

# 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

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".

There are several important UD-themed conferences that recently took place or are taking place this fall; learn about the National Forum on Universal Housing (Australia), the '06 Beijing International Symposium on Universal Design (China) and the 2<sup>nd</sup> International Conference for Universal Design in Kyoto (Japan).

A great upcoming conference opportunity is INCLUDE 2007 which is seeking submissions. The focus of this annual conference is an examination of inclusive design from the point of view of theories and methodologies, social contexts, design practice, education and legislation with a special focus on working with diverse social groups and types of users.

Several new publications, web sites and media presentations have been published online to help educate about Universal Design and related topics. Check out the updated and relocated European Design for All Education and Training web-site, Guidelines for Accessible Digital Media, the US Rebuilding Accessible Communities web-site conceived somewhat in response to devastating Hurricane Katrina, a collection of power-point presentations from the Universal Design Symposium held at the ICADI and NEST-ASA Conferences and International Best Practices in Universal Design: A Global Review. Additionally, Residential Design for Aging in Place is a current book project seeking submissions.

As some Universal Design-themed projects are wrapped up and reported on, two notices to solicit new projects are reported on: General Motors seeking partners for Universal Design and Automotive Design and the National Endowment for the Arts seeking submissions for its Universal Design Leadership Initiative.

More individuals and entities were lauded for their contributions -- The Paralyzed Veterans Association with their 2006 Barrier-Free Award and The University of Southern California with the Morton Kesten Summit Award of Excellence in Universal Design Education.

We report on some exciting recent and new projects including an Accessible Japanese Subway System, the Universal Design Identify Project and some recent software innovations from Google and Microsoft.

There are many world-wide initiatives on Universal Design that address specific areas of focus. We introduce you to two of them: Access Exchange International (who has just announced an upgrade to their web-site) and the Rolling Rains Report.

Last and not least, we share an article, Selling Universal Design to Baby Boomers, that addresses the complex issues in marketing universal design to baby boomers.. The author speaks from his perspective as a baby boomer.

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

Information from the Online News may be freely copied and quoted as long as the individual author, and/or web site and this source is cited. Previous issues of the Online News are available online at the Global Universal Design Education Network website at: <http://www.universaldesign.net>.

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## NEWS FROM THE GLOBAL NETWORK

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### AUSTRALIA

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#### National Forum on Universal Housing

The **Inaugural ANUHD National Forum on Universal Housing** will provide a constructive forum to discuss the range of policy, regulatory and market based initiatives promoting universal housing design in Australia within a spirit of co-operation.

The Forum will discuss how universal design offers a way forward to developing socially responsible housing, capable of meeting the needs of home occupants both now and in the future.

The conference themes include: **Questions of Need** - Demographic and social challenges, **Unlimited by Design** - Planning and Designing housing for all, **Innovation through Inclusion** - Showcasing Universal housing initiatives and designs and **Socially Responsible Development** - The essential link between environmental, economic and social sustainability.

Full details of the Forum are at: <http://www.anuhd.org/>

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### CHINA

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#### '06 – Beijing International Symposium on International Design

This symposium was held in Beijing, China, August 3-6, 2006 and was titled, "Harmonious Society and Universal Design," the conference was sponsored by the Beijing Municipal Science and Technology Commission and the Beijing Institute of Technology.

The audience was 200 experts, designers, and planners from around China and around the world - Japan, Argentina, the US, and Germany - who are helping Beijing prepare for the 2008 Olympic and Paralympic games. The goal was to assure that Beijing's sports venues, public

rights of way, transportation and other accommodations will provide appropriate levels of accessibility and design integration.

Conference topics explored issues such as accessible and universal design programming, engineering, wayfinding, ground surfaces, signage, lighting, and the universal design principles.

The conference announcement can be found at:  
<http://english.bit.edu.cn/col399/article.htm?id=10753>

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## EUROPE

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### **Design for All Education and Training**

Back in June 2004 we reported on the wonderful "RSA Inclusive Design Resource" web-site. The material has now been migrated to EDeAN (European Design for All e-Accessibility Network) and it is being developed further. Check out the new web-site which will be officially launched at the "International Design for All Conference" September 13-15 in Finland. The main elements of the web-site are: [Design for All overview](#), [Examples](#), [Strategies & models](#), [Methods & tools](#), [Expertise & resources](#) and [Glossary of terms](#).

