

# Global Universal Design Educator's Online News

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## EDITOR'S NOTE

We extend our continued thanks to the IDEA Center of the University at Buffalo for their underwriting of the Global Universal Design Educator's Online Newsletter. This issue begins our collaboration with the Universal Design Magazine in Japan. Excerpts of the Online News will be translated and included in their quarterly publication as part of the "Universal Design Consortium's Network".

In this issue you'll learn about new Universal Design and Design for All initiatives. The European Union is establishing policies for Design for All in public procurement, Ireland plans to create a Centre for Excellence in Universal Design by 2007, in 2005 as part of the Year of Design, Sweden launched its Design for All project, and in India, a Design for All Institute has been established. Additionally, the United Kingdom is launching in 2007 a Design of the Times Project which will engage consumers in improving national life through design and Adaptive Environments has created a Global Human-Centered/Universal Design membership program to create a global online network of the most innovative thinkers, designers, researchers and educators dedicated to Universal Design, available anywhere.

Accessible tourism continues to be a hot topic. The One-Stop-Shop for Accessible Tourism in Europe (OSSATE) project has started with the UK and Greece and plans to eventually expand to other EU countries. The Nordic Council on Disability Policy has published a booklet titled "Tourism for All – how do we realise it?"

There are worldwide initiatives to improve access such as Azerbaijan's effort to make elections more accessible, Paris' new accessible toilets, wayfinding on campus (using wind chimes) in the US, the newest version of the Web Accessibility Initiative (WAI) is available for review, and a new web site, Accessites.org is showcasing great-looking, highly usable web sites that are accessible to a vast array of user groups

You'll find news about design awards programs and competitions that continue to raise awareness and generate creative applications: in Europe there is the Schindler Award for Architecture 2005/2006 that explores Access for All in Paris, in the UK the sixth annual DBA Inclusive Design Challenge 2006 is completed, the 2005 Accessible America Award has been given and Elaine Ostroff was one of 9 individuals, who are not architects, who were made Honorary Members of the AIA.

Other awards and programs connected to secondary education are the World House project at Toronto City College and The Universal Home program at the Design Zentrum Nordrhein-Westfalen in Essen, Germany.

There are several conferences and workshops on the horizon that will explore many facets of Universal Design and accessibility. A "Build for All" workshop as part of the EDAD (European Institute Design for All) Conference, in Hungary a conference on Accessibility of the Built Environment – Historical and Heritage Buildings Accessibility, in Kyoto Japan the 2<sup>nd</sup> International Conference on Universal Design, building on the 1<sup>st</sup> conference held in 2002 and in the US, the Universal Design and Visitability Conference spans accessibility to zoning, an ADA Audio Conference Series on the Built Environment highlights Play Areas and Accessible Signage, and the Universal Package conference will again explore Universal Design and packaging.

Some recent conferences of note include two held this past March - one in India on "Mobility for All" and one organized in Saudi Arabia by the Ministry of Social Affairs "To Prepare the Built Environment for Accessibility and Technology for the Disabled." Last winter the White House Conference on Aging passed several Universal Design-related resolutions and last fall the Workplace Accommodation – State of the Science Conference include a track on Assistive Technology to Universal Design and one on Universal Design and Information Tech.

Increasingly we find Universal Design-themed publications produced, including: *Arts Access Made Easy*, the *Build for All Reference Manual* for EU countries and several publications in Spanish from diverse organizations such as the Inter-American Development Bank (IADB) on *Urban Development and Universal Design*, the Rio Charter via the World Bank, the Independent Living Organization on *Mobility for All* and a *Guide to Home Adaptation* from Teleton in Mexico.

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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### AZERBAIJAN

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#### Improving Access to Elections

In early 2005, LOTOS, a coalition of disability organizations located in Baku, the capital, began exploring strategies with the World Institute on Disability to make the November Parliamentary elections more accessible to Azeri voters with disabilities. Azeri Election Law presents no insurmountable barriers to the full participation in elections by citizens with disabilities.

In addition to addressing physical access to elections and ballots, engaging disabled Azeri voters in the election process was more complicated. LOTOS found that disabled Azeris were ashamed to leave their houses, and many physically disabled people could not leave their houses to vote even if the polling places were accessible.

