

Global Universal Design Educator's Online News

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Elaine Ostroff, Editor and Publisher

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EDITOR'S NOTE

Before you read anything else, check out World Usability Day, under 'World,' a virtual and real event that begins in New Zealand and ends 36 hours later in San Francisco -on November 3.

In this issue you'll find evidence from around the world of the many ways that governments, businesses, professional organizations and academic organizations are collaborating to initiate policies and programs for human-centered design. The governments of Afghanistan, France, and Japan, along with the European Commission, have established policies that will lead to more equitable design of services and facilities. Businesses are using universal design as value added for their clients, as seen in China where Sun City International is in initiating a worldwide housing exchange. In the United Kingdom, Housing for Life is a partnership of government, business and the housing industry that recently honored eight new housing developments for their high quality design. Another UK conference led by the Chartered Institute of Architectural Technologists focuses on design for 'whole life use.' In the United States, Home Depot and Lowe's, two giant home improvement retailers are promoting universal design through education, demonstrations and off-the-shelf products. The aging demographics continue to drive international and national conferences, with support from national organizations and businesses in the US. See the Maturing for Life and the Aging, Disability and Independence conferences. Another example of a business and professional partnership to address the needs of the aging consumer is between Procter & Gamble and the Industrial Design Society of America, with the goal of expanding design curricula. You'll learn about award programs and many other conferences worldwide. Check out the calendar for events going through June 2007.

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

AFGHANISTAN

National Programme for Action on Disability (NPAD)

The National Programme for Action on Disability (NPAD) is a three-year project formally launched in March 2005 in agreement with two ministries – Ministry of Martyrs and Disabled (MMD) and Ministry of Labour and Social Affairs (MOLSA). The primary objective of NPAD is to raise awareness and capacity, and to develop government structures for policy development, implementation and coordination of disability-focused efforts in Afghanistan. The emphasis of the Programme is to ensure the rightful inclusion of disabled people through addressing and breaking down social, political and economic barriers faced by disabled people in Afghanistan.

For more information on this United Nations supported program, see:

http://www.undp.org.af/about_us/overview_undp_afg/dcse/prj_npada.htm

Related to this project is a document “Planning a Barrier Free Environment – Practical Tools” ... a nice little resource, only available in PDF,

http://www.undp.org.af/media_room/archives/key_docs/docs/2005_cdap_practical_tools.pdf

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CHINA

Sun City International Aged People Community Housing Exchange

Sun City International Aged People Community's reciprocal metathesis concept will act as an exchange programme for senior citizens to live at Sun City's overseas seniors' residences for specified periods of time. Sun City apartments differ from ordinary housing. The universal design approach makes homes suitable regardless of the inhabitant's changing physical condition.

The company expects to complete a new apartment complex in Vancouver, Canada, by the middle of next year. It has also signed a letter of intent with Hawaii-based aged care institution Arcadia.

Sun City has also set up branches in Hong Kong and New Zealand, where it plans to launch similar communities. Companies in other foreign countries have expressed interest, including Japan, South Korea, the Philippines and Macao.

For full article in China Daily, see: http://www.chinadaily.com.cn/english/doc/2005-10/10/content_483544.htm

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EUROPE

Build For All – Mainstreaming Disability Policy

This project, supported by the European Commission, is a “Pilot Project to mainstream disability policies” and is supported by DG Employment and Social Affairs. The joint priority area of activity - in line with the definition of the project by the European Commission - is the “promotion of Accessibility for All with regard to the built environment and public infrastructures.”

The European Commission asked the Project to give guidance in three main areas:

- 1) The need to provide public authorities with guidance in the establishment of essential accessibility criteria, and a methodology for step-by-step implementation of the accessibility as provided for by the European Union public procurement Directives.
- 2) The need to inform private sector and professional stakeholders about how to meet the demands of the accessibility criteria.
- 3) The need to bring together the representatives of disability organizations and older people’s organizations at European, national and local level together with their counterparts from the other professional and stakeholder groups - the local and regional authorities, the construction industry, the lift manufacturers and architects - in order to promote and create lasting and ongoing constructive dialogue.

