

## DOJ Plans To Adopt Access Board's Title II Guidelines

**T**he long-awaited ADA Title II access regulations for state and local government facilities have been delayed in part due to a lack of political pressure. Nevertheless, the Department of Justice says it plans to adopt the guidelines developed by the U.S. Architectural and Transportation Barriers Compliance Board (Access Board). This is the normal process by which guidelines become enforceable technical standards.

The Access Board and DOJ have been playing an elaborate game of chicken, with the Justice Department lagging behind, forcing architects, designers and state and local governments to await the new ADAAG sections 11 to 14 pertaining to Title II facilities, and covering jails, courts and other legislative and judicial facilities, as well as public housing and public rights of way. The DOJ proposal has been awaiting upper echelon review for more than a month, but the plan is to publish both DOJ's NPRM and the Board's interim final guidelines on the same day, said the Access Board's director of Technical Assistance, David Capozzi.

The Board is charged with writing new accessibility guidelines under the ADA. Title II prohibits discrimination in the programs, services or activities of public entities (state and local governments) and also requires buses, trains and subway systems to make their services accessible to people with disabilities. The title, which has allowed state and local entities to use either ADAAG

see **Title II**, page 6



Four Seasons Las Colinas Spa offers Choices for all, see page 10

## Platform Lifts Fill a Narrow Niche

by **A. Laurence Field, Middletown, Del**

**P**latform lifts or wheelchair lifts are relatively cheap solutions to access problems. But cost should only be a minor consideration in deciding if a platform lift is the best solution. Platform lifts have a checkered history. Wheelchair users often cite unpleasant experiences, including an inability to find the operating key, or an out of order lift due to poor maintenance. This has led to a negative perception of these mechanical devices. Although most building codes require an initial inspection of the lift, ongoing

see **Lifts**, page 4

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A recent editorial in the Washington Post by Robert Novak addressing the plight of building owners after the earthquake in Los Angeles, complained about the costs of the reconstruction effort if owners are required to comply with

the physical access requirements of the Americans with Disabilities Act. Unfortunately, Mr. Novak entirely missed the point of the ADA's civil rights nature and Congress's wisdom in allowing building owners to wait until reconstruction to implement many aspects of accessibility. The most basic mistake in his premise is the assumption that owners would want to rebuild exact copies of destroyed facilities. He presumes that owners would not make any or every effort possible to rebuild in a manner that would improve the potential for the success of their business. Does he not understand that advancements in building technology have antiquated the standard practices of even only a few years ago, and that building codes require substantial upgrades to safety and other systems whenever reconstruction occurs? Why should he presume that society should look the

other way when it comes to increasing the access of older people and people with disabilities to these rebuilt facilities? What possible justification could there be for not providing access to people who want to pay good money for the goods and services available in those buildings? It makes no sense to replace old barriers with new ones when they can be easily removed during the reconstruction process.

An issue which Mr Novak should have addressed is what kind of assistance will be available to implement the ADA requirement for spending up to 20 percent of the renovation costs to provide an accessible path of travel and toilets for areas that are being renovated and were previously inaccessible. Should insurance companies recognize that this is a legitimate cost of replacement, or will there be additional disaster relief to implement this requirement of the law? This is an area where hardship could be experienced by building owners and it is potentially a precedent setting situation. Also, how often will renovations occur in a building but not to the path of travel? And how many of those building owners will find the path of travel requirement to be a burden? These are the real questions that need to be addressed. In case Mr Novak has forgotten, the question as to whether owners should be bothered with access requirements for all citizens was decided on July 20, 1990. Perhaps he missed the White House Rose Garden signing ceremony.

LETTERS to the EDITOR

Dear Editor,

Regarding the item on automated doors (January 1994, Vol.1, No.5), anyone who has been to Japan is aware of how many public buildings have automatic doors at entrances. Aside from possible accessibility concerns, there are two traditional factors behind this. First is the tradition of sliding doors and screens. Second is the apparent aversion of the Japanese to handle items that could be unclean; door handles are but one example. (Handrails are another example; they are less common on stairs than in the U.S. and they are less used where they are installed). Also anyone who has ever ridden in a taxi in Japan is aware of the mechanism whereby the driver -- wearing white gloves -- opens and closes the passenger door. Whatever the reasons, we can build on the experience of widespread application -- i.e., Universal Design of automatic doors in Japan.