Though the plan was not able to be fully implemented, the following occurred, paving the way for better access by the 2007 election:

- >> conducted training sessions on disability awareness and disability etiquette for the polling stations workers and workers of CEC
- >> built ramps into two secondary schools in Baku that were polling stations and informed people with mobility disabilities living in the district about the two accessible polling places
- >> printed the ballots in braille

For the full article, see: [http://www.disabilityworld.org/12-01\\_06/azerbaijan.shtml](http://www.disabilityworld.org/12-01_06/azerbaijan.shtml)

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### CANADA

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#### World House Project

The School of Design at George Brown – The Toronto City College has a project called “World House Project” ... the focus of this project is: **Sustaining** -- Promote the long-term health of nature and human culture + creating houses that are livable, comfortable, safe and productive, and that avoid both resource depletion and environmental degradation. **Universal** -- Build it so everyone can use it + residents can live more comfortably, safely, and independently in a home regardless of age or physical ability. **Healthy** -- Design that helps us reach our full potential for good health and productivity + creating healthy buildings at every income level and helping children of all species to grow up to be healthy adults.

To learn more, see: <http://www.institutewithoutboundaries.com/>

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## EUROPE

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### **Build for All and Public Procurement**

On 16 January 2006, the Build-for-All project, led by Info-Handicap, the Luxembourg National Disability Council, launched the “Build for All Handbook and Toolkit” which aims to advise the public sector how to ensure that the whole built environment is accessible and usable by all EU citizens.

The rationale for the policy and the Handbook is: “Public authorities spend each year around 1500 billion Euros on purchasing goods and services. This gives public purchasers considerable market power, which can trigger a decisive shift in attitudes towards accessibility for all requirements. The European institutions have worked together to introduce the “access for all” principle into European public procurement legislation. The new “legislative package” on public procurement, to be implemented by the Member States by the end of January 2006, enables contracting authorities to define technical specifications, taking into account accessibility criteria for people with disabilities and design for all users. This is a major change in public procurement legislation, which clearly responds to today’s needs of our society”.

“Build for All” is an initiative which brings together the key stakeholders from the construction industry, European architects, lift manufacturers, municipalities and cities, as well as organizations of disabled and older people.

The public procurement Handbook and Toolkit set down very clearly why designing for everybody – including disabled and older people - makes good economic and practical sense for municipalities, local, regional and national authorities, for industry and for society as a whole.

To learn more and access the Manual (PDF), see: <http://www.build-for-all.net/en/reference/>

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### **European Network for Accessible Tourism (ENAT)**

The One-Stop-Shop for Accessible Tourism in Europe (OSSATE) project aims to implement a prototype multi-platform, multi-lingual digital information service providing national and regional content on Accessible Tourist Venues, Sites and Accommodation, initially from 2 EU Member States: Greece and the UK.

To learn more, see: <http://www.ossate.org/>

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## **Schindler Award for Architecture 2005/2006 – Removing Barriers to Culture**

To facilitate Access for All to some of the many museums in the very heart of Paris presents a great challenge. Even though these museums are grouped close together at the foot of the Eiffel Tower, the height difference between the southern bank of the Seine river and the bluff on the northern bank, the heavy traffic on the expressway *avenue de New York* and the steps leading up to the *Passerelle Debilly* make an easy stroll from the southern part to the northern part of the area almost impossible for people with disabilities.

This is the challenge to be accepted and solved by the competitors in the Schindler Award for Architecture 2005/06.

For full details, see: <http://www.schindleraward.com/man/WEB/webcomp.nsf/pages/home>

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## **FRANCE**

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### **Accessible Public Toilets**

Under plans to make the capital's public toilets free, more than 400 automatic conveniences will soon cost nothing to use. As part of this effort, there will be a tender for a new generation of lavatory that will be accessible to disabled people, and will include an exterior tap for drinking water. Ron Mace, founder of the Center for Universal Design, consulted on the accessible DeCaux street toilet. The award-winning toilet is included in 'Images of Excellence' the Universal Designers and Consultant's collection supported by the NEA.

For the BBC article, see: <http://news.bbc.co.uk/2/hi/europe/4654694.stm>

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## **GERMANY**

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### **Universal Home – Architecture and Design in the Creative Age**

The Universal Home program at the Design Zentrum Nordrhein-Westfalen in Essen, Germany will award 10 one-year scholarships to upcoming and recent international graduates of architecture and design programs.

