

# Global Universal Design Educator's Online News

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Produced and distributed for the Global Universal Design Educator's Network,  
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## EDITOR'S NOTE

Thanks to the IDEA Center of the University at Buffalo for their underwriting of this issue. This November December 2005 issue completes the sixth year that the Online News has been published. We have had several sustaining sponsors for the Online News since it began in 1999; they include the Center for Universal Design, the Trace Center, and Adaptive Environments. Most of the funding came from their grants and contracts with the National Institute on Disability and Rehabilitation Research. There have been gaps in the funding and during those times we published on a volunteer basis. Sometimes we were not able to publish at all. Thank you, dear readers, for the generous comments about the unique information that you find in the Online News. We plan to continue. Here's to a healthy and productive 2006 to all!

In this issue you'll learn about the evolving ways that people are addressing the connections between universal design and socially conscious concerns; the developing applications of universal design; and several strategies for promoting universal design. The connections with sustainability will be explored in a conference in Finland; and in France, as part of conference on Ethics: Design, Ethics and Humanism that includes Design for All; in Chile in their first inclusive and sustainable nature trail and in Japan through a business initiative - a model home, the Eco and UD House. A multi-disciplinary conference in New York City will explore movement, mobility, and transformation and the UK-based INCLUDE 2005 conference provides us with in-depth proceedings that illustrate the convergence of social and commercial objectives, You'll learn about some national strategies and efforts: a number of countries in the Asia Pacific region report on the status of inclusive, rights based policies; in the US, the Department of Labor reports on its efforts to prepare workplaces for everyone; and in the UK, the Design Council has launched a 10-year project to redesign the country.

The aging engine continues to drive inquiry and innovation: In Australia, a provocative study reports on changing attitudes about housing and financial independence; in the UK, the journal of Gerontechnology invites papers that evaluate efforts of designing for use by older people; in the US, a model courtroom uses high tech to assure its usability by older people; the third Aging in Place Week encompassed activities across the country and interior designers address aging in place and universal design. Travel and tourism opportunities are also inspiring efforts: In Australia, the new Adelaide Airport takes into account people of all ages, sizes, ability, and understanding; in Taiwan the government announced a new emphasis on accessible tourism to meet the growing market of older people; and in the US, the 10<sup>th</sup> World Congress of the Society for Accessible Travel and Hospitality focuses on meeting mature travelers' needs.

You'll find news about design awards programs that continue to raise awareness and generate creative applications: in the UK, the Jodi Awards recognize websites, especially those that make museum and library archives accessible and an international competition, the First Lego League provides worldwide challenges for young participants. Learn about a Canadian multi-disciplinary

event to address the cold winter – by design; review several emerging developments in the US: how research might impact library services for people who are blind; how industrial design students are contributing to making Philadelphia a better place to live; how IBM is enabling software developers to create more accessible websites with ‘aDesigner,’ how Adaptive Environments is inviting memberships to utilize the organization’s resources, and how the International Game Developers Association is striving to make mainstream games usable by all people. Discover the international reach of both the World Summit on the Information Society and the World Usability Day.

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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#### **Biwako Millennium Framework**

The Biwako Millennium Framework provides a framework for action to further the goals of an inclusive, barrier-free and rights-based society for persons with disabilities in Asia and the Pacific. Sponsored by the United Nations Economic and Social Commission for Asia and the Pacific, there was a workshop held in Bangkok Thailand in October 2005. Its purpose was to assess the status of the various National Plans of Action that were developed after the 2003 meeting, also held in Bangkok. Participating countries produced a paper to report on the status of efforts in their country. The list of countries included: Bangladesh, Cambodia, Indonesia, Nepal, Pakistan, Philippines and Viet Nam. Besides these country reports, there are also other resource materials presented including:

Regional examples of National Disability Law, National Action Plan on Disability, National Policy on Disability, International Instruments on Persons with Disabilities, UNESCAP Mandate and BMF Implementation, Millennium Development Goals, and Inclusive Development.