Sincerely

Jake Pauls  
Silver Spring, MD

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Mail subscription rates: One year \$75.00. Second Class Postage paid at Rockville, MD. Postmaster send address changes to **Universal Design Newsletter**, 1700 Rockville Pike, Suite 110, Rockville, MD. 20852. For information on advertising rates or obtaining alternative accessible formats, please call or write the **Universal Design Newsletter** Editor.

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## When It Comes to the ADA Who Does What?

When a new law kicks in, it can be confusing trying to keep track of who has what responsibilities for developing regulations and enforcing its various aspects and titles. Following is a thumbnail sketch of the various agencies which have responsibility for the provisions of the Americans with Disabilities Act.

■ **The Equal Employment Opportunity Commission (EEOC)** develops and exclusively enforces Title I of the ADA. Title I prohibits discrimination against qualified individuals with disabilities with regard to employment. The EEOC investigates and works to resolve complaints of employment discrimination. They produce free technical assistance materials which are available by calling 1.800.669.EEOC (v) or 1.800.669.3302 (tt).

■ **The Department of Justice (DOJ)** develops and enforces Title II and Title III regulations. DOJ is responsible for coordinating all technical assistance programs and also provides funding for voluntary compliance projects which produce materials for specific facility types such as restaurants, hotels, museums and small towns. DOJ has a hotline for information and distributes free technical assistance manuals. Contact the DOJ information hotline by dialing 1.800.514.0301 (v) or 1.800.514.0383 (tt).

■ **The Architectural and Transportation Barriers Compliance Board (ATBCB or Access Board)** develops ADA accessibility guidelines for Titles II and III. These guidelines do not become enforced standards until they are adopted by the Department of Justice. The Access Board is currently developing standards for recreation and children's facilities. They fund research and develop technical assistance materials. Technical assistance and publications are available from 1.800.USA.ABLE.

■ **The Department of Transportation (DOT)** develops and enforces the ADA regulations pertaining to public transportation, Part B of the Title II regulations. They sponsor the development of research, technical materials and training. They have published the Paratransit Handbook. Contact them at 202.366.9305.

■ **The National Institute of Disability Research and Rehabilitation (NIDRR)** is a federal agency that sponsors research on disability and funds the devel-

opment of technical assistance materials that are distributed through its nation wide system of regional ADA technical assistance centers. To contact any of the regional technical assistance centers call 1.800.949.4ADA. For general NIDRR information call 202.205.8134 (v) 202.205.5479 (tt).

## ACCESS Board Reviews ADAAG

In January, 1994, The U.S. Architectural and Transportation Barriers Compliance Board (Access Board) received permission from the Office of Management and Budget to establish an advisory committee to conduct an editorial and substantive review of ADAAG to help clarify unclear language.

The committee will be empowered to recommend any changes to ADAAG on any subject, said the Access Board's David Capozzi. The Board is expected to announce the formation of the committee in the Federal Register. No one has yet been appointed to the committee.

The Access Board also plans to develop an ADAAG technical assistance manual and possibly a subscription service so the public can stay current on the law, a Board spokesman said. The manual will focus on existing ADAAG sections.

## Access Board Studies Children's Criteria

The ATBCB is developing proposed guidelines for children's environments such as elementary schools, child care facilities and children's museums. One of the major questions is what criteria should be applied to what age groups. The Access Board is seeking input from people who design or operate facilities for children. Contact Jay Murdoch at 202.272.5434.

## FHAA Design Manual Expected This Summer

A comprehensive design manual to help designers and builders meet the requirements of the Fair Housing Act Accessibility (FHAA) guidelines is expected to be published by the Department of Housing and Urban Development (HUD) early this summer. Meanwhile, HUD has published the **Cost of Accessible Housing** which is available for \$4 from HUD User at 800.245.2691.

"The committee will be empowered to recommend any changes to ADAAG on any subject"

David Capozzi -  
Access Board

# Lifts

, from page 1

ing maintenance is left up to the owner.

The platform lift industry has partially responded to these problems by adopting a "universal key" that will fit all lifts regardless of the manufacturer. There is even talk of offering a retro-fit universal key package for current lifts. In addition, the industry is promoting maintenance agreements to improve the record of reliability.

The 1993 editions of the model building codes prohibit the use of platform lifts as a part of a required accessible route in new construction. Code writers were concerned about the key operation requirement and the reliability of mechanical solutions. The building code appeal process is available, and the justification for an appeal could be based on the ADAAG new construction criteria which allows platform lifts to:

(a) Provide an accessible route to a performing area in an assembly occupancy.

