



Global Universal Design Educator's Online News

Volume 8 Number 1, June 2007



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Recent activities of our sponsor, the IDEA Center, are described in their E-Newsletter at www.ap.buffalo.edu/idea/e-Newsletter/index.htm

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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EDITOR'S NOTE

Much has been happening in the world of Universal Design this spring! Awards for Barrier Free Sports Facilities and the 24 Hour Inclusive Design Challenge at Include 2007 were given and EDRA gave its Achievement Award to the editors of *The Universal Design Handbook*. Competitions are underway in Singapore (10TouchPoints Design Competition) and in the US (AARP – Livable Communities Awards for Builders, Remodelers, and Developers).

New initiatives are underway in Canada - Visitability Canada, the US - the Institute for Human-Centered Design at Adaptive Environments and LEED-ND, Europe - Accessible Tourism and the Flags of Towns and Cities for All Project, and Turkey -Inclusive Travel.

Some projects and initiatives previously reported on have progressed; there are updates on Design for All in India, Universal Design in Norway, and Accessible London (UK).

Court decisions continue to assert the need for Universal Design as found in a recent Supreme Court of Canada decision.

An important new conference recently took place in Tunisia -- 1st International Conference on Information and Communication Technology & Accessibility; notable for both its location and content.

Many new resources are now available in the US and include: The ADA Best Practices Tool Kit for State and Local Governments, Easy Living with Universal Design, Emergency Evacuation Planning Guide for People with Disabilities, Inclusive Pedestrian Environments, Play Area Accessibility Online Training, UD Digital Collection, and Universal Design for Learning (UDL) Book Builder.

As always, please do check out the Calendar for upcoming events. 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

CANADA

Supreme Court Decision

“...the Supreme Court of Canada, like the disability community, has been convinced that a universal, rather than a segregated, approach to service design is what ultimately will serve Canada the best. With a universal approach, services and products are designed in a manner that they can be used by people with the widest range of functional abilities. The impact of a universal design approach is less exclusion, fewer people being left behind, more participation and more opportunity for everyone.”

Based on this, in March 2007, the Supreme Court of Canada overturned a decision of the Federal Court of Appeal that allowed VIA Rail to run inaccessible passenger rail cars with impunity. At issue in this case were The Renaissance cars bought by VIA and which The Canadian Transportation Agency (CTA) found that the trains failed to measure up in the following respects: no accessible washrooms in the coach car, the wheelchair tie-down only accommodated a child's wheelchair, the doorways are too narrow, there is insufficient space for a service animal, the so-called accessible suite is in fact inaccessible.

To read more, visit: <http://v1.dpi.org/lang-en/resources/details.php?page=869>

Visitability Canada

The vision for this project is “... imagine Canada as a country with a vibrant housing sector that constructs attractive, affordable, accessible and sustainable housing to meet the needs of all Canadians... imagine housing that supports vibrant, socially inclusive communities that are livable at all stages of life.”

Recently the project held a Think Tank titled “Visitability: Moving Toward Livable, Sustainable Housing and Communities in Canada. The web-site provides links to resources, an overview of Canadian, US and Global initiatives and more.

For full details on the project, visit: <http://www.visitablehousingcanada.com/>

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EUROPE

Accessible Tourism

The European Union has declared 2007 the “European Year of Equal Opportunities for All”. In support of this objective, the Tourism Unit organized a stakeholders' conference on 18th and 19th January 2007. The main objective of the conference was to raise the awareness of all stakeholders about the impact and the business opportunities of the forthcoming process of demographic ageing that will simultaneously lead to a growing share of tourists with needs for more accessibility and higher service quality. The proceedings from this conference are available online.

For conference documents (PDF format), see:

http://ec.europa.eu/enterprise/services/tourism/accessibility_conference2007.htm

Flags of Towns and Cities for All project

The “Flag of Towns and Cities for All” project offers municipalities the opportunity to join a growing group of towns and cities that have committed to improving their public space, their facilities, transportation, building and services, to improve the quality of life for their citizens and visitors.

For full details (PDF format), see:

http://www.designforall.org/en/dfa/publicacions/BANDERA_DOSSIER_ENG.pdf

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INDIA

Design for All in India

Whereas the first few issues of Design for All – India focused on Universal Design in the global context, the most recent edition has the situation in India as its focus.

The editor's introduction and these three articles, focus on Universal Design and India.