To visit the web-site, see: <http://www.edean.org/index.php>. To learn more about the conference, see: <http://dfasuomi.stakes.fi/EN/dfa2006/rovaniemi/index.htm>

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## JAPAN

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### **2<sup>nd</sup> International Conference for Universal Design in Kyoto 2006**

In the International Universal Design Declaration announced at the 1st International Conference for Universal Design in Yokohama, Japan 2002, it was proposed that designs that create social environments that respect and support the dignity of humans should be called Universal Design and that it was important to establish a user-centered system to be applicable to all aspects of society by redefining the relationships between the designers/producers and users.

The International Conference to be held in Kyoto on October 22-26 2006, with the theme "Considerate and Decisive - Listen to the users and deliver!" will convey the outcomes of the studies and practices developed during the past four years and the future outlook from Kyoto (Japan) to the world. There is an added goal to implement a universal design society of much higher quality through the increased sharing of information and human interaction.

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

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## **Accessible Subway System**

The Nanakuma line is the Fukuoka City's third subway line that began service in February 2005. It connects 16 stations on the course of 12 kilometers and trains run every four minutes during morning rush hour. What was notable to Ghassan Al-Zawawi, the Kuwaiti Ambassador to Japan was that it "showcases state-of-the-art technologies and facilities that ensure full accessibility for everyone, including disabled people, the elderly, pregnant women and children ... All stations are equipped with elevators with easy passage, ticketing machines at low height, double handrails, guide maps with audio response system and Braille tiles. There are spacious toilets tailored for wheelchair users, seriously handicapped persons and mother with infants."

To read more, see this article in the Arab Times:

<http://www.arabtimesonline.com/arabtimes/kuwait/Viewdet.asp?ID=8208&cat=a>

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## **UNITED KINGDOM**

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### **INCLUDE 2007**

Include 2007 seeks papers, posters, workshop proposals and design stories that look at inclusive design from the point of view of theories and methodologies, social contexts, design practice, education and legislation with a special focus on working with diverse social groups and types of users. Work will include, but not be limited to discussion of theory, the presentation of case studies, practical application and delivery for and by industry.

The major themes are: Understanding context and social drivers, Interpreting needs and aspirations, Involving people in the process, Applying policy and legislation and Inspiring new practice.

The conference will take place April 4-7, 2007 in London and the deadline for submissions is October 5, 2006.

Full details are available at: <http://www.hrc.rca.ac.uk/programmes/include/2007/cfp/index.html>

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## UNITED STATES

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### **2006 Barrier-Free Access Award**

The Paralyzed Veterans of America presented its 2006 Barrier-Free Access Award to Fong & Chan Architects (FCA) to recognize the accessibility of the de Young Museum in San Francisco's Golden Gate Park. Preparation for the project's detailed design included the distribution of more than 1,200 questionnaires to members of the disability community. "There are no ramps; the horizontal design also boosts accessibility by limiting the challenges associated with total vertical circulation, in this case provided by strategically placed elevators at prominent intersections. Fully accessible restrooms and drinking fountains are strategically dispersed...the auditorium offers visitors abundant wheelchair accessible and companion seating..." Read the AIA article to learn more about the other features incorporated.

Thanks to the Accessibuilt newsletter for pointing this out ... the discussion list is located at <http://www.jiscmail.ac.uk/lists/accessibuilt.html>

For the AIA article, see: <http://www.aia.org/aiarchitect/thisweek06/0721/0721pva.cfm>

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### **Accessible Digital Media - Design Guidelines for Electronic Publications, Multimedia and the Web**

These guidelines, produced by The WGBH National Center for Accessible Media (NCAM), provide step-by-step solutions for making a variety of electronic media accessible to users with sensory disabilities.

For the full guidelines, see: <http://ncam.wgbh.org/publications/adm/>

A free CD containing the guidelines is also available; e-mail [access@wgbh.org](mailto:access@wgbh.org) to order single or multiple copies.

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### **Rebuilding Accessible Communities**

In response to the many questions and requests for assistance following the devastating 2005 hurricane season, the ADA Technical Assistance Centers and the US Access Board have partnered and produced the web site *Rebuilding Accessible Communities*.

It is conceived as an opportunity for community groups, advocates and the building industry to collectively reconstruct communities in a way to be accessible to all. By rebuilding communities in a manner more usable and welcoming to all, the community can become more cohesive and ultimately stronger.

This site is a first step to answer questions about physical restructuring with the The FAQ document and resources list as a starting point.

This web site is important in that it helps distinguish (especially via the FAQs) when housing is covered by the ADA (rarely) and other questions/answers that confuse people. And, it demonstrates how access regulations can contribute to a crisis.