(b) Comply with the wheelchair viewing position line-of-sight and dispersion requirements.

(c) Provide access to incidental occupiable spaces and rooms which are not open to the general public and which house no more than five persons, including equipment control rooms and projection booths.

(d) Provide access where existing site or other constraints make a ramp or an elevator infeasible.

In short, newly constructed buildings should only need to use platform lifts in extremely unusual conditions.

Where there is already a ramped or grade-level access route, a lift can be used as a second means of access, but not as part of an accessible means of egress, since a person who retraces their steps in an emergency may find the lift inoperable.

Because of this, an area of rescue assistance should always be considered wherever a platform lift is used for new construction access. In general, ADAAG new construction criteria require only 50 percent of public entrances to be accessible, but every means of egress that is required by applicable life safety regulations must also be accessible.

Platform lifts are probably of greatest value in existing buildings, where structural limitations or historical considerations make ramps impossible. Some jurisdictions even permit inclined platform lifts in required exit stairs if minimum clearances are maintained. However, local building officials should


always be consulted to determine if a platform lift will be permitted.

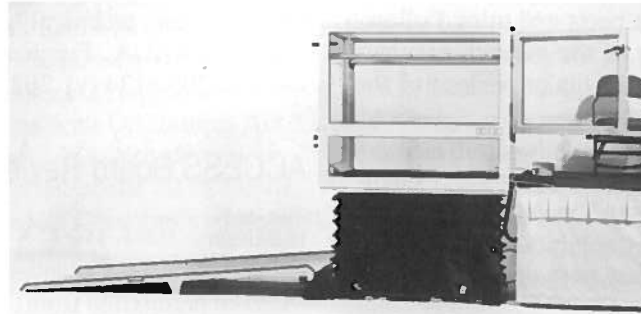
The platform lift industry also is developing additional products to address needs not filled by ramps or elevators or even standard platform lifts. At least two manufacturers, American Stair-Glide and Ascension, L.C.,

are marketing portable lifts that can be positioned when required at stages in assembly areas or at entrances to historical buildings.

Another rapidly emerging product is the Limited use/Limited Application elevator (LU/LA). The LU/LA is a hybrid between a commercial elevator and a platform lift. It is a step up from a private residential elevator, but smaller and less costly than a full commercial elevator. A LU/LA has a fully enclosed cab, can penetrate a floor and can exceed the 12-foot height limitation of platform lifts.

Brian Black, assistant director of Building Codes & Standards for the Eastern Paralyzed Veterans Association, calls the LU/LA a concept whose time has come. Unlike residential elevators and platform lifts, LU/LAs are independently operable. The problem, however, is that ADAAG does not presently include provisions for their use.

For now, up-graded residential elevators are already on the market and permitted in many jurisdictions. Churches, small office buildings and existing facilities where platform lifts are infeasible, are the most appropriate settings for these devices. 



Portable lifts work in various locations

**"Limited use/Limited Application (LU/LA) elevators are a concept whose time has come"**

Brian Black -  
EPVA

**In deciding where and how to appropriately use a platform lift the following guidance should be observed:**

- Consider all options. A platform lift should be a last resort as a part of an accessible route;
- Review the ADAAG requirements for use in new construction;
- Specify an extended warranty with a maintenance agreement;
- Specify a universal key;
- Be sure the lift specified is not designed strictly for residential applications;
- Consider providing an area of rescue assistance adjacent to a platform lift at an entrance;
- Verify acceptance by building and life safety officials having jurisdiction over the construction project.



*A. Laurence Field was Delaware's chief accessibility code enforcement officer for ten years. A. Laurence Field & Associates, Inc., based in Middletown, Del., was incorporated in 1989 to provide technical assistance in ADA implementation and accessibility codes.*

# UNIVERSAL

Accessibility and the Americans with Disabilities Act



Dear Friend,

Here is a special invitation for those listed in the Cooperative Service Directories compiled by Trace Center to subscribe to **Universal Design Newsletter**, a 12 page quarterly publication which provides up-to-date and dependable information about accessible design, compliance with the Americans with Disabilities Act and the emerging field of Universal Design. The concept of Universal Design is rapidly changing the way the world thinks about design, architecture and consumer products. Where else can you learn about new recommendations for automatic door closers that could affect nearly every commercial building in America; the new video tape on accessibility to historic buildings available from the National Park Service; or the latest advances in Universal Design Education at the collegiate campuses around the country? The answer is: only in the **Universal Design Newsletter**.