A summary of The Biwako Millennium Framework paper is available at:

<http://www.worldenable.net/bangkok2003/biwako0.htm>

Information on the workshop is at: <http://www.worldenable.net/bmf2005/>

The materials for the workshop are at: <http://www.worldenable.net/bmf2005/materials.htm>

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## AUSTRALIA

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### Aging in Place

This significant report produced for Australian Housing and Urban Research Institute is based on a major national study of 7000 Australians aged 50 and over. Key findings note, “There is a significant shift in the values and priorities of older Australians which is transforming the patterns of future housing, lifestyle, and family relationships. Desires for independence, flexibility, consumer lifestyle choices increasingly take precedence, challenging traditional notions of old age and family obligations “ The research focused on these two questions:

1. What are the experiences of mid-life and later-age Australian men and women regarding present housing tenure and future housing intentions, their financial expectations for future lifestyles, and the intergenerational and/or intrafamilial transfer of their financial and/or housing assets?
2. How do older Australians expect that those transfers, *inter vivos* or by inheritance, will affect the economic and social circumstances of younger family members?

The full report, in PDF format, including the conclusions reached, can be found at:  
<http://www.ahuri.edu.au/global/docs/doc920.pdf>

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### Airport Leads Way in People-Friendly Design

Dr Lloyd Walker, Director of NovitaTech, a leading Australian research and service facility, has identified a number of Universal Design features in the new Adelaide Airport. Some of these features are:

- Customer Service Counters that are accessible to a person who needs to sit down or use a wheelchair, and every third check-in with hearing assistance;
- Seats designed so that people of different sizes can sit in them comfortably, and sit next to a pram or a wheelchair - some seat areas even have inductive hearing loops under them to assist hard of hearing passengers;
- Clear warnings about stairs and escalators for people who have difficulties seeing clearly;
- Vending machines with easy-to-reach buttons, and product chutes, that work just as well for someone standing as someone in a wheelchair;
- A continuous (no lips) path of travel from your car to the entry of the plane;
- Chairs near the gates that are slightly higher for those who have trouble standing up from a seated position;
- Colour changes to mark gates and different areas;
- Use of non-slip floors for wheelchairs and prams.

For the full article, see: [http://www.novita.org.au/media\\_detail.asp?p=150&m=11](http://www.novita.org.au/media_detail.asp?p=150&m=11)

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## CANADA

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### **Design for the Cold**

The Design Exchange (DX) presented the multi-disciplinary exhibition, *Design for the Cold* last month. The goals of the exhibition were to raise awareness about how Canadians experience the winter, to identify the physical exigencies and to exhibit universal design solutions applicable to winter environments. Through an open call for submissions, sixteen designers, educators and health sciences researchers from all disciplines were selected to present their work in the form of research posters or design models/illustrations.

For information on the exhibit, see: <http://dx.org/universal/exhibition.htm>

For a video clip depicting a workshop associated with the project, see:  
<http://www.dx.org/universal/videos/Wkshop2/index.htm>

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## CHILE

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### **Las Orquídeas: Chile's First Accessible Multi-Sensory Nature Trail**

Scott Rains, Rolling Rains Report, shares that 'Chile's Lago Peñuelas National Park now has a thoughtfully designed trail and interpretive system that users are acclaiming. The accessible trail works for people who use wheelchairs as well as people with visual impairments. It has nine bridges, two pergolas, numerous rest spots, and signage in Braille. Similar to the approach taken by Coco Raynes in various Columbian museums the site provides 'hands-on' replicas and bass relief representations of the local fauna for those with low or no vision.'

For the full article, see: <http://www.rollingrains.com/archives/000777.html#more>

For more on the Lago Peñuelas National Park, see:

<http://www.gochile.cl/eng/Guide/ChileNationalParks/LagoPenuelas/Lago-Penuelas-1.asp>

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## FINLAND

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### Human Perspectives on Sustainable Future

Sustainable future and 'good life' imply practices, which are ecologically, socio-culturally and economically sustainable. The 5th International Household and Family Research Conference invites researchers to discuss and exchange ideas and experiences on the various aspects of sustainable development. The conference will be held June 6-9, 2006 in Savonlinna, Finland.

The 4 main themes are: Home Economics and Family Sciences, Textiles, Craft and Design, Education, and Consumer Sciences. A sub-topic for Textiles, Craft and Design is 'Design For All and Socially Sustainable Development.'