Visit the web site at: <http://www.adata.org/rac/index.aspx>

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## **Residential Design for Aging in Place**

Drue Lawlor, FASID, and Michael A. Thomas, FASID, CAPS, are developing a new book "Residential Design for Aging in Place" to be published by John Wiley & Sons Publishers in late 2007/early 2008. Lawlor and Thomas are seeking creative design concepts, case studies, drawings and plans, informal digital and/or formal professional photography that provide unique and attractive examples of design solutions that address aging in place, universal design, and adaptable and accessible interiors.

We have talked with the authors and learned the following:

"While the book certainly deals with aspects of universal design and provides universal design examples, drawings and applications, the subject of the book focuses on a broader view of an aging population and the challenges they can face as they consider places of security and shelter during their later years.

Considering some of the less desirable options out there, what better place than a home of their own choice, planned in advance of need, designed to accommodate and enhance the quality of their mental, physical and social lives. The book is set to address these challenges inspiring the interior and architectural design community to create residential environments that ensure a high measure of safety and independency, comfort and style yet avoiding any obvious visual references to an institutional appearance.... (we) call it "Design for Transparency."

We are still looking out to the interior design, architecture and universal design community for submissions of completed projects that showcase these ideas."

For more information and submission instructions, contact Lawlor or Thomas at [aginginplace@designcollectivegroup.com](mailto:aginginplace@designcollectivegroup.com),

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## **Selling Universal Design to Baby Boomers**

There is an interesting article that discusses how Baby Boomers perceive universal design. It starts out with

"Universal design, originally developed for people with disabilities, has become a major player in the housing industry.

But there is still a stigma attached. If not for disabled people, universal design is for *old people* – and Baby Boomers (at least according to popular myth) eschew anything that smacks of 'old' or

'senior.' For them, universal design is patronizing, condescending – as if we're babies again and in need of playpens so we won't hurt ourselves or get into much trouble.

As home builders, you know the truth: universal design is a great blueprint (as a metaphor and in reality) for planned communities, individual units, and any combination thereof. However, a delicate touch is needed when marketing universal design to a healthy, vital demographic..."

For the full article, see:

[http://www.thematuremarket.com/SeniorStrategic/Universal\\_Design\\_Boomers-7140---5.html](http://www.thematuremarket.com/SeniorStrategic/Universal_Design_Boomers-7140---5.html)

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### **Universal Design: An Investment in Aging in the Workplace, Aging in Play, and Aging in Place**

Some of the power point presentations for the Universal Design Symposium held at the ICADI and NEST-ASA Conferences are now available online. The topics include: Universal Design – High Interest on Your Investment; AARP's Livable Communities Agenda: The Move Toward Enhancing Mobility and Housing Options in America; Taking Universal Design Around the Block, Promoting Play & Participation: Places & Programs; Evaluating the Impact of the Built Environment on Community Living and Participation; Universal Design: An Investment in Aging in Place - Development of an online course for practitioners; Toward a National Housing Policy for Aging in Place; Universal Design: A Consumer's Perspective; Universal Design Coalitions: Community Partnerships for Aging in Place; Workplace Accommodations Policy and Older Workers; Accommodating the Aging Worker: Technology, Policy, and Universal Design in the Workplace; and The Health & Productivity of the Aging American Workforce: The Politics of Incapacity.

To access the symposium power point presentations, visit:

<http://www.workrerc.org/Presentations/UD2006/>

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### **Universal Design Identity Project**

The National Endowment for the Arts and the Center for Inclusive Design and Environment Access (IDEA) hosted a Symposium on the Universal Design Identity Program on June 1 and 2, 2006 in Washington D.C. The purpose of the meeting was to gain the feedback and guidance of key UD experts on a multisensory identity program for universal design. The symposium participants agreed that the promotion of a worldwide Universal Design Identity program will help to clarify and understand the concept, assist consumers in recognizing the value of universally design products and services, and, therefore, could become a factor in consumer decision making.

To read the full article, see: <http://www.ap.buffalo.edu/idea/e-Newsletter/July2006/index.htm>

After September 1, 2006, a report on the Symposium should be available at:

<http://www.arts.gov/resources/Accessibility/DesignResources.html>

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## Universal Design and Automotive Design

Recently, there was a request on behalf of General Motors Corporation, seeking partners for the application of universal design concepts to automotive design. According to the request, prospective partners would be capable of the following:

- Identifying and prioritizing the automotive universal design needs and wants of baby boomers, the elderly, care givers, and people with disabilities. This identification and prioritization should account for regional differences between consumers in the US, Europe, and the Asia-Pacific region.
- Translating the highest priority needs and wants into a set of functions and features that are appealing, useful, and usable for all customers regardless of age or ability. These functions and features should be applicable to a range of vehicle sizes and models.