During the one-year research and development program, which will last from October 1 through September 30, 2007, 10 young designers and architects will develop possible solutions for a living space that grows with its inhabitants, is flexible, and is respectful of various circumstances.

Applications are to be submitted by 1 June 2006

Article available at: [http://www.interiordesign.net/id\\_newsarticle/CA6330984.html](http://www.interiordesign.net/id_newsarticle/CA6330984.html)

Program details available at: <http://www.universal-home.de/>

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## **Workshop – Build for All and EDAD Annual Conference**

The workshop takes place in the framework of a series of European events of the EU-Project “Build for All.” It will take place in Muenster and involves Neumannconsult, the City of Muenster, the University of Muenster, the University of Applied Sciences of Muenster and the European Institute Design for All in Germany e.V. (EDAD). The focus of the workshop will be the new Public Procurement Directives of the European Union that requests member countries to take into account Design for All criteria and accessibility for disabled people regarding public procurements in the fields of construction, transport and telecommunication.

Simultaneously, the annual conference “Cities and Municipalities Built for All – Living and Experiencing without Barriers” will take place. “The theme “Cities and Municipalities built for All” is of increasing importance due to demo-graphic change. In this context, the concepts of accessibility or Design for All experience an important role in town and regional planning as well as tourism development, the design and product development.”

Full details on the workshop are available at: <http://www.design-for-all.org/artikel.php?ac=direct&id=2567#id2567>

Full details on the conference are available at: <http://www.design-for-all.org/artikel.php?ac=direct&id=2568#id2568>

For more information on “Build for All,” see: [www.build-for-all.net](http://www.build-for-all.net)

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## **HUNGARY**

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### **Conference on Accessibility of the Built Environment – Historical and Heritage Buildings Accessibility**

The conference addresses the European mainstreaming policy concerning built environment and public services by disseminating best practices and results on public buildings and services accessible for all, including people with physical, sensory and mental disability. It seeks to highlight the social and economic value of accessibility giving special importance to accessible workplaces. The objectives of the conference are to raise public awareness, to influence decision makers, to provide training on new methodologies of assessment, and to provide basic knowledge to enhance education of professionals.

The main topics are: European Concept of Accessibility by application of Design for All, Future of accessible architecture reflected in the national legislation, Implementation and enforcement of accessibility based on national legislation, Architects’ activity for Equal Access - Education

and Training of Experts, Activity of the Hungarian National Office of Cultural Heritage, and Case studies on accessible historical buildings both in Hungary and in other countries

For complete information on the conference, see: <http://www.meoszinfo.hu/eng/index0x.htm>  
(click on news and it is the first item ... leads to a PDF)

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## **INDIA**

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### **Design for All Institute of India**

There is now a Design for All Institute of India where Design for All is the intervention in environments, products and services with the aim that, regardless of age, gender, capabilities or cultural background, everyone can participate in our society on an equal basis. The web site currently has a message from the Chairman and 3 newsletters.

Full details available at: <http://www.designforall.in/>

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### **Mobility for All**

This conference, held in March, focused on: gaining a better understanding between the policy makers/researchers and user groups i.e. Persons with Disabilities (PWDs), sharing best practices and case studies, dissemination and data base collection of research studies at the National and International level, developing indigenous and appropriate technology (applicable for countries like India with rural perspective, large low-income population and limited government resources), and the exchange of information on “National Policies on Accessible Transportation” of other countries.

Full details available at: <http://www.samarthyaindia.com/conferencedetails.html>

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## **IRELAND**

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### **Centre for Excellence in Universal Design**

Part 6 of the Disability Act 2005 inserts a Chapter regarding the establishment of a Centre for Excellence in Universal Design. This Part establishes a Centre for Excellence in Universal Design which will be based in the National Disability Authority (NDA). The purpose of the Centre will be to facilitate the achievement of excellence in universal design by contributing to

the development and promulgation of standards. It is hoped to establish the centre by 1 January 2007.

Full details available at: <http://www.design-for-all.ie/index.php/design-for-all/centre-for-excellence-requirements/>

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## JAPAN

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### 2nd International Conference for Universal Design in Kyoto 2006

To be presented are the outcomes of the studies and practices developed during the past four years, since the 1<sup>st</sup> International Conference, and an examination of the future outlook from Kyoto (Japan) to the world will take place. The theme of the conference is the theme "Considerate and Decisive - Listen to the users and deliver!"