More information on the conference is at: <http://household.joensuu.fi/index.shtml>

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## FRANCE

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### Ethics 2006

"ETHICS: Design, Ethics and Humanism" will take place June 15-17, 2006 in Nantes France. A sub-title of the conference is 'Products, services, the environment and responsibilities of designers.' The themes are: Eco design and sustainable development, Design for All and inclusive conception, Supportive economy and fair trade, De-industrialization, design and employment, Companies and business ethics, and Ethics and the teaching of design.

Full details are available at: <http://cumulus.lecolededesign.com/>

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## JAPAN

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### Panasonic Eco & UD House

Panasonic has announced the completion of the Eco & UD (universal design) House, a life-size model house that embodies the company's commitment to ecology and the principles of universal design. Located within the complex of Panasonic Center Tokyo, it will be open to the

public on January 4, 2006 for visitors to experience innovative and futuristic living in the context of a typical home setting.

All the Panasonic products used have adopted the universal design concept. Panasonic is using its expertise and ingenuity to develop products that are easy and safe for all people to use. For instance, the company has developed design guidelines detailing colors, contrast, type size and other factors to enhance its products for people who are visually impaired. Furthermore, some products are equipped with voice guidance for easy operation. The House incorporates the company's efforts towards universal design in an everyday living environment.

Full details available at: <http://panasonic.co.jp/corp/news/official.data/data.dir/en051128-2/en051128-2.html>

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## **TAIWAN**

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### **Barrier-Free Access May Boost Tourism**

The Taiwanese government launched their tourism effort with an international conference in May. At the press conference officials noted that "The number of disabled people is expected to rise as Taiwan becomes an aged society, so creating a barrier-free environment no longer means just meeting the basic needs of the disabled community. It may also pave the way for the development of accessible tourism -- a growing market around the world...According to statistics from the Ministry of the Interior last year, the elderly make up almost 10 percent of Taiwan's population. When the disabled are taken into account, more than 17 percent of people in this country need a barrier-free environment...in addition to facilities, availability of information about the accessibility of tourism spots, such as accessible guides for tourists or on the Web, is also important for developing successful accessible tourism."

To read the full article, see:

<http://www.taipeitimes.com/News/taiwan/archives/2005/05/04/2003253089>

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## **UNITED KINGDOM**

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### **Designs of the Time**

The UK public will be given the chance to help design the places where they live, work and play - and the services they use - as part of a £50million, ten-year initiative to re-design the UK that

begins in North East England in 2007. Dott [Designs of the time], created by the Design Council, will provide a unique opportunity for designers, businesses and public service organizations to engage with the public in practical explorations of the role that design can play in improving every aspect of people's lives.

For the full article on this new initiative, see: [http://www.design-council.org.uk/webdav/harmonise?Page/@id=6009&Session/@id=D\\_yt5SNI689tKJx7yPd0J2&Document/@id=9602](http://www.design-council.org.uk/webdav/harmonise?Page/@id=6009&Session/@id=D_yt5SNI689tKJx7yPd0J2&Document/@id=9602)

For the Dott web-site, see: <http://www.dott07.com/>

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## **Gerontechnology -- Special Issue on Universal Design**

This special issue of the journal Gerontechnology will address: how to Design for All when including older people as potential users and how to evaluate the results of those designs.

Papers are sought which deal with all aspects of universal design and older people from researchers, design professionals, practitioners and older people. The editors are particularly interested in longer papers that develop methodology, conceptual ideas and theoretical understanding and short papers that describe innovative developments or short case studies..

Editor's Note: Expression of interest was due by 30 November 2005.

For more information please contact: Co-Editors Gill Whitney, [G.Whitney@mdx.ac.uk](mailto:G.Whitney@mdx.ac.uk), and Suzette Keith, [S.Keith@mdx.ac.uk](mailto:S.Keith@mdx.ac.uk)

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## **INCLUDE 2005 Proceedings Online**

The proceedings for INCLUDE 2005, the International conference on inclusive design that was held in London in April, are now online. The object of the biennial Include conferences is to strengthen and build on growing links between those researchers, practitioners and companies who have identified inclusive design as a strategy around which social and commercial objectives can converge. Include 2005 is organized by the Helen Hamlyn Research Centre at the Royal College of Art. The proceedings are in PDF format.