The project most recently met on October 5 and the web site currently has drafts of the Handbook and Toolkit as presented at that meeting.

To see the document drafts and find full project details, see: <http://www.build-for-all.net/>

To learn more about the European Commission and its mandate, see: http://europa.eu.int/comm/index_en.htm

Building Accessible Services

Throughout Europe in 2006, there will be a series of six Building Accessible Services (BAS) international events held whose purpose is to disseminate on-going results and outcomes to a large audience as well as involved stakeholders. BAS is specifically concerned with the accessibility and usability of workplaces and other buildings for people with disabilities and sensory impairments. The events will take place within other major events in order to attract

also larger audiences from multidisciplinary interests around the main theme of the built environment.

The six planned meetings are:

- >> Research Policies and Accessibility, March (Verona), Italy, Consiglio Nazionale delle Ricerche, Istituto per le Tecnologie della Costruzione – CNR ITC
- >> Disability and Discrimination in the Workplace, April (Manchester), UK, organised by Insight;
- >> Innovative Design and Accessibility, June (Lund), Sweden, by Chalmers University;
- >> Historical Buildings and Accessibility, July (Budapest), Hungary, by MEOSZ, Geonardo and ASM;
- >> Tourism and Accessibility, September (Crete), Greece, by Apintech;
- >> Constructon, Standardization and Accessibility, November (Brussels), Belgium by BBRI.

For each meeting the focus will be on the current project development; issues arising from the case studies; and the implications for design. Speakers from the partners' institutions will introduce the framework, addressing subjects as follows: - the methodology for the analysis of the case studies; - an overview of the provisional selected text for the planned publication known as the 'Orange Book'. The first half day will present the general framework of the project. It will address specifically the issues that are important to decision and policy makers as well as to professionals and experts concerned with disability and design, in order to stimulate a discussion. The second half day will be devoted to a specific assigned task.

For more information, contact: Project Leader: Consiglio Nazionale delle Ricerche, Istituto per le Tecnologie della Costruzione – CNR ITC, Italy www.itc.cnr.it, specifically, Dr. Annalisa Morini, E-mail a.morini@itc.cnr.it, Tel.+3906409007341

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FRANCE

New Accessibility Law in France for Inclusive Society

"Rendre notre société accessible est essentiel pour faire vivre l'égalité des chances et donner tout son sens à la pleine citoyenneté des personnes handicapées. Dans ce domaine, nous sommes en retard, il fallait agir." These are the words of Jacques Chirac, the French president in May 2005. France has clearly the objective to do better. Accessibility of the built environment is one of the major axes of the new French law n° 2005-102 of 11 February 2005. Accessibility of the whole transport chain (the transport itself - the infrastructure - the buildings and their surroundings) is considered as an essential element for an inclusive society. The law doesn't only cover buildings open to the public (both private and public owned), but also housing. Decrees putting the law into application remain to be published in the coming months.

The source of this information was: <http://www.polis-ubd.net/?cat=publications> (the only English-language web version we found)

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GERMANY

Residential Realms of the Future

This is the title of a special display at Altenpflege+ProPflege 2006 (February 2006), with the focus on universal design principles as applied to architecture and design. For the third time, the successful "Lebensräume" special display will be devoted to the topic of life in advanced years. Manufacturers, architects and designers will be on hand to present their products, ideas and visions for elderly living - now and in the future. In 2006 the focus will be on designing living spaces or "residential realms."

For full details, see: http://www.ifdesign.de/inhalt-projects_universal_teilnahme_e.html

'Shaping the Future' – Architecture, Products and Public Spaces

This conference will be held February 14-15 in Hannover. This 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. The goal is use this conference to introduce and intensify the discussions that need to take place, we want to show examples of good solutions and motivate architects, designers, investors and operators, we want to provoke people as necessary and bring service providers, business and government into the debate.