If you would like to participate, the deadline for abstracts is March 31, 2006.

Full details available at: <http://www.ud2006.net/en/>

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## NORDIC REGION

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### Tourism for All – how do we realize it?

In October 2005 the Nordic Council on Disability Policy published a booklet on this topic titled "Tourism for All – how do we realise it?" It explains how political commitment, a willingness to invest on the part of the tourism industry and an active movement for the disabled can realise the goal of Tourism for All in the Nordic region. The booklet is aimed at the Nordic tourism industry and is intended to provide inspiration in the continuing work on Tourism for All.

For full details, see: [http://www.nsh.se/in\\_english/for\\_all\\_no2\\_Autumn2005.htm#Tourism](http://www.nsh.se/in_english/for_all_no2_Autumn2005.htm#Tourism)

For the brochure in Swedish, download:

[http://www.nsh.se/elektroniska\\_publicationer/Turismbroschyr2005.pdf](http://www.nsh.se/elektroniska_publicationer/Turismbroschyr2005.pdf)

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## SAUDI ARABIA

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### **To Prepare the Built Environment for Accessibility and Technology for People with Disabilities**

In March, a workshop organized by the Ministry of Social Affairs addressed “To Prepare the Built Environment for Accessibility and Technology for the Disabled.” During the workshop, a core group of International Committee on Technology and Accessibility (ICTA) members provided an overview of International Accessibility Standards, models of accessibility regulations and monitoring processes.

An outcome of the workshop was the decision that construction experts, planners and consultants discussed with officials of the Building Code National Committee ways to ensure that construction projects comply with the Universal Design code, especially keeping in view the requirements of handicapped persons.

To learn more, see: <http://www.ictaglobal.org/ar/ArabNews.htm> or <http://www.arabnews.com/?page=1&section=0&article=78657&d=3&m=3&y=2006>

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## SPANISH-LANGUAGE

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### **Publications on Universal Design and Accessibility**

Increasingly, publications are found in Spanish whose topic is Universal Design or related. Here is a sampling of select Spanish-language publications.

#### *Operational Guidelines on Accessibility in Urban Development Projects with Universal Design Principles*

The Guidelines facilitate the incorporation of accessibility - with universal design principles - into the preparation phase of projects on urban development, building, and public transportation. They provide analysis and design measures on how to create access to public environments for all persons independent of their physical and sensory characteristics.

For the publication (in Spanish, *Guía Operativa de Accesibilidad Para Proyectos de Desarrollo Urbano Con Criterios de Diseño Universal*), see:

[http://www.iadb.org/sds/SOC/publication/gen\\_6191\\_4180\\_e.htm](http://www.iadb.org/sds/SOC/publication/gen_6191_4180_e.htm)

#### **Mobility for All**

*A guide to making transportation accessible for persons with disabilities and elders in countries around the world.* This introductory guide describes best practices for access to pedestrian infrastructure, bus, rail, door-to-door and other vehicles.

For the publication (PDF, in Spanish, *Movilidad para Todos*), see:

<http://www.independentliving.org/movilidad/movilidad.pdf>

Rio Charter – Universal Design for Sustainable and Inclusive Development

The declaration that resulted from the International Conference on Universal Design, “Designing for the 21<sup>st</sup> Century (December 2004).

For the publication (PDF, in Spanish, *Diseño Universal Para Un Desarrollo Inclusivo Y Sostenible*), see:

<http://siteresources.worldbank.org/DISABILITY/Resources/Accessibility/CartadoRioEsp.pdf>

*Guide for Home Adaptation*

A guide for people who want to evaluate and/or modify their homes for accessibility. This book was based in part on Adaptive Environments' publication, *A Consumer's Guide to Home Adaptation*. It was developed by Teleton, a nonprofit organization in Mexico City, Mexico.

For the publication (PDF, in Spanish, *Guía de Adecuaciones para el Hogar*), see:

<http://www.teleton.org.mx/cultura/adecuacionesfinal.pdf>

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## **SWEDEN**

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### **DESIGN FÖR ALLA.SE**

The project was launched during Design Year 2005. The sights are set on 2010, by which time Sweden, according to a national action plan, is to have become a more accessible and better society for all. "Good design enables, bad design disables." This is the motto of The EIDD Stockholm Declaration© and is a guiding star for the project.