To access the proceedings, visit:

<http://www.hhrc.rca.ac.uk/programmes/include/2005/proceedings/index.html>

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## **Jodi Awards 2006**

The Jodi Awards give recognition to web sites that demonstrate practical and imaginative ways of making online cultural and learning resources accessible to disabled people. The Jodi Awards were launched in 2003, European Year of Disabled People. Besides meeting high technical standards of accessibility, the judges take particular interest: demonstrate innovation in making museum, library and archive services accessible, can act as role models within their category of organisations, can have wider impact on the sector, demonstrate innovative ways of presenting and interpreting museum, archive and library collections online, for specific groups of

disabled people and/or address the requirements of people with dyslexia, whose needs do not seem to be widely taken into account.

For more information, see: [http://www.mla.gov.uk/documents/mla\\_jodi\\_about.doc](http://www.mla.gov.uk/documents/mla_jodi_about.doc)

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## UNITED STATES

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### **Accessibility and Universal Design in Library Services and Resources**

The American Library Association (ALA) has awarded a Diversity Research Grant to Wooseob Jeong, University of Wisconsin – Milwaukee. Through surveys and experiments with people who are blind and those who are visually impaired, his project will work to identify optimal conditions for combining force feedback technology with an online Braille generator. The final product of this research will enable visually impaired people to enjoy all library services and resources as well as the enormous amount of information on the Web more freely.

To read the grant announcement, see:

<http://www.ala.org/ala/diversity/divresearchgrants/drg05.htm>

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### **Adaptive Environments News**

The Boston Society of Architects Women in Design group recently honored Valerie Fletcher, Executive Directory of Adaptive Environments, at their 2005 meeting at Build Boston. As part of the nomination package, Susan Szenasy, editor of Metropolis noted, "Valerie Fletcher's tireless advocacy for accessible environments and universally useful products is helping change architecture and design practices for the better. Her efforts help sensitize designers to the needs of ALL the people who use the buildings, interiors, and objects they create."

Additionally, MetropolisMag.com recently posted an interview held with Ms. Fletcher. Besides discussing the progress that has been made in making the US 'become a kinder and gentler nation,' given the passage of the ADA 15 years ago, there is also discussion of some of what has not happened ... 'Universal design can be interpreted as aesthetically-enhanced accessible design. That's good, but I worry that the narrow focus misses the larger opportunity for universal design to be a significant driver of a revival of design research that explores the potential of going beyond anthropometrics and ergonomics. There is so much we don't know.' The interview ends with some thoughts on the relationship between Sustainable Design and Universal Design. Ms. Fletcher states that 'we must focus as much attention as possible on promoting sustainable design as comprised of environmental, social, and economic sustainability. Universal design is a very good fit as a central concept of social sustainability. The UN has already accepted it as part of the definition used in Department of Economic and Social Affairs.'

For the full Metropolis interview of Valerie Fletcher, see: <http://www.metropolismag.com/cda/story.php?artid=1630> ; the Women in Design award is detailed at: <http://www.adaptiveenvironments.org/>

The third piece of news from Adaptive Environments is about its membership program. Some of the benefits include discounts on publications and programs, a newsletter, access to the online human-centered design image database and the opportunity to submit new images for the collection, access to pertinent local, national and international statistical data resources and other benefits.

To learn more about the new Adaptive Environments membership program, see: <http://www.adaptiveenvironments.org/index.php?option=Content&Itemid=304>

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### **Aging in Place Week**

The Third Annual National Aging In Place Week took place the week of November 6-12, 2005. Many communities across the country were involved. Examples include:

- + Some governors - Jennifer M Granholm (Michigan), formally declared the week as 'Aging in Place' week, ([http://www.michigan.gov/gov/0,1607,7-168-23442\\_25488-126924--,00.html](http://www.michigan.gov/gov/0,1607,7-168-23442_25488-126924--,00.html))
- + Some places - Andrus Gerontology held a workshop ([http://www.homemods.org/aging\\_in\\_place/index.shtml](http://www.homemods.org/aging_in_place/index.shtml))
- + Some states - Colorado, held several events (<http://www.ageinplaceincolorado.info/>)
- + Some locales - San Mateo CA, held local events that included television programming ([http://www.seeitbuyit.com/tour\\_images/2005/10/31/15022/proof\\_1438.pdf](http://www.seeitbuyit.com/tour_images/2005/10/31/15022/proof_1438.pdf))
- + Some publications - the Indy Star produced a series of relevant articles (<http://www.indystar.com/apps/pbcs.dll/article?AID=/20051106/CUSTOMPUB32/51102021/1089/CLASSIFIEDS>).

These and so many more events, large and small, celebrated 'Aging in Place Week.' Consider how you and your community might celebrate this in 2006.

For more on the National Aging in Place Council and Aging in Place Week, see: <http://www.naipc.org/>

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### **alphaWorks Accessibility Site**

'IBM is offering free assistive software downloads as part of its continuing efforts to promote products aimed at aging baby boomers and people with disabilities ... the technology it has aimed at people with disabilities will be available for free to anyone...

IBM's new alphaWorks accessibility site offers links to information about adaptive Web technology, hardware (including a keyboard optimizer and head tracking camera), and software. It also features the aDesigner, a disability simulator that helps Web designers ensure their pages are accessible. A Reflexive Interface Builder will help software developers create applications with graphical interfaces that people with disabilities can use.'

For full article, see: <http://www.developerpipeline.com/showArticle.jhtml?articleId=171202714>  
For AlphaWorks Accessibility Site, see: <http://www.alphaworks.ibm.com/topics/accessibility>

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## **City in Motion, Interdisciplinary Conference in New York**

New York Institute of Technology in Manhattan invites presentation proposals for the Interdisciplinary Conference: New York: City in Motion which will take place on March 10, 2006. The committee seeks presenters who will share their scholarship and perspectives on the City of New York as examined through the ideas of movement, mobility, and transformation. One of the suggested topics is 'Disability/Mobility/Accessibility in New York.' Proposals are due January 10, 2006.

Complete announcement is at: <http://www.h-net.org/announce/show.cgi?ID=148283>

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## **Designing for Urban Woes in Philadelphia**

At the University of the Arts, 64 industrial-design students gathered last week to present their latest work; designs for a better Philadelphia - ways for citizens to connect with one another, eat more healthily and recycle more, and ideas about building the city's creative economy. Since 2001, these traditional fall-semester design intensives, known as charrettes, have become ways for students to learn about community needs and network with local businesses and nonprofits.

Last year, a group of industrial-design juniors worked with the Overbrook School for the Blind to improve a teaching kitchen and to better use space in an outmoded Braille library. Students also developed ideas to aid the visually and motor impaired, including a device that could measure out toothpaste and an oversized magnetic button. One of the students noted, "When I'm finished here, I don't want to go out and design a new corkscrew. What really drives me is throwing my ideas into the world and seeing how people react."

The full article is at: <http://www.philly.com/mld/inquirer/living/home/design/13076539.htm>

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## **Game Accessibility Special Interest Group**

The Game Accessibility Special Interest Group (SIG) of the International Game Developers Association (IGDA) was formed to help the game community strive towards creating mainstream games that are universally accessible to all, regardless of disability. The web-site mentions several game accessibility organizations: AGDev (Accessible Game Developers), AGRIP (Accessible Gaming Rendering Independence Possible), AbleGamers (Serving MMORPG gamers whom happen to have disabilities), DeafGamers (Reviewing games from a deaf gamer's perspective), AudioGames.net (Reviewing games from a blind gamer's perspective) and OneSwitch.org.uk (Switch gaming for learning and/or physically disabled gamers).

For more information on the Game Accessibility SIG, see:  
[http://www.igda.org/wiki/index.php/Game\\_Accessibility\\_SIGbbb](http://www.igda.org/wiki/index.php/Game_Accessibility_SIGbbb)

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## **Interiors 06**

INTERIORS 06 will be held March 16-19, 2006 in Nashville, TN. It will include a keynote speech by industrial design guru Patricia Moore on "Design Revolution," a discussion about what inclusive and accessible mean. Also, one of the conference tracks is 'aging in place/universal design.'