- Design for All: A cultural process
 - Indian e-Government Initiative: An Ideal Case for Universal Design and Usability
 - Universal Design Approach for mobility in Rural Built Environments
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To read the most recent edition (PDF format), see:
http://www.designforall.in/NEWSLETTER_apr_2007.PDF

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NORWAY

Universal Design in Norway

In Norway, these principles [of Universal Design] have already been integrated into several acts of legislation and efforts are underway to incorporate them into even more of the statutory framework. To ensure that the principles remain operational, the Norwegian government found it necessary to clarify the scope of the concept of universal design, and to specify more clearly its opportunities and ramifications.

The Norwegian Ministry of the Environment commissioned the Center for Universal Design at North Carolina State University to elucidate and further clarify the concept of "universal design". The report resulting from this effort provides important input to Norway's further efforts to incorporate universal design into national planning activities.

The full report (PDF format) is at: http://www.universell-utforming.miljo.no/file_upload/udclarification.pdf

To learn more about the Center for Universal Design see: <http://www.design.ncsu.edu/cud/>

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SINGAPORE

10TouchPoints Design Competition

There is an interesting competition underway in Singapore that includes design elements of usability and accessibility. The premise of the competition is that "Design decisions have consequences on our everyday well-being. Delivering good design begins with an understanding of what we're trying to make better, why you want to make it better and how it could best serve peoples' needs." The competition is now in its 2nd phase.

Phase 1: Nominations and Voting for designs that either aren't work or could be designed better for yourself and others

Phase 2: Design Competition - Ten design briefs crafted for the redesign of the top 10 voted items have been presented. "For the redesign of each of the 10 items, we are looking for smart

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and good designs which have been developed with users' needs in mind, and which incorporates sustainable methods and materials, universal accessibility, excellence of aesthetic expression, cost-effectiveness, cultural relevance, as well as social and technological innovation.”

Phase 3: Implementation of Winning Designs

The ten design briefs for the competition include: Redesigning Public Toilets, Redesigning Bus Shelters, Redesigning Recycling Bins, Redesigning Mailboxes, Redesigning the Playground, Redesigning the Bicycle Dismounting System, Redesigning Hospital Signage System, Redesigning Takeaway Mealboxes, Redesigning the Multipurpose ID, and Redesigning Drains and Canals.

To learn more about this competition, see:

http://www.10touchpoints.com.sg/phase2_competition.aspx

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TUNISIA

1st International Conference on Information and Communication Technology & Accessibility

In April 2007, the 1st International Conference on Information and Communication Technology & Accessibility was held in Hammamet, Tunisia. In attendance were over 300 accessibility experts, from 30 different countries, including the Minister of Technology and the Head of the Department of State of Tunisia. Some goals of the conference were: share local and international experiences and lessons, promote networking and research and business opportunity development, support the development of a professional accessibility community, promote best practice in accessibility and its application in Tunisia and the region, and provide a forum for education, knowledge transfer and the development of new skills and professional development.

An outcome of this conference has been that TecAccess LLC has signed a scientific and technical partnership agreement with the Tunisian Association for the Development of Digital Technologies and Human Resources (ATTR). “The partnership ... highlights ... dedication to the development and use of new technologies and the internet as an essential means to promote the integration of persons with disabilities in the information and communication society.”

The full conference proceedings (PDF format) are available at:

<http://www.esstt.rnu.tn/utic/tica2007/index96b6.html?pld=5>

For the full TecAccess LLC partnership press release, see:

<http://www.tecaccess.net/content/pressroom/pressreleases/2007/accessibility2007pr.shtml>

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TURKEY

Inclusive Travel Takes Root in Turkey

The Turkish Ministry of Culture and Tourism is asking tourist sites to better organize their facilities to accommodate disabled visitors. To aid them, a booklet titled "Barrier Free İstanbul for All" has been prepared in English and Turkish with the assistance of the Turkish Association of Travel Agents (TURSAB). Published with the support of the İstanbul Governorship, the booklet gives information about İstanbul's transportation, museums, towers, palaces, bazaars, mosques, churches, squares, cultural centers, sport organizations and shopping centers, as well as some of its hotels and restaurants, from the perspective of facilities catering for the disabled, from wheelchair users to the visually or hearing impaired.