For full details, see: http://www.ifdesign.de/inhalt-projects_universal_teilnahme_e.html

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JAPAN

Universal Design Policy Promotion for Land and Transportation

In October 2004, the MLIT (Ministry of Land, Infrastructure and Transport) established the Universal Design Policy Promotion Headquarters within the ministry. It prepared these General Principles by carrying out an overall examination of all fields of national land and transportation administration and conducting discussions with experts both inside and outside of Japan. At the same time, they linked discussion groups to deal with the way to achieve barrier free conditions, to smooth the use of public transportation systems and to promote Free Mobility Project.

The full text in PDF format is available at: <http://www.mlit.go.jp/kisha/kisha05/01/010711/04.pdf>

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NORDIC COUNTRIES

ERA 05

In September 2005 designers from all over the world came to the Nordic countries to join the Era 05 World Design Congress. There were Pre-Congresses in Oslo, Helsinki and Gothenburg ending with a Joint Congress in Copenhagen. Through seminars, exhibitions and social activities the delegates were challenged to break borders and gain new perspectives on design. Era 05 Oslo focused on four themes: 'Borders of your Senses', 'Borders of your Profession', 'Borders of your World', and 'Design for All'

The conference web-site is: <http://www.era05.com/> or <http://www.era05.no/>

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TURKEY

Built Environment and Information Technologies

The 1st International CIB Student Chapters Postgraduate conference will be held March 16-18, 2006 in Ankara Turkey and is a part of a full week consisting of CIB Board Meetings and a workshop on "Integrated Design Solutions". It will mainly focus on experiences, research, innovations and knowledge that are relevant to the Built Environment and Information Technologies. One of the conference's themes is Universal Design.

For more details, see: <http://www.asce.org/files/pdf/inside/cibstudentchapters.pdf> or http://www.cibsc.arch.metu.edu.tr/cib_sch/call.html

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UNITED KINGDOM

Building for Life

Eight new housing developments across England were awarded the Building for Life Standard on October 13. Backed by The Commission for Architecture and The Built Environment (CABE), the government and the housing industry, this award is the national standard for design quality in new housing.

From a striking, contemporary scheme by Persimmon Homes in Southampton; a distinctive development by George Wimpey in Gateshead; an impressive piece of regeneration in Putney by St George to a medieval-style hamlet by Bellway Homes in Warrington and a new development that has been designed to look like a piece of historic Durham by Bryant Homes – these and the other three winning developments set the benchmark for volume housing developments in England today.

The aims of this initiative are to:

- gather examples of excellent housing design from around the world and then work with house building companies to establish the very best practice in design across England
- listen carefully to consumers in understanding their needs and priorities when designing new homes
- identify where there are barriers to good design and campaign for their removal.

Full details of the initiative, an overview of the award recipients, case studies and more, see: <http://www.buildingforlife.org/index.html>

Designing for Life: Technological Innovation in the Design Process

This conference, sponsored by the Chartered Institute of Architectural Technologists will take place 18 November 2005 in Birmingham UK.

This conference will facilitate discussion on and raise awareness of the concept of designing the built environment for the life of its users. It will include sustainable communities and the whole of life use of structures and buildings. Discussion will encompass new acts, regulations and policies affecting design, development and construction in the built environment.

Conference web-site: <http://www.ciat.org.uk/publications/index.jsp?pid=59>

Proceedings Available -- OPEN SPACE: PEOPLE SPACE

Please note that the full proceedings of OPEN SPACE: PEOPLE SPACE, An International Conference on Inclusive Outdoor Environments, held in October 2004, are now available and searchable. Some “themes” to check out are:

- Accessibility & Disability
- Inclusive Access to the Outdoors: Key Issues
- Design for All
- Several “Social Inclusion” themes

Conference proceedings: <http://www.openspace.eca.ac.uk/conference/proceedings/start.htm>

Sensory Trust News

Sensory Trust has an upcoming program on Accessible Heritage and two new publications.