... Successful technologies and design approaches should ... Comply with most of the seven fundamental Principles of Universal Design ...

For the full text of the request, see: <http://www.ninesigma.net/mx/30421-04-17>

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## Universal Design Education Award

The University of Southern California recently awarded the Morton Kesten Summit Award of Excellence in Universal Design Education to Dr. Roberta Null. Dr. Null, the first recipient of this award, was honored for being a leading professional in the field of universal design in interior design. Null's contributions to the field include authoring a well-known text, *Universal Design: Creative Solutions for ADA Compliance* from Professional Publications and consulting and lecturing, including trips to Korea and Japan where the importance of universal design is widely recognized.

To read more about Dr. Null and her contributions to Universal Design Education, see: <http://www.hec.ohio-state.edu/news/af/null.php>

To learn more about the Morton Kesten Summit, see: <http://www.homemods.org/monthly-news/2006/featuredstory2-Jun06.shtml>

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## Universal Design Leadership Initiative

The National Endowment for the Arts is soliciting proposals to carry out a project that will create greater public awareness of and demand for universal designed environments, by educating designers, consumers, educators, developers, city planners, and others on this important design process. The successful proposal must outline a project that will involve collaboration with the targeted audiences, using innovative strategies in order to meet the broad social need, while bringing universal design into the mainstream. The deadline is November 2, 2006.

The full details are available at: <http://www.arts.gov/grants/apply/RFP/UniversalDesign.html>

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## WORLD

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### **International Best Practices in Universal Design: A Global Review**

This report from Canada gives an insight into the latest trends in universal design. On a very practical level, it provides architects and designers with the tools and options to design buildings that are accessible to all users. This document compares the accessibility building codes from Canada, US, Mexico, Uruguay, Sweden, Ireland, Spain, South Africa, Bangladesh, Philippines, Malaysia, Singapore, Australia and Lebanon (UN)

For the full announcement and to request a copy, see: [http://www.chrc-ccdp.ca/whats\\_new/default-en.asp?id=376&content\\_type=2](http://www.chrc-ccdp.ca/whats_new/default-en.asp?id=376&content_type=2)

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### **Global Newsletters – UD-Related Topics**

As we compile this publication, there are many newsletters, blogs and web-sites that we consult to cull what we think are news items that are interesting to our readers and relevant to Universal Design. Since our focus is to look at the implementation of Universal Design across many disciplines, some of our readers may have interest in a more in-depth perspective on select topics. There are some excellent resources on some of these topics and we'd like to share them with you.

Transportation: [Access Exchange International](http://www.globalride-sf.org/news.html) – the focus of this web site is Accessible Transportation Around the World. It produces a semi-annual newsletter available on its web-site, <http://www.globalride-sf.org/news.html>. Do also check out the resources page, <http://www.globalride-sf.org/rnl.html>.

Travel: [Rolling Rains Report](http://www.rollingrains.com/) – this blog is premised on “Precipitating Dialogue on Travel, Disability, and Universal Design” and is produced by Scott Rains. It can be found at: <http://www.rollingrains.com/>

Please do let us know of other relevant web sites to include in future editions!

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### **Software Innovations**

Recently, two giants in the world of technology, Microsoft for operating systems and software and Google for internet searching, both announced a new or coming soon product to benefit individuals with disabilities.

[Google For Screen Reader Users](http://labs.google.com/accessible/) -- Google has created a search engine that prioritizes search results based on which sites are the most accessible to screen readers, after finding the most relevant pages. You can test the search engine at <http://labs.google.com/accessible/>.