To learn more about this project, see: <http://www.rollinggrains.com/archives/001547.html> (as originally reported at: <http://www.todayszaman.com/tz-web/detaylar.do?load=detay&link=106814>)

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UNITED KINGDOM

Accessible London -- Update

The Mayor of London in February 2004 launched the London Plan and on 27 April 2004 a guide called Accessible London: Achieving an Inclusive Environment was unveiled; it gives advice on how to promote and achieve an inclusive environment in London. The original plan included drafting a number of Supplementary Planning Guidance (SPG) documents which provide more detailed advice and guidance on the policies in the London Plan. Accessible London was the first of these SPGs to be published and several others have since been released.

To access all the SPGs produced to date, see:

<http://www.london.gov.uk/mayor/strategies/sds/spg.jsp>

To revisit the original London Plan, visit:

<http://www.london.gov.uk/mayor/strategies/sds/index.jsp>

24 Hour Inclusive Design Challenge at Include 2007

In addition to the "usual" DBA Inclusive Design Challenge (see below), the Royal College of Art Helen Hamlyn Centre did an additional Design Challenge at Include 2007. For this challenge,

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participants had 24 hours to “develop and present a design proposal that enhances independent living for older people and those with disabilities. The focus of the project should either be on independence within the home or mobility from the home. Design outcomes can take the form of a product, service, environment or visual communication.” The created designs provided solutions for:

- difficulties in travelling by bus for people with rheumatoid arthritis
- difficulties of way finding in unfamiliar areas experienced by a visually impaired person
- aiding the independence and working needs of a visually impaired artist
- developing a new concept car aimed at senior citizens

For more about the 24 Hour Design Challenge at Include 2007, see:

http://www.hhc.rca.ac.uk/kt/challenge/24HC_2007/index.html

DBA Inclusive Design Challenge

The DBA Inclusive Design Challenge is an annual collaboration between the Royal College of Art Helen Hamlyn Centre and the Design Business Association. It invites member firms of the DBA to propose new ideas for products services and communications that improve the quality of life of older and disabled people and help integrate them more fully into mainstream society. This year's DBA Inclusive Design Challenge 2007 focused on two briefs, one to find ways to reduce accidents caused by slips, trips and falls and the second brief was a more general, less prescriptive one.

The winning entry developed an awareness-raising communications campaign called Go Steady, based around a new logo to replace the international disability symbol, a pictogram originally designed in 1969 by the Danish designer Sussanne Koefoed.

To learn more about the design challenge, visit: <http://www.hhrc.rca.ac.uk/ne/dbac.html>

To visit the Go Steady web-site, see: <http://www.gosteady.org/>

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UNITED STATES

AARP – Livable Communities Awards for Builders, Remodelers, and Developers

AARP and NAHB have joined together to present design awards to three professional groups—builders, remodelers, and developers—for projects that highlight:

- Creative and unique communities that demonstrate critical elements needed for a livable community.
- Creative and unique homes that improve the daily comfort, ease of use and safety of their residents.

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They are doing this as the numbers tell us that:

- 89% of people age 50+ wish to stay in their own homes as they age
- 75% of remodelers have seen an increase for "aging in place" contract work
- There are 76 million baby boomers
- By 2011, the oldest boomers turn 65

The awards deadline was 1 June, the winners will be notified in November and the awards given at a program Washington DC in December.

For full award program details, see:

http://www.aarp.org/families/home_design/universaldesign/livable_communities_awards_for_builders_remodelers.html

The Built Environment's Influence on Performance of Routine Activities

A research team at the Center for Inclusive Design and Environmental Access (IDEA) is currently conducting a federally funded study on how the built environment influences people's ability to perform routine activities.

The research study uses online surveys to identify activities that are most problematic for people in three built environments: Public Buildings, Public Streets and Residential Environments. Follow-up surveys then evaluate how well specific architectural design features remedy those problems.

To participate in the research or to obtain additional information, please go to <http://www.udeworld.com/research/index.php> or contact us them at idea@buffalo.edu

Easy Living with Universal Design

More and more communities are focusing on how the Principles of Universal Design can benefit them. This resource was produced by the Prince William [County, VA] Aging in Place Committee, part of whose mission is to promote the concepts of universal design and home modification. This document is a preliminary educational tool. The goal is to educate the consumer on how to begin modifying their existing home into a design that fits every lifestyle, or provide Internet resources to contact, should the consumer wish to build a new home. It includes resources available locally, regionally and nationally. Space limitations prevent the listing of all available resources in the area.