Each issue of **Universal Design Newsletter** contains the latest technical information from the nations most knowledgeable experts in the field of accessible facility and product design. Regular columns include: FedWatch, Accessibility Tips, New Products, New Media, and Calendar of Events. Articles provide valuable information on timely topics such as detectable warnings, entry doors, public restrooms, historic preservation, recreation, housing, ATM's, and employee accessibility.

Readers are praising the quality of the information found in **Universal Design Newsletter**. If you are involved in advocacy, design or accessibility issues, the **Universal Design Newsletter** is a publication that you need to read and retain for reference. Through an inexpensive subscription to **Universal Design Newsletter**, you can be informed about new developments and find cost effective solutions to accessibility problems. If you need up-to-date information on these timely topics, we look forward to hearing from you.

John P.S. Salmen, AIA  
Publisher

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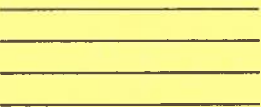
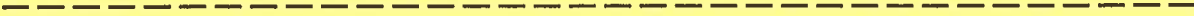
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## All-In-One Accessibility

**N**ow that hotels and motels are required under Title III of the Americans with Disabilities Act to provide a variety of warning and communications equipment for guests who are hearing impaired, many companies have begun to produce and market that equipment.

Different products produced, packaged and marketed by these companies help guests with hearing impairments in various ways:

- o A flashing light alerts a guest when someone is knocking at the door;
- o A strobe light flashes when a smoke alarm has been activated;
- o A lamp lights or flashes when the telephone rings;
- o A pillow or bed shaker alerts a guest when the alarm clock goes off.

The prices for the all-in-one cases range from about \$450 to \$800 depending on the equipment included. HITEC Group International Inc. of Darien, Ill., which distributes a similar case, has set up installment plans to help buffer the cost of the equipment. "We are more concerned with the users having a good product and that it does what it's supposed to do," said Steven Bloome, HITEC's marketing director.

The prices of the equipment soared after the enactment of the ADA, Bloome said, because of the increased demand. The industry was saturated for a while with competitors trying to make a fast buck in a demand market. The difference between the survivors and the failures

## Noise and TV Captions Go Hand-In-Hand

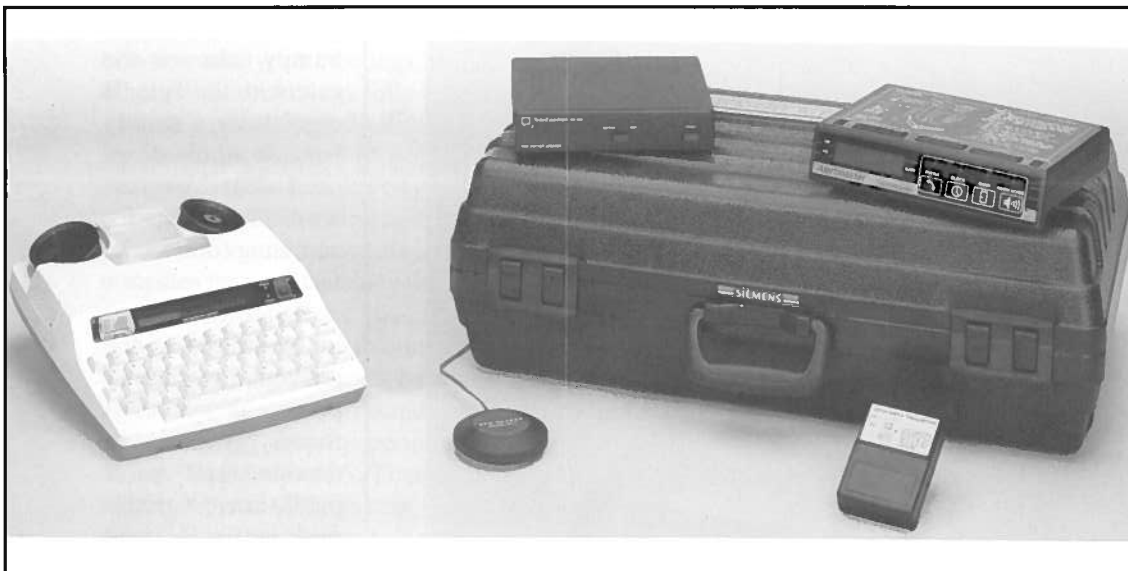
Although the ADA does not require places such as restaurants and airports to provide captioned televisions for their patrons, some businesses are realizing that in certain settings, captions are appreciated by everyone. When you are in a noisy bar, or transportation concourse, captions enable all customers to receive information visually.