>> On November 25, there will be a one day conference, “Accessible Heritage,” on access to historic landscapes, parks and countryside. How can we improve access whilst conserving the special qualities of these places? What examples are out there to show what can be done?

>> A new guide “Easy Access to Historic Landscapes” was unveiled on October 10th. The guide was commissioned by English Heritage and the Heritage Lottery Fund to help the owners and managers of sites such as historic parks, gardens, cemeteries and urban squares to provide easy, dignified access for all visitors. It focuses on creating a better visitor experience, but also aims to help improve the skills of staff and volunteers and help conserve a site’s special historic interest.

>> Another new guide “By All Reasonable Means” is also now available. The guide highlights the importance of balancing access with the conservation of natural heritage and landscape character by providing a realistic, practical and effective approach to access improvements. It looks at accessibility in its broadest sense, including people with physical, sensory or intellectual impairments. Highlights include how to make routes, sites and facilities more accessible and how to improve the experience at physically accessible sites. It contains advice on how to assess an existing site for access provision, how to plan and carry out access improvements.

To learn more about Sensory Trust and its programs and initiatives, visit:

<http://www.sensorytrust.org.uk/welcome.htm>

Full details on the Accessible Heritage conference are at:

http://www.sensorytrust.org.uk/news/conferences/accessible_heritage.html

You may read a news blurb and download a PDF version of “Easy Access to Historic Landscapes” via <http://www.sensorytrust.org.uk/news/articles/2.html>

You may read a news blur and download a PDF version of “By All Reasonable Means” via http://www.sensorytrust.org.uk/news/articles/by_all_reasonable_means.html

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UNITED STATES

2006 AIA/HUD Secretary Awards

The AIA’s Housing Committee Knowledge Community, in conjunction with the Office of the Secretary of the U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development (HUD), created this awards program to recognize excellence in housing and community design. Good design is the cornerstone of well-planned homes and communities. These awards demonstrate that design matters and provide examples of important benchmarks in the housing industry. The categories of the program include (1) Mixed-Use/Mixed-Income Development (2) Community Building by Design and (3) the Alan J. Rothman Housing Accessibility Award.

The submission deadline is November 18th. More details can be found at:
http://www.aia.org/awp_hud

Barrier Free America Award

Recognizing the accessibility of Chicago's Millennium Park, the Paralyzed Veterans of America (PVA) proudly announces that Edward K. Uhler, FAIA, is the recipient of the 2005 Barrier-Free America Award. PVA, a national veterans' service and disability rights organization, introduced the Barrier-Free America Award in 2001 to recognize individual leadership in making our country more accessible for all Americans.

To read more, see: <http://www.pva.org/livingsci/architecture/bfa.htm>

Better Living Through Universal Design: Two Examples

This article talks about two recent uses of Universal Design that were put into practice by Zagrodnik + Thomas Architects (ZTA): an expansion to San Diego State University's Interwork Institute and the new Prop MM-funded (California) Normal Heights Elementary School.

For the expansion to San Diego State University's Interwork Institute it was a unique opportunity to create a workplace that reflects the institute's core mission to promote the integration of all individuals, including those with disabilities, into academic, work, family and community life. Some of the key features are:

1. simple intuitive circulation patterns with wider pathways and multi-sensory signals -- In other words, if you can't see the sign, you're provided with alternative clues to find your way around, such as talking signs or changes in floor or wall texture.
2. a wide, gently-sloping, outdoor elevated walkway that begins on the ground floor and connects to the second story -- a walkway for everyone, not just wheelchair users -- which has generous-sized landings that serve as scenic rest spots overlooking the ground level patio and gathering areas.
3. special handrails with braille inscriptions and audio buttons to assist the visually impaired with points of reference along the way.