For complete resource booklet (PDF format), see:
<http://www.pwcgov.org/docLibrary/PDF/003462.pdf>

EDRA 2007 Achievement Award

Acknowledging the outstanding contribution to Environment and Behavior Research with their accomplishment as editors of *The Universal Design Handbook*, the Board of Directors of the

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Environmental Design Research Association (EDRA) recognized Wolfgang F. E. Preiser and Elaine Ostroff with the 2007 EDRA Achievement Award at EDRA38 held in Sacramento May 30- June 3. Unique in its 69 chapters and more than 1300 pages written by 82 authors from 18 countries, *The Universal Design Handbook* comprehensively covers the field: premises, guidelines, public policies, different settings, case studies, information technology, and the future. It is sure to influence EB students and researchers for many years to come.

To read more about this award and its recipients, see: <http://www.edra.org/awards/2007-achievement-award--wolfgang-f.-e.-preiser-and-elaine-ostroff.shtml>

Institute for Human-Centered Design at Adaptive Environments

Adaptive Environments has launched the Institute for Human-Centered Design. The web-site explains, "A new design energy has been building around the world. It's generating products and places that respond to a positive fact of the 21st century: people live longer and survive more than ever before. Call it design for social sustainability, universal or inclusive design - it's about all of us designing a world that works for each of us. We're bringing the global story to Boston with the first permanent and public hub in the US for exploration, exchange and inspiration."

The elements of the Institute include:

- International Exhibit & Showroom -- Manufacturers on the cutting edge of the field, some household names and some unfamiliar to American audiences, are exhibiting their actual products as well as demonstrating products via DVD. One area will be dedicated to making the business case for universal design. Other exhibits will showcase projects and competitions from the UK, Europe, Japan and anywhere in the world where good examples illuminate the vision of socially sustainable design.
- Library – the expanded library contains the largest collection in the US of publications and multi-media materials on accessibility and universal design
- Retail – the new retail store addresses the need for well designed products that look as good as they work. There is no other 'museum store' in the US that features the best international inclusively designed products. Focus will be on products that are not easily available elsewhere as well as on the best publications in the field. A parallel web-based retail showcase will expand the audience.

To learn more about the center, visit:

<http://www.adaptiveenvironments.org/index.php?option=Content&Itemid=406>

LEED-ND and Universal Design

LEED-ND stands for Leadership in Energy and Environmental Design (LEED) for Neighborhood Development System. This is an extension of the LEED program currently in place and an element of the new program, in the stage 1 submission is: "A brief narrative identifying the universal design or universal accessibility features of the project, and identifying any applicable provisions of the FHAA Rehabilitation Act, and the ADA."

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To learn more about the LEED-ND program that includes a Universal Accessibility component, see: <http://www.usgbc.org/ShowFile.aspx?DocumentID=2310>, page 83

To read about the original LEED program, visit:

<http://www.usgbc.org/DisplayPage.aspx?CategoryID=19>

New Accessibility and UD Resources

New resources focussing on Accessibility as well as Universal Design are constantly becoming available. Here are a few recent ones:

- **The ADA Best Practices Tool Kit for State and Local Governments** -- The Tool Kit is designed to teach state and local government officials how to identify and fix problems that prevent people with disabilities from gaining equal access to state and local government programs, services, and activities. It will also teach state and local officials how to conduct accessibility surveys of their buildings and facilities to identify and remove architectural barriers to access. Included in the Tool Kit are: About This Tool Kit, Chapter 1, ADA Basics: Statutes and Regulations, Chapter 2, ADA Coordinator: Notice and Grievance Procedure, Chapter 3, General Effective Communication Requirements Under Title II of the ADA, Chapter 4, 9-1-1 and Emergency Communications Services, Chapter 5, Website Accessibility Under Title II of the ADA, and Chapter 6, Curb Ramps and Pedestrian Crossings. The Tool Kit may be accessed (HTML or PDF Format) at: <http://www.usdoj.gov/crt/ada/pcatoolkit/toolkitmain.htm>
- **Emergency Evacuation Planning Guide For People With Disabilities** – This guide was produced by the National Fire Protection Association. It provides information on the five general categories of disabilities (mobility impairments, visual impairments, hearing impairments, speech impairments, and cognitive impairments) and outlines the four elements of evacuation information that occupants need: notification, way finding, use of the way, and assistance. Also included is a Personal Emergency Evacuation Planning Checklist that building services managers and people with disabilities can use to design a personalized evacuation plan. The guide is found at: <http://www.nfpa.org/assets/files//PDF/Forms/EvacuationGuide.pdf>
- **Inclusive Pedestrian Environments** -- This resource was created by Adaptive Environments for Project Action (Easter Seals). The project addressed pedestrian environments as a key factor in the nation's access to and use of public transportation by people with disabilities. A comprehensive, annotated collection of current materials that address the training of practitioners and the creation, design and maintenance of accessible pedestrian environments that would identify gaps in the current body of knowledge and patterns of training and practice in order to enable ESPA and others to focus future activities was produced. This compilation can be found at: <http://adaptiveenvironments.org/pedestrian/index.html>
- **Play Area Accessibility Online Training**. This training can be accessed at: <http://www.access-board.gov/play/course/1-0.htm> and the guidelines are at: <http://www.access-board.gov/play/>
- **UD Digital Collection** – School of Architecture and Planning, State University of New York at Buffalo. A collection of over 200 products via gallery installations of the Unlimited by