The CNN Airport Channel is considering adding captions to expand its already "very visual" broadcast, said Deborah Lunn, vice president and general manager. "It's important for accessibility," she said. "And because airports are noisy, if we can provide more visual services, it's more effective."

Although Three Brothers Italian restaurant in Bladensburg, Md., did not buy a television because of its caption feature, the Manager, Mario Repole, said he has received several requests for the captioning to be displayed on the screen.

Baltimore-Washington International Airport, which already has a visual paging system, is looking at installing scrolling text display monitors in the airport's shuttle buses to notify passengers of the approaching stop. Dulles and National airports are looking to implement an interactive information system that will provide audible and captioned information about the facilities and services available in the airport.

Marsha Mazz, technical assistance coordinator with the U.S. Architectural and Transportation Barrier Compliance Board (Access Board) said open captioned TVs could be a good customer draw without being an extreme cost to businesses. "I hope it is becoming a trend," she added.




Guest room visual notification equipment packaged in a suitcase.

- o Closed captioned text scrolls beneath a television program when a decoder is activated, and
- o Guests who have hearing impairments can communicate over telephone lines with text telephones.

But because the variety and range of equipment is confusing to many hoteliers, some companies have started to package it in handy suitcases that can be easily checked out to the guest for use in their room.

Weitbrecht Communications in Santa Monica produces suitcases that provide nine to four pieces of equipment for hotels. "This makes it easier for them to comply," said Jane Goldman, Weitbrecht marketing manager. Though most of the equipment is easily understood or self evident, the kits also come with instructions for installation and safe operation.

was the quality of their products, Bloome said, explaining that companies with little experience in producing accessible equipment often are unaware of what is needed to produce long-lasting effective equipment.

For more information about the guest cases, call HITEC at 708.963.5588 and Weitbrecht Communications Inc. at 800.233.9130. Other all-in-one distributors include Harris Communications, Eden Prairie, Minn., 800.825.6758 and Potomac Technology Inc. Rockville, Md., 800.433.2838. 

## Title II, from page 1

or UFAS as interim standards, took effect in January, 1992.

A recent Access Board memo notes that DOJ will publish a Notice of Proposed Rulemaking (NPRM) to adopt the new ADAAG sections 11 to 14 as the additional design standards for state and local facilities on the same day the Board publishes its guidelines. To allow for new comments, the Board will publish the sections as an interim final rule and DOJ's NPRM will request all comments on the sections to

be submitted to the Board. Both actions are anticipated to provide 60-day comment periods. It has taken the agencies a while to coordinate the process. "In the future, the Access Board, DOJ and DOT have agreed that any changes to ADAAG will be jointly issued for comment. This will simplify the process, giving the public the opportunity to comment once on a single document," said Jim Raggio, General Counsel for the Access Board. "In addition," he continued, "it will ensure that there will be a single set

of criteria issued at the same time by the regulatory agencies."

"We would liked to have seen this happen sooner," said Capozzi. The process of coordinating the guidelines for sections 11-14, has been much more bumpy than was the case with the Title III regulations, mainly because of the drop-dead date Congress wrote into the law for accessing commercial facilities.

As is often the case in Washington, the uneven regulatory process always has its roots: "There is no deadline and fewer public interest groups pushing for it," said Capozzi. Meanwhile, a DOJ spokesman said the proposed rulemaking was "going through clearances at Justice" at presstime. The spokesman added that she did not know when a final rule will be published in the Federal Register and declined to say whether agency officials had made significant changes to the Board's guidelines.