For the Normal Heights Elementary School, some of the features include:

1. a semi-circular layout of the classroom buildings promotes natural daylight and ventilation in the classrooms, serves as an inviting entryway for the public onto school grounds and creates straightforward intuitive circulation patterns.
2. each building has its own color palette of tile wainscot and paint accents along with large graphics to differentiate one building from another.
3. a gently sloped pedestrian link from the neighborhood through the school property and on to the adjoining 39th Street public park. A plaza and centralized courtyard will serve as a gathering spot for students, another open entryway and a clear point of reference to the campus organization.

Full article at: <http://www.sddt.com/Reports/article.cfm?RID=352&SourceCode=20050913ra>

Build a Home to Last Your Lifetime: Experience Universal Design

At this year's Farm Science Review program at Ohio State University, Visitors were able to walk through and touch a complete kitchen and bathroom using universal design. There were models to give visitors a real feel for what it's like in a universally designed home. Lowe's (Home Improvement) will feature the display in an article about universal design in the Jan/Feb 2006 issue of Creative Ideas magazine (the Lowe's magazine). Additionally, there was an interactive area with everyday objects that visitors could use to assess their personal needs. Doors of different widths, counters of varying heights, a range of door handles and sink faucets were just a few examples of the universal design items available to be tested.

To read more, see: <http://www.hec.ohio-state.edu/news/events/ud2005.php>

On a related note, partner Lowe's Home Improvement will start selling OXO International Hand Tools this fall. The line includes 22 tools and two kits created on the philosophy of universal design, a concept that provides for easy use through features such as contoured handles. "These hand tools were created to be comfortable for any user, regardless of hand size, grip strength or level of experience -- from beginning do-it-yourselfer to professional contractor."

For an article on this, see:

<http://charlotte.bizjournals.com/charlotte/stories/2005/10/17/daily15.html>

Home Depot Conducted Workshops Using Universal Design

On Tuesday, October 11, 2005 every Home Depot in the United States conducted a free one-hour workshop called "Update Your Home for Lifelong Comfort." This workshop was the first of a series of ongoing combined AARP/Home Depot workshops to be held in all Home depot stores in the U.S.

News article at: <http://www.adaptenv.org/index.php?option=News&articleid=573>

International Conference on Aging, Disability and Independence (ICADI)

This international event organized by the Rehabilitation Engineering Research Center on Technology for Successful Aging takes place in St. Petersburg, Florida February 2-4, 2006.

The conference will bring together researchers, practitioners, business leaders and people involved in aging policy to focus on the issues of maintaining independence and active participation in society in later life. The announcement notes, "As we age, we can maintain independence by healthy behaviors and health promotion activities, by using assistive technology, by modifying our homes and workplaces, and by using products that follow the principles of universal design."

The seven conference tracks are: Assistive Technology and Workplace Adaptations, Home Modification and Universal Design, Injury Prevention, Robotics, Smart Homes, Telehealth and Transportation.

Conference details are at: <http://www.icadi.php.ufl.edu/>

The Maturing of America: Getting Communities on Track for an Aging Population

To help cities and counties better meet the needs of an aging population, and to leverage the experience and talent of older Americans, five national organizations have joined forces to assess the "aging readiness" of America's communities and to identify solutions. The initiative is being funded by a grant from MetLife Foundation.

Known as The Maturing of America - Getting Communities on Track for an Aging Population, the project is being led by the National Association of Area Agencies on Aging (n4a), in partnership with the International City/County Management Association, National Association of Counties, National League of Cities and Partners for Livable Communities. The assessment will begin in November 2005.