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Design exhibition and a traveling exhibit called "live | work | eat | play." This can be found at: http://ubdigit.buffalo.edu/collections/sap/sap001_UnivDesign.php

- **Universal Design for Learning (UDL) Book Builder** – web-site to create engaging digital books that build reading skills for students. Universally designed books will engage and support diverse learners according to their individual needs, interests, and skills. The Book Builder and information about UDL is available at: <http://bookbuilder.cast.org/>

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WORLD

Barrier Free Sports Facilities Awards

The International Association for Sports and Leisure Facilities (IAKS), Cologne and the International Paralympic Committee (IPC) in Bonn, award the IPC/IAKS Distinction for sports facilities suitable for persons with a disability. The IPC/IAKS Distinction aims to promote accessibility to sports facilities and all other buildings in order to give people with a disability the opportunity to practice or view sport without limitation or barriers.

There are seven projects declared 2007 winners: Olympiastadion Berlin (Germany), Oval Lingotto, Torino (Italy), Commerzbank Arena in Frankfurt (Germany), West Vancouver Aquatic Centre (Canada), Erich-Fischer-Halle in Aldingen (Germany), CSR Slowianka in Gorzow (Poland), and Sportzentrum am Hubland in Würzburg (Germany).

To read more about the organizations and awards, visit: <http://www.iaks.org/en/en01.php> or this article on the IPC web-site: http://www.paralympic.org/release/Main_Sections_Menu/News/Press_Releases/2007_05_31_a.html

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CALENDAR AND CALLS FOR PAPERS

June 16-19, 2007: Deadline - 2007 Student Design Competition - Inclusive Wireless: Out and About. Full details at: <http://www.wirelessrerc.gatech.edu/design.html>

June 16-19, 2007: Festival of International Conferences on Caregiving, Disability, Aging and Technology, Toronto, Canada. Full details at: <http://www.ficdat.ca/>

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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/home.htm>

July 17-21, 2007: AHEAD Conference 2007. In the future, check here for details: <http://www.ahead.org/training/conference/index.htm>

July 22-27, 2007: HCI International, Beijing, China. One of the theme areas is universal access in HCI, including the topic of Universal Design. Full details at: <http://www.hcii2007.org/ta/ua.html>

September 1, 2007: Submission deadline: ICADI 2008 – Advancing Technology and Services to Promote Quality of Life, St. Petersburg, FL. Full details at: <http://www.icadi.php.ufl.edu/>

October 20-26, 2007: ICTA Global Meeting, Djerba, Tunisia. Held in conjunction with the RI Assembly and Regional Conference. Full details at: http://www.rehab-international.org/events/annual_regional_meetings.html

November 8, 2007: World Usability Day – Making Life Easy. This year's theme: Healthcare. Together let's explore how our health is impacted by design. To learn more, see: <http://www.worldusabilityday.org/>

November 13-15, 2007: Build Boston, Boston, MA. To learn more, see: <http://www.buildboston.com/default3.asp>

November 2007: 2nd International Conference on Accessible Tourism, Bangkok, Thailand. To learn more, see: <http://www.rollingrains.com/archives/001563.html>

Feb 21-23, 2008: ICADI 2008 – Advancing Technology and Services to Promote Quality of Life, St. Petersburg, FL. Full details at: <http://www.icadi.php.ufl.edu/>

Mar 27-30, 2008: Aging in America Conference, Washington, DC. This is a joint NCOA-ASA Conference. Full details at: <http://www.agingconference.org/asav2/conf/jc/jc08/> (note: audio tapes are available for the 2006 and 2007 conference sessions, <https://www.nrstaping.com/asa/>)

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Adding your information, questions to the Online News:

Send e-mail to elaine@ostroff.org by the 20th of the month before the scheduled 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.

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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