The project has two main elements: The first of these is concerned with establishing a widespread consensus on the purpose of the Design for All concept and its potential for contributing to full participation for all in society, regardless of ability. During the second year of the project, a campaign will be run aimed at the widespread communication of the message.

For full details, see: [http://www.designforalla.se/templates/Page\\_288.aspx](http://www.designforalla.se/templates/Page_288.aspx)

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## UNITED KINGDOM

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### Design of the Times

Dott (Designs of the time) launches in North East England in 2007 and will provide the opportunity for designers, businesses and public service providers to engage with consumers and citizens in improving national life through design. Dott is a 10-year programme of design promotion, manifesting every two years and spanning entire regions or nations across the UK. The programme is about supporting and encouraging design as central to the future economic and social success of the UK.

To learn more about this program, see: <http://www.dott07.com/>

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### DBA Inclusive Design Challenge 2006

The sixth DBA Inclusive Design Challenge saw two new developments. The first was sponsorship of the event by the disability organisation [Scope](#) and the second, the record number of entries from across a range of design disciplines. Six projects were shortlisted, split evenly between visual communication and product design - a welcome development that underscores the relevance of inclusive design to every sector, and a growing understanding of this fact in the design community.

The winner of this years challenge is Consider™ / [Wire Design](#) -- A simple, practical software tool to help graphic designers and their clients understand the effect of common visual impairments and check their work throughout the development process for visual inclusivity.

For the full article, see: <http://www.hhrc.rca.ac.uk/events/DBAChallenge/2006/index.html>

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## UNITED STATES

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### 2005 Accessible America Competition

The National Organization on Disability selected Cambridge, Massachusetts as the Accessible America 2005 grand prize award winner. The award recognizes Cambridge as a national model for its focus on disability issues and for its successful design of programs, services and facilities.

Cambridge was selected in recognition of its: accessible taxicab transportation, a city-funded taxi-coupon program for disabled residents (and seniors) and has increased the face value of the coupons as taxi rates have increased, promotion of accessibility through its annual capital

funding process with funding for the removal of barriers in public buildings, for funding of the Façade Improvement Program, which requires businesses that receive matching funds to make their entrances accessible, and for its commitment to accessibility in the review and funding of open space projects, with over two dozen parks and playgrounds having been made accessible, and with respect to promoting participation in city services and programs, the award recognizes the City's adoption of an Inclusion Policy for Out of School Time Programs and the City's Department of Human Service Programs Inclusion Initiative to enhance the capacity of all of its out of school time programs to better serve children with disabilities.

For the full article, see:

<http://www.adaptenv.org/index.php?option=News&articleid=667&PHPSESSID=d7f199fac2589f631ee8fbe788511502>

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### **2005 White House Council on Aging**

The 2005 WHCoA was held December 11 to 14, 2005 in Washington, DC. Its purpose was to make recommendations to the President and Congress to help guide national aging policies for the next ten years and beyond. Of the top resolutions these are some that clearly give a mandate to Universal Design:

- Expand Opportunities for Developing Innovative Housing Designs for Seniors' Needs
- Encourage Community Designs to Promote Livable Communities that Enable Aging in Place
- Ensure That Older Americans Have Transportation Options to Retain Their Mobility and Independence

For full details on the Council and the full list of resolutions, see: <http://www.whcoa.gov/>

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### **Accessibility and the Built Environment – Audio Conferences**

The ADA Audio Conference Series will be holding a two-part program on the Built Environment:

May 16, 2006 -- Creating Accessible Play Areas – State of the Science  
Incorporating accessibility into a playground can be confusing and the absence of an enforceable standard contributes to this dilemma for schools, park districts and day care providers. Key issues include surfaces and creating accessible play components when designing both large and small systems.

June 20, 2006 -- Permanent Rooms and Spaces: Accessible Signage  
Creating and installing accessible signage is a key element to ensuring that a building or facility is accessible to all people.