To learn more about this initiative, visit: <http://www.n4a.org/pressrelease53.cfm>

The New American Door Student Design Competition

Though the deadlines for this competition are past, we thought it important to report on its existence. This Virginia Student Design Competition was initiated by the Department of Professional & Occupational Regulation in collaboration with the University of Virginia School of Architecture. It was funded jointly by the Department of Rehabilitative Services and the Virginia Housing Development Authority to encourage the programs in architecture and landscape architecture within the Commonwealth of Virginia to develop creative new approaches to the problem of "visitability" in single family residences. Students had a unique opportunity to explore the ethical and creative implications of the challenge associated with re-conceiving the American home in light of visitability. The goal of this competition was to engage architecture and landscape architecture students throughout the Commonwealth of Virginia in a design competition that would produce new insights.

The competition details are at: <http://www.arch.virginia.edu/competitions/visitability/intro.htm>

P&G/IDSA Interdisciplinary Student Design Collaborative – The Aging Consumer

Procter & Gamble (P&G) and IDSA have developed an educational collaborative whose goal is to expand the horizon of design curricula into truly interdisciplinary programs. This program is intended to help prepare students for a professional environment in which design success depends upon working with an array of disciplines to craft business cases and build brand architectures that provide satisfying consumer experiences.

This year's project theme is, "The Aging Consumer," a group whose needs are relevant in markets around the globe. Such consumers include women, men and couples. Some of the categories that schools can focus on include: House & Home - Sanitation and cleaning chores may present special challenges to aging consumers, Health & Wellness - With aging may come a myriad of health and wellness issues and opportunities to create objects, devices and affordances that enhance the ability to remain healthy and well, and Baby & Family Care - Many aging consumers care for grandchildren or are heads of households and may have special needs in order to do so effectively.

The collaborative announcement is at:

<http://www.idsa.org/webmodules/articles/anmviewer.asp?a=1939>

Full details (in PDF format) are at:

<http://www.idsa.org/webmodules/articles/articlefiles/P&Gcollaborative05.pdf>

Rehabilitation Engineering and Research Center on Universal Design (RERC-UD)

The [Center for Inclusive Design and Environmental Access](#) (IDEA Center), School of Architecture and Planning, University at Buffalo: The State University of New York, was recently awarded the Rehabilitation Engineering and Research Center on Universal Design (RERC-UD). The five-year, five million dollar grant is sponsored by the US Department of Education through the National Institute for Disability and Rehabilitation Research (NIDRR).

The RERC-UD is partnership between the IDEA Center, the Ontario Rehabilitation Technology Consortium (ORTC) and representatives from the design and disability communities nationwide. The Center will research and develop critical tools for advancing the field of universal design and apply those tools to develop exemplar products and places through industry partnerships. Education and dissemination activities will increase awareness of the RERC activities and universal design in general as well as improve capacity in research and practice.

More details are available at: <http://www.ap.buffalo.edu/idea/e-Newsletter/>

Southpoint: from Ruin to Rejuvenation; The Roosevelt Island Universal Arts Centers

This competition is presented by The Emerging New York Architects Committee, AIA New York Chapter. This is an effort to provide young and emerging architects and designers with the opportunity to engage in the development of the southern tip of Roosevelt Island. The site, located at the ruin of James Renwick Jr. Smallpox Hospital, will provide a platform to discuss issues of preservation, an opportunity to take advantage of glorious city views, and a chance to access this unique and inimitable physical environment. The Universal Arts Center program will call for a multi-use facility that can accommodate both performing and visual arts.

Designed with the entire Roosevelt Island constituency in mind, the competition will be tailored to fit the needs of the RIVAA and Coler-Goldwater Hospital Therapeutic Recreation Services. The program will ask that architectural solutions be sensitive to the high percentage of residents with disabilities on the island. Execution of this program brief will address a number of fundamental design issues including: use of universal design in adaptive reuse projects. The competition registration closes November 18, 2005. Submission deadline is January 13, 2006.