Background: "Accessible Search is an early Google Labs product designed to identify and prioritize search results that are more easily usable by blind and visually impaired users. Regular Google search helps you find a set of documents that is most relevant to your tasks. Accessible Search goes one step further by helping you find the most accessible pages in that result set." From <http://labs.google.com/accessible/faq.html>

Windows Vista -- Microsoft Windows Vista will include built-in accessibility settings and programs that make it easier for computer users to see, hear, and use their computers. Microsoft invested more than three years of research in better understanding the needs of people who experience a wide range of physical challenges that can impact their computer use. For more about Windows Vista, visit <http://www.microsoft.com/enable/products/windowsvista/default.aspx>

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### **Global Universal Design Educator's Network e-mail list**

After 6 years, the Trace Research and Development Center is no longer able to host the educator's email list. Note that the email list and the Online News were two distinct features. The list was interactive, unlike the Online News that you receive bi-monthly. We are investigating other options for an interactive online process for people who are interested in teaching and learning about universal design education. Please send an email to Elaine Ostroff [Elaine@ostroff.org](mailto:Elaine@ostroff.org) if you are interested in such a process, Thanks to Trace Center, especially Kate and Gregg Vanderheiden, who made the e-list possible.

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## **CALENDAR AND CALLS FOR PAPERS**

**September 27-29 2006:** World Ageing & Generations Congress, St. Gallen, Switzerland. the World Demographic Association has created an international, interdisciplinary, intergenerational and permanent platform for demographic and generational issues – a forum designed to facilitate the analysis, discussion and exchange of ideas in this important field. Some special sessions of interest are: Product Design, Mobility and Transportation, Leisure and Tourism in the Third Age, etc. Full details at: [http://www.wdassociation.org/dcPage.aspx?pageid=cms\\_frontend\\_default\\_e&pagetype=file&toolbar=e](http://www.wdassociation.org/dcPage.aspx?pageid=cms_frontend_default_e&pagetype=file&toolbar=e)

**October 6 2006:** Deadline, AHEAD 2007 Conference Call for Proposals. Full details at: [http://ahead.org/training/conference/2007\\_conf/cfp.php](http://ahead.org/training/conference/2007_conf/cfp.php)

**October 7 2006:** Deadline, INCLUDE 2007 Conference in London. Include 2007 seeks papers, posters, workshop proposals and design stories that look at inclusive design from the point of view of theories and methodologies, social contexts, design practice, education and legislation with a special focus on working with diverse social groups and types of users. Sponsored by the

Helen Hamlyn Research Center. See:  
<http://www.hhrc.rca.ac.uk/programmes/include/2007/cfp/index.html>

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**October 19-20 2006:** The Road to Universal Design, Start to Finish, Springfield, MO. The Conference is sponsored by Missouri Statewide Independent Living Council Universal Design Housing Network. Full details at: <http://www.mosilc.org/housing.htm>

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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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**October 23-25 2006:** Assets 2006, Conference on Computers and Accessibility, Portland, Oregon. The ASSETS series of conferences is aimed at providing a technical forum for presenting and disseminating innovative research results that address the use of computing and information technologies to help persons with disabilities. Full details at: <http://www.acm.org/sigaccess/assets06/>

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**November 2 2006:** Deadline – Proposal for Universal Design Leadership Project sponsored by the National Endowment for the Arts. Program solicitation at: <http://www.arts.gov/grants/apply/RFP/UniversalDesign.html>

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**November 7-10 2006:** 9th Annual Accessing Higher Ground: Accessible Media, Web and Technology Conference for Education, for Businesses, for Web and Media Designers, 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. Full details at: <http://www.colorado.edu/ATconference/>

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**November 10 2006:** **International and Multi-Cultural Exhibition, Experience, and EGD Themes: Wayfinding, Information Design, Brand, and Identity**, New York, NY. Workshop focus - Methodologies and design practices from around the world are increasingly encroaching on the way we practice design today. From accessible environments to worldwide branded environments, developing an understanding of international design practice is critical to success not just overseas, but also in design work in your backyard. Full details at: <http://www.segd.org/prof/workshops.html>

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**November 18-19 2006:** ICTA Global meeting, Dublin, Ireland. Full details at: [http://www.ictaglobal.org/whats\\_new.html](http://www.ictaglobal.org/whats_new.html)

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**November 23-24 2006:** OSSATE International Conference “EuropeforAll,” Brussels, Belgium. This international conference presents “EuropeforAll” – the new e-service for accessible tourism information in Europe, developed by the OSSATE consortium. More information at: [http://www.ossate.org/events\\_conference.jsp](http://www.ossate.org/events_conference.jsp)

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**December 18, 2006:** Deadline for Eye for why - Dyson Student Design Competition 2006. Full details and application at: <http://www.dyson.com/designaward/>

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**April 2-4, 2007:** INCLUDE 2007: Involving the Consumer, London, UK. Full details at: <http://www.hrcrca.ac.uk/programmes/include/2007/index.html>

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

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

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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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