For more information, see: <http://ada-audio.org/Schedule/>

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## **Accessites.org**

The purpose of Accessites.org is to prove that accessible, usable websites built with universality and standards in mind need *not* be boring. We will show you stunning works of art crafted by some of today's most progressive accessible web developers and designers.

The site presents its criteria, a checklist, articles and most importantly, a showcase of web sites that are great-looking, highly usable, and very accessible to a vast array of user groups.

To visit the web site, see: <http://accessites.org/home/>

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## **Adaptive Environments Global Human-Centered/Universal Design Membership**

Adaptive Environments has launched a new worldwide membership initiative. This program will create a global online network of the most innovative thinkers, designers, researchers and educators dedicated to Universal Design, available anywhere. Membership will provide members unrivaled access to a network of information and thought leaders to help them integrate design that truly matters - Human-Centered/Universal Design - into everything they do.

For membership information, see:

<http://www.adaptenv.org/index.php?option=Content&Itemid=304>

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## **Arts Access Made Easy**

The elements of this publication are: The *design* and *implementation* of a program; The *guidelines* and *policies* in place to support the development and implementation of its programs; The *printed materials* created to promote the program; The means through which the program is *communicated to the public*; and The *physical design* of the facility used to implement the program. The publication talks about these elements and gives "real world" examples of accessible and successful arts programs and facilities.

For the full guide (PDF), see:

[http://www.vsarts.org/documents/resources/general/arts\\_access\\_made\\_easy.pdf](http://www.vsarts.org/documents/resources/general/arts_access_made_easy.pdf)

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## **Campus Wind Chimes Guide People who are Visually Impaired**

Wind chimes can now be found on the SFSU campus. Besides being an aural treat for the ears, they also serve as a navigation tool for persons with visual impairments. The pilot program consists of chimes hung from a light pole near the library, where students who are blind or have other impairments use adaptive computer equipment. More sets were hung elsewhere on campus.

For the full article, see: <http://www.sfsu.edu/~news/2006/spring/8.htm>

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## **Elaine Ostroff Honorary Member of AIA**

She is one of 9 “individuals who, although not architects by profession, have given distinguished service to the profession of architecture or the allied arts and sciences, and thus have made all of our lives richer.” The announcement goes on to say “For more than 30 years, Elaine Ostroff has served as an international leader and design advocate who has had a significant impact on many facets of both design practice and education. Considered the “go to” person for questions on accessibility as well as universal design...”

For the full article, see: <http://www.aia.org/aiarchitect/thisweek06/0203/0203honaia.cfm>

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## **Universal Design and Visitability Conference – From Accessibility to Zoning**

The conference will be held in Columbus, Ohio July 13-14, 2006 and available in an on-line format. The conference will have a distinguished set of keynote speakers. The theme: "Universal Design and Visitability" encompasses a variety of areas (design, public policy, zoning and advocacy) and cuts across different places and scales (residential, institutional, city/regional). [View the preliminary conference program.](#)

Participants can opt to register for the on-site conference or for the on-line version of the conference. Sponsored by Ohio State University in collaboration with the National Endowment for the Arts, the John Glenn Institute for Public Service and Public Policy, the Kirwin Institute for the Study of Race and Ethnicity, the two-day seminar will benefit planners, designers, planning commissioners, elected officials, disability professionals and the general public.

See: <http://knowlton.osu.edu/ped/universaldesign.htm>

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## **Universal Package Conference**

Universal design is the center piece element of this conference. Renowned speakers that represent a variety of perspectives will present: packaging, universal design, biomechanics and aging, cognition and aging, perception and aging, and consumers trends. They will provide insights into universal design, packaging and the human condition for the industry.

For the full conference details, see: <http://www.universalpackage.msu.edu/agenda/agenda.asp>

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

This conference was held September 15-16 of last year in Atlanta. The conference established a national dialogue on the current state and future directions of workplace accommodations. The conference was attended by over 110 researchers, practitioners, policy makers, product designers, employers and employees with disabilities who were interested in improving access

to the workplace for people with disabilities. The handouts and presentations are now available for download.