For full competition details, see:

<http://www.aiany.org/committees/emerging/competition/Southpoint/>

State of the Science Conference on Accessible Emergency Notification and Communication

This conference is presented by the Telecommunications Access RERC, a joint project of the Trace Center and Gallaudet University, funded by the National Institute on Disability and Rehabilitation Research. The goals of this conference are to identify needs and gather possible solutions for accessible emergency notification and communication; to encourage interaction among industry, government, and consumer experts so that accessibility considerations are more likely to be built into notification and communication products and procedures, and to create a literature on the state of the science in this area.

The intended audience includes accessibility experts, government representatives with responsibility for emergency communications, standards group representatives, academicians and consultants with research and technical background in emergency communications, and industry representatives.

Conference website: <http://tap.gallaudet.edu/emergencycommconf.htm>

Universal Access in Travel: Symposium and Exhibition

The Universal Access in Travel: Symposium and Exposition will take place December 12-14 and is designed to be a solution-oriented program, designed to bring together leaders in the disabled community and the travel industry to share their experiences of success and to identify the challenges that remain.

The symposium will explore: Improving communications to passengers at the airport or other transportation terminals using improved signage and adaptive technologies, Inclusive and Universal Design in airport terminal plans — what are the design features that meet the requirements of the ADA, Emergency preparedness: what are your plans for evacuating persons with disabilities in the event of an emergency, and Customer service and etiquette — studies show that simply improving customer service for persons with disabilities is one of the top issues identified by disabled travelers.

Full details at:

http://www.aaae.org/fs03/meeting_documents/1010%20Universal%20Access%20Symposium.pdf

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WORLD

World Usability Day

World Usability Day will take place on November 3 with a theme of 'Making it Easy.' Events around the world will promote awareness of the benefits of usability engineering and user-centered design. As of early September, there are more than 70 events planned in 35 countries around the world.

Every citizen and customer has a right to expect products and services that are easy to use. World Usability Day events will highlight how this can be achieved. From cell phones, to call centers, to customer service websites and more, there are countless opportunities to "Make It Easier to Use."

For more details, see: <http://www.worldusabilityday.org/>

IFI – Design for All Award

On 26 September at the ERA05 conference, the International Federation of Interior Architects/Designers presented their 'Design for All' Award.

The ambition behind the IFI Design for All Award is to promote Interior Architects, Architects or Designers work in the field of social relevant design. The area of design included in "Design for All" broadly aims at solutions which benefit marginalized groups in society, including design solutions to aid handicapped people within society according to space planning, transportation, utensils etc. The theme also includes solutions relating to Green Design, i.e. design solutions for a sustainable society on a larger or smaller scale.

The winner of the Second IFI Design for All Award is the organization Emergency Architects. Founded in April 2001 during the floods of the « Somme » in France, Emergency Architects is a private French organization. The wording written on the diploma is: To Emergency Architects. For a generous dedication and a meaningful use of professional knowledge and experience for the benefit of people struck by disasters around the world.

The information in this notice was provided courtesy of: Swoo K. Suh, IFI Secretary General, swoosuh@sookmyung.ac.kr

For more information on IFI, see: <http://www.ifiworld.org/>

To learn more about Emergency Architects, see: www.archi-urgent.com/en

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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

October 26-28 2005: Design Perspectives: Envisioning design for the XXI century, Mexico City, Mexico. Its aim is to bring together ideas from the entire design community (professionals, researchers, educators, graduate students, etc) in order to explore, visualize, argue and draw the possible future of design. This conference is an open forum for designers from all disciplines (industrial, textile, graphic, new media). Conference details at: <http://www.dis.uia.mx/conference/aboutmxdc.html>

October 29-31 2005: International Design Congress—IASDR 2005, Taiwan. The Asian Society for the Science of Design (ASSD) member societies and the Euro-America-based Design Research Society (DRS) have agreed that an all-inclusive academic platform should be established for uniting the design research societies of both the East and the West. The name of the newly formed organization is the "International Association of Societies of Design Research (IASDR) and this is its first conference which includes the topic of Universal Design. See: <http://www.2005idc.yuntech.edu.tw/>