For more information on the conference, see:

<http://www.asid.org/FAQs+for+INTERIORS+06.htm>

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## **Preparing the Workplace for Everyone: Accounting for the Needs of People with Disabilities**

Preparing the Workplace for Everyone is meant to serve as a launching point for federal agencies as they re-evaluate and strengthen their Occupant Emergency Plans (OEPs). This framework of guidelines reflects the effective practices of nearly 20 federal agencies gathered from direct input, existing reports and articles, and actual emergency plans. The guidelines explore topics in four phases of emergency preparedness plans: development, implementation, practice, and maintenance.

For the complete Department of Labor report (in HTML or PDF), see:

<http://www.dol.gov/odep/pubs/ep/preparing2.htm>

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## **SATH World Congress For Travelers With Disabilities & The Mature**

Since 1997, Society for Accessible Travel and Hospitality (SATH) has sponsored a congress for education about travelers with disabilities and the mature. Travel professionals from all over the world attend this event to learn how to meet the needs of this important market. The SATH 10th World Congress will be held in Miami January 11-15, 2006 at the Hilton Miami Airport.

To learn more, see: <http://www.sath.org/index.html?section=World%20Congress%2f2006&-session=thisSession:33348AD372D38B52713B835197783D59>

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## **Stetson Law Builds High-Tech, Barrier-Free Courtroom**

The barrier-free courtroom, a joint effort of Stetson's Centers for Excellence in Advocacy and Elder Law, is designed as a national model to increase courtroom access for people who are elderly and disabled. It uses cutting-edge technology including flat-panel monitors to display evidence, hearing amplification devices to make speech more audible, and a multi-lingual software speech synthesizer that will read aloud words displayed on a computer screen, translate them into multiple languages, and even output words to refreshable Braille displays if needed.

For the full article, see:

<http://www.naela.com/Applications/News/index.cfm?fuseAction=fullArticle&ArticleID=177>

To learn more about the courtroom, see: <http://www.law.stetson.edu/eleazercourtroom/>

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## **WORLD**

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### **Lego League – Universal Design Award**

In 2005, the international First Lego League (FLL) piloted a Universal Design Award. 'This award is presented to the team(s) who incorporated principles of universal design into its Challenge Project solution and related presentation, to benefit people of all ages and abilities.'

For more information, see: <http://www.firstlegoleague.org/default.aspx?pid=15930> and [http://www.firstlegoleague.org/sitemod/upload/Root/ALL/Universal\\_Design\\_Award.pdf](http://www.firstlegoleague.org/sitemod/upload/Root/ALL/Universal_Design_Award.pdf)

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### **World Summit on the Information Society (WSIS)**

The 2nd World Summit on the Information Society (WSIS) took place November 16-18, 2005 in Tunis, Tunisia. One cross-cutting theme of the summit focused on ensuring new Information and Communication Technologies (ICTs) are fully accessible, especially to older adults and people with disabilities. More and more hardware and software companies are developing "assistive technologies" that aid users with special needs such as the visually impaired or those with limited mobility. Three examples are:

Sweden -- The MyTobii Eye Control System consists of a specific computer display (monitor) that can detect precisely where the user is looking on the screen together with a suite of application software which allows the user to communicate and interact using only his or her eyes.

Switzerland -- In collaboration with Microsoft®, QualiLife developed the most recent version of QualiWorld, a software package designed for older persons or individuals with any physical disability, private and public hospitals and rehabilitation centers. The software offers a higher level of independence and new opportunities for communication including a tool for people who are physically unable to use a computer keyboard and mouse.

United Kingdom -- The UK electronics company Montrose Secam Limited offers the Assistive Mouse Adapter which helps people with a tremor operate a computer mouse. The device which uses technology invented by IBM Research is a small box plugged in between the mouse and the computer. The adapter filters out unintentional movements caused by a hand tremor and dial allows you to adjust the amount of filtering depending upon the severity of your tremor.

