 'Borders of your Profession' - Design across professional borders, 'Borders of your World' - Design across global borders, and 'Design for All' - Design across borders of age and abilities. For more information, see: <http://www.era05.no/>

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**September 29 – October 1 2005:** Leadership Exchange in Arts and Disability (LEAD) Conference and Training, Scottsdale & Mesa, Arizona. Some of the session topics include: "Nuts and Bolts: Getting Started," "The Confluence of Aging, Disability and Marketing," "Accessibility for Under \$100," "Making Outdoor Events and Exhibits Accessible," "Legal Issues:

Implementing the ADA in Cultural Venues," and more! For the conference brochure, see: [http://www.kennedy-center.org/accessibility/KC\\_LeadConf\\_05.pdf](http://www.kennedy-center.org/accessibility/KC_LeadConf_05.pdf) (note that it is in PDF format)

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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 14-15 2005:** Art Beyond Sight: Multi-modal Approaches to Learning, New York, NY. This event is organized by Art Education for the Blind, The Metropolitan Museum of Art and the Museum Access Consortium. This innovative international conference will address the challenge faced by educators, artists and museum professionals to create multi-modal learning opportunities that better serve all audiences. To learn more, see: <http://www.artbeyondsight.org/change/change.shtml>

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**October 23-26 2005:** 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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**October 26-28 2005:** Design Perspectives: Envisioning design for the XXI century, Mexico City, Mexico. 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). 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 its first conference which includes the topic of Universal Design. See: <http://www.2005idc.yuntech.edu.tw/>

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**November 8-11 2005:** 8th Annual Accessing Higher Ground Conference: Accessible Media, Web and Technology Conference, Boulder, Colorado. Accessing Higher Ground focuses on the implementation and benefits of Assistive Technology in the university and college setting for sensory, physical and learning disabilities. Other topics include legal and policy issues, including ADA and 508 compliance, and making campus media and information resources - including Web pages and library resources - accessible. For conference information, see: <http://www.colorado.edu/ATconference/>

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**November 15-17 2005:** Build Boston, Boston, Massachusetts. As it has for the past few years, it will include a track on Universal Design. For full details on Build Boston and the UD track (click on Workshops), see: <http://www.buildboston.com/home.asp>

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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. A fundamental change from an industrial to information-based society is taking place. This information revolution affects the way people live, learn and work and how governments interact with civil society. Information is a powerful tool for economic and social development and 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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**January 26-28 2006:** 5<sup>th</sup> Annual, New Partners for Smart Growth: Building Safe, Healthy and Livable Communities, Denver, Colorado. Conference web-site at: <http://www.outreach.psu.edu/programs/smartgrowth/default.html>

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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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**February 9-11 2006:** People in Place in People, 1st International Symposium on Environment, Behaviour & Society, Sydney, Australia. This is an opportunity for intensive dialogue on issues of environment, behavior and society with implications for policy, planning and design. To maximize dialogue and in-depth examination of issues, the Symposium this year will be organized around three themes, each very broadly defined: Cultural Identity and the Built Environment, Children, Youth and Environments, & Environmental Experience, Perception and Cognition. For more information, see:

<http://www.arch.usyd.edu.au/web/research/ebs/ebssymposium.html>

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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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**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. Announcement is at:

[http://www.tc.gc.ca/pol/en/transed2007/host\\_2007.asp?IsIncrease=No](http://www.tc.gc.ca/pol/en/transed2007/host_2007.asp?IsIncrease=No)

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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.

To subscribe to the Online News, send an e-mail message to the same address. Please include your name and email address within the body of the message. There is no charge.

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