November 3 2005: World Usability Day. A project of the Usability Professionals' Association. There are more than 70 events planned in 35 countries around the world. For more information, see: <http://www.worldusabilityday.org>

November 8-11 2005: 8th Annual Accessing Higher Ground Conference: Accessible Media, Web and Technology Conference, Boulder, Colorado. Accessing Higher Ground focuses on the implementation and benefits of Assistive Technology in the university and college setting for

sensory, physical and learning disabilities. Other topics include legal and policy issues, including ADA and 508 compliance, and making campus media and information resources - including Web pages and library resources - accessible. For conference information, see: <http://www.colorado.edu/ATconference/>

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

November 16-18 2005: World Summit on the Information Society. Tunis, Tunisia. The first phase of WSIS took place in Geneva and the second phase will take place in Tunis. A fundamental change from an industrial to information-based society is taking place. This information revolution affects the way people live, learn and work and how governments interact with civil society. Information is a powerful tool for economic and social development and this Summit will provide a unique opportunity for all key players to contribute actively to bridge the digital and knowledge divides. Development themes will be a key focus in the second phase in Tunisia and it will assess progress that has been made and adopt any further Action Plan to be taken. See: <http://www.itu.int/wsiv/>

November 18 2005: 'Designing for Life: technological innovation in the design process for whole life use', Birmingham, UK. Sponsored by the Chartered Institute of Architectural Technologists. This conference will facilitate discussion on and raise awareness of the concept of designing the built environment for the life of its users. Conference web-site at: <http://www.ciat.org.uk/publications/index.jsp?pid=59>

November 18 2005: Entry Fee deadline for 2006 AIA/HUD Secretary Awards. The AIA's Housing Committee Knowledge Community, in conjunction with the Office of the Secretary of the U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development (HUD), created this awards program to recognize excellence in housing and community design. Includes an Accessibility Award. Full details at: http://www.aia.org/awp_hud

November 25 2005: "Accessible Heritage" conference on access to historic landscapes, parks and countryside, Cornwall, UK. How can we improve access whilst conserving the special qualities of these places? What examples are out there to show what can be done? Details at: http://www.sensorytrust.org.uk/news/conferences/accessible_heritage.html

December 11-14 2005: White House Conference on Aging, 'The Booming Dynamics of Aging – From Awareness to Action,' Washington, DC. The White House Conference on Aging occurs once a decade to make aging policy recommendations to the President and Congress, and to assist the public and private sectors in promoting dignity, health, independence and economic security of current and future generations of older persons. See: <http://www.whcoa.gov/>

December 12-14 2005: Universal Access in Travel: Symposium and Exhibition, Baltimore, Maryland. The Universal Access in Travel: Symposium and Exposition is designed for all levels of executives, managers and staff in the travel and hospitality industry. The symposium is a solution-oriented program, designed to bring together leaders in the disabled community and the travel industry to share their experiences of success and to identify the challenges that remain. Full details at:

http://www.aaae.org/fs03/meeting_documents/1010%20Universal%20Access%20Symposium.pdf

December 15 2005: Deadline for 2006 Metropolis Next Generation Design Competition. *Metropolis* seeks to identify the next generation of Big Ideas by the next generation of designers. The Next Generation Design Competition was established in 2003 to recognize and encourage activism, social involvement, and entrepreneurship among designers. The full details are available at: <http://www.metropolismaq.com/cda/nextgen.php>

January 26-28 2006: 5th 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>

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/>

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>

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

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

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>

May 30-June 2 2006: IFA 8th 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/>

October 22-26 2006: The 2nd 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/>

June 18-21, 2007: 11th International Conference on Mobility and Transport for Elderly and Disabled Persons (TRANSED), Montréal, Canada. The theme is Benchmarking, Evaluation and Vision for the Future. Announcement is at: http://www.tc.gc.ca/pol/en/transed2007/host_2007.asp?IsIncrease=No

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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 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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