There was a tract on AT to Universal Design and the topics covered included:

- >> [Berkeley & Chicago: Case Studies of Universally Designed Workplaces](#)
- >> [Pilot Study on Reach and Grocery Retail Workstations](#)
- >> [Considering AT Solutions for Workers with Learning Disabilities](#)
- >> [Improving Workplace Access and Accommodation for Chemically Sensitive Employees](#)

And one on UD and Information Tech and the topics covered included:

- >> [Assessment of Workplace Product Accessibility](#)
- >> [Universal Design in Telecommunications: Putting Practice into Policy](#)
- >> [The AudioMorph - Automated Auditory Interface Adaptation](#)
- >> [Speech Recognition for Job Accommodation: Is it Ready for Prime Time?](#)

For the full conference details, see: <http://www.universalpackage.msu.edu/agenda/agenda.asp>

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## **WORLD**

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### **Web Accessibility Initiative**

A new version of the Web Content Accessibility Guidelines, Version 2, has been issued for review and comment. WCAG 2.0 addresses accessibility of Web content for people with disabilities. It will apply to a wider range of Web technologies than WCAG 1.0, and is intended to be understandable to a wider audience. Comments are due by 31 May 2006.

For more, see: <http://www.w3.org/WAI/>

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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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**May 12 2006:** Designing for Inclusion: Autonomy for the Lifespan, Washington, DC. The speakers will offer their insights and expertise to attending design professionals, challenging them to design living environments that are healthier, safer and that provide long-term independence. For full details, see: <http://www.asid.org/NR/rdonlyres/C677C90A-5A11-42EE-A834-783CC82B84A1/0/MetroRegForm.pdf>

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**May 24-26 2006:** Activities, Access and Ageing in Southeast Asia, Singapore. The central topic of the conference is activities that older people want to do away from home, but have trouble doing because of access problems. The conference joins social science and architecture/design in ways that can help development of policies for older and disabled persons so they achieve their wishes of productive activity and social integration. For full details, see: <http://www.ari.nus.edu.sg/conf2006/ageing.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 6-9 2006:** Human Perspectives on Sustainable Future -- 5th International Household and Family Research Conference, Savonlinna, Finland. Includes the topic, 'Design For All and Socially Sustainable Development.' Abstract deadline is 31 January 2006. More details available at: <http://household.joensuu.fi/index.shtml>

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**June 9-10 2006:** Exploring Inclusion, Accessibility and Arts Education, Washington, DC. Full details available at: <http://www.vsarts.org/x1500.xml>

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**June 15-17 2006:** Universal Package '06, Lansing, MI. Includes a workshop "Take Home Tools for Assessing Usability in Packaging." Full details at: <http://www.universalpackage.msu.edu/UP06home.asp>

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**June 19-22 2006:** 'ETHICS : Design, Ethics and Humanism,' Nantes, France. Includes a sub-theme on Design for All and inclusive conception. Full details at: <http://cumulus.lecolededesign.com/>

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**June 22-26 2006:** Rehabilitation Engineering & Assistive Technology Association of North America (RESNA) 2006, Atlanta, GA. Full details at: <http://www.resna.org/Conference/2005Conference/2005conf.php>

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**June 23 2006:** A Day of Universal Design, Atlanta, GA. Full details at: <http://www.universaldesign.org/pages.asp?pageid=3129>

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**June 28 2006:** "Universal Design in Transit: Access for All" a webinar hosted by American Public Transportation Association and Easter Seals Project Action. Full details at: [http://projectaction.easterseals.com/site/PageServer?pagename=ESPA\\_distance\\_learning&autoLogin=true&JServSessionIdr002=aphtwv07t1.app28a](http://projectaction.easterseals.com/site/PageServer?pagename=ESPA_distance_learning&autoLogin=true&JServSessionIdr002=aphtwv07t1.app28a)

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**July 13-14 2006:** Universal Design and Visitability, From Accessibility to Zoning Conference, Columbus, OH. Full details at: <http://knowlton.osu.edu/ped/universaldesign.htm>

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**September 13-15 2006:** International Design for All Conference, Rovaniemi, Finland. The focus will be on policy discussions round Design for All, e-Accessibility and e-inclusion and Design for All strategies, R&D results and implementation strategies. Full details at: <http://www.stakes.fi/dfa-suomi/DfA2006/rovaniemi2006.html>

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**October 22-26 2006:** The 2<sup>nd</sup> International Conference for Universal Design in Kyoto 2006. The Conference is hosted by the International Association for Universal Design. Watch for more information at: <http://ud2006.iaud.net/>

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**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>

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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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