For more information on some global innovations in assistive technology, see:

[http://www.aarp.org/international/agingadvances/univdesign/Articles/12\\_05\\_intl\\_assistivetechologies.html](http://www.aarp.org/international/agingadvances/univdesign/Articles/12_05_intl_assistivetechologies.html)

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## World Usability Day – Follow-up

World Usability Day took place on November 3, 2005 with events around a world. Here is a brief rundown on some of those events.

India – Hyderabad: UsabilityMatters.Org (UMO), a non-profit organization working towards design awareness and exchange of design sensibilities through interaction between designers and design sensitive consumers, held a conference. For more information, see <http://www.usabilitymatters.org/blog/>

New Zealand – Christchurch: Kicked off World Usability Day and included the grand opening of New Zealand's first centre devoted to information design and usability. To learn more about the Information Design CentreNZ, visit <http://www.idcnz.com/>

Poland – Warsaw: A special website with basic usability and accessibility information was launched, <http://www.wud.pl/>. This site presents cases in which usability issues determined the success of products, showing the impact that usability might have on the success of e-business and improving web sites of government institutions due to our project "Citizen Oriented Design". An online seminar and consultations were also held.

Russia – Moscow: Also launched a new website, <http://www.wud.ru/>.

For more information on World Usability Day and the events that took place, see: <http://worldusabilityday.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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**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 2006:** Abstract deadline for The 11<sup>th</sup> International Conference on Mobility and Transport for Elderly and Disabled Persons (TRANSED 2007), Montréal, Canada. The theme is Benchmarking, Evaluation and Vision for the Future. The call for abstracts is at:  
<http://www.tc.gc.ca/pol/en/transed2007/abstracts.htm#F>. [GUIDELINES FOR SUBMITTING ABSTRACTS](#)

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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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**February 14-15 2006:** 'Shaping the Future' – Universal Design Conference, Hannover, Germany. This first iF conference on the topic of universal design is dedicated to the challenging task of exploring living concepts, buildings, products and public design by examining the real aspects of universal design. Details at: [http://www.ifdesign.de/inhalt-projects\\_universal\\_teilnahme\\_e.html](http://www.ifdesign.de/inhalt-projects_universal_teilnahme_e.html)

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**March 15 2006:** Deadline for European Prize for Urban Public Space 2006. The purpose of the prize is to acknowledge the best projects to transform urban spaces in Europe and is awarded both to the architects and to the institution that promotes the project, with a view to creating an incentive for government investment in the remodelling of public spaces to improve life in cities. Details at: [www.urban.cccb.org](http://www.urban.cccb.org)

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**March 16-18 2006:** 1st International CIB Student Chapters Postgraduate Conference, Ankara, Turkey. It will focus on experiences, research, innovations and knowledge which are relevant to the Built Environment and Information Technologies. For full details:  
[http://www.cibsc.arch.metu.edu.tr/cib\\_sch/about.html](http://www.cibsc.arch.metu.edu.tr/cib_sch/about.html)

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**March 16-19 2006:** Invest in Aging, Strengthening Families, Communities and Ourselves – 2006 Joint Conference of the National Council on the Aging and the American Society on Aging, Anaheim, CA. The conference will feature over 800 sessions covering a diverse range of topics in aging, including Housing and Aging in Place. Full details available at:  
<http://www.agingconference.org/agingconference/jc06/index.cfm>

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**March 25-26 2006:** 21<sup>st</sup> Annual International Conference on Technology & Persons with Disabilities. Los Angeles, California. Comprehensive, international conference focuses on technologies across all ages, disabilities, levels of education, training, employment, and independent living. This year's theme is 'Partners in Achievement.' Full details at: <http://www.csun.edu/cod/conf/>

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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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**April 20-22 2006:** Barrier-Free 2006, International Trade Fair on Barrier Free Equipments & Rehabilitation for the Elderly & the Disabled, Osaka, Japan. Full details at:  
<http://www.itp.gr.jp/bf/english/>

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**April 24-26 2006:** Building for Boomers & Beyond: 50+ Housing Symposium, Phoenix, AZ. Sponsored by the National Association of Home Builders. More details available at:  
[http://www.nahb.org/meeting\\_details.aspx?meetingID=1501](http://www.nahb.org/meeting_details.aspx?meetingID=1501)

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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 15-17 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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**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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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.

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