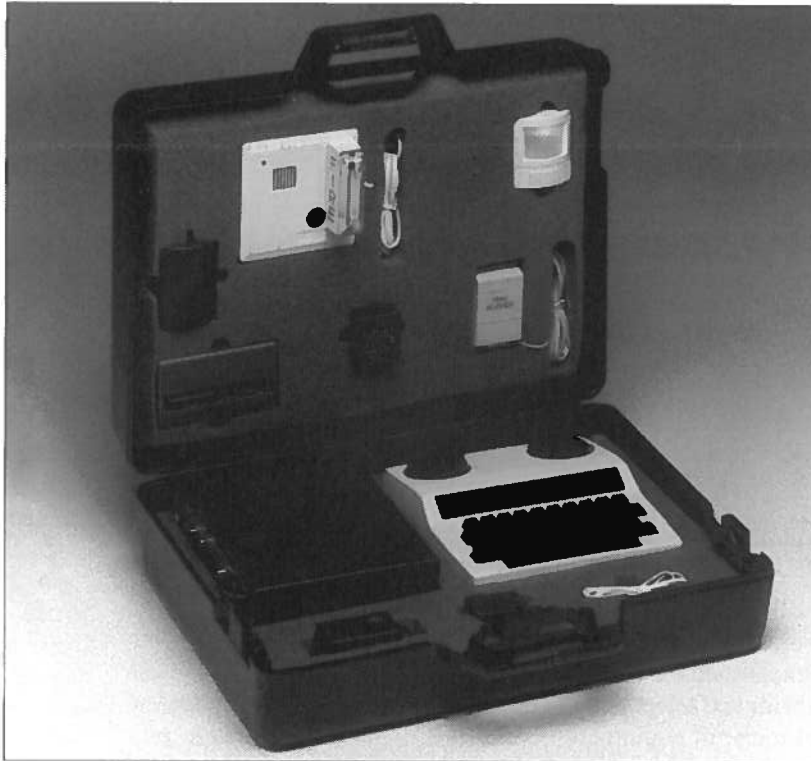
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"This will simplify the process, giving the public the opportunity to comment once on a single document."

James Raggio -  
Access Board

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## Universal Design Textbook

**Practicing Universal Design: An Interpretation of the ADA** primarily targets interior design and architecture students but also appeals to design professionals with limited universal design experience. The 210-page book focuses on sensitive design for public use, the barrier-free design movement, myths about disabilities, how much the Americans with Disabilities Act will cost and applying universal design. It also contains ADA Accessibility Guidelines for buildings and facilities. The book was written by William L. Wilkoff, FASID, IBD, and Laura W. Abed. To obtain the book, contact publisher Van Nostrand Reinhold, 7625 Empire Drive, Florence, Ky., 41042, or call 1.800.842.3636. The book costs \$29.95.

## Making Meetings Accessible

**A Guide to Planning Accessible Meetings** explains how to make your meetings, training programs and other public gatherings fully accessible to everyone, including people with disabilities. Topics with checklists include: the goal of accessible meetings; why planning barrier-free meetings is important; working with facility staff; setting up meeting rooms; making printed or visual materials accessible; and setting priorities for readily achievable barrier removal. The guide, written by June Isaacson Kailes and Darrell Jones, is for people with considerable to no experience in planning meetings. It comes in a 3 ring binder and is also available on standard-size audio cassette and computer disk for people with visual impairments. The cost is \$25. There is a \$3 surcharge for all foreign countries except Canada. To obtain the guide, contact the Independent Living Research Utilization (ILRU) Program, 2323 S. Shepherd, Suite 1000, Houston, Texas, 77019, or call 713.520.0232; 713.520.5136 (TDD).

## Access Symbols On Disk

Graphic symbols promoting accessible places and programs for people with disabilities have been created by the National Endowment for the Arts and the Graphic Artists Guild Foundation. The 12 symbols, developed under the **Disability Access Symbols Project: Promoting Accessible Places and Programs**, can be used in advertisements, newsletters and program brochures, as well as for other purposes. The symbols are aimed at design firms, agencies and others interested in showing that their programs and services are accessible to people with disabilities. The

symbols are available on IBM or MAC floppy disks. The disks cost \$12.95 plus \$3.50 shipping and handling. New York deliveries must add 8-<sup>1</sup>/<sub>4</sub>%. The disks are also available from state arts agencies. Contact the Graphic Artists Guild Foundation at 11 West 20th St., 8th floor, New York, N.Y., 10011, or call Paul Basista at 212.463.7730.



Several of the new access symbols available on disk

## Wayfinding & Environmental Communication

The Canadian government has produced a series of three free booklets on wayfinding, or environmental communications, which refers to ways of getting around a building. **1-2-3 Evaluation and Design Guide to Wayfinding: Helping Visitors Find Their Way Around Public Buildings**, is aimed at helping architects, designers and property managers solve or prevent wayfinding problems in the built environment. It contains an introduction to wayfinding and an analysis of wayfinding problems, and discusses why environmental communication is important; understanding your building's wayfinding components; ways to make use of wayfinding data; and the needs of visitors with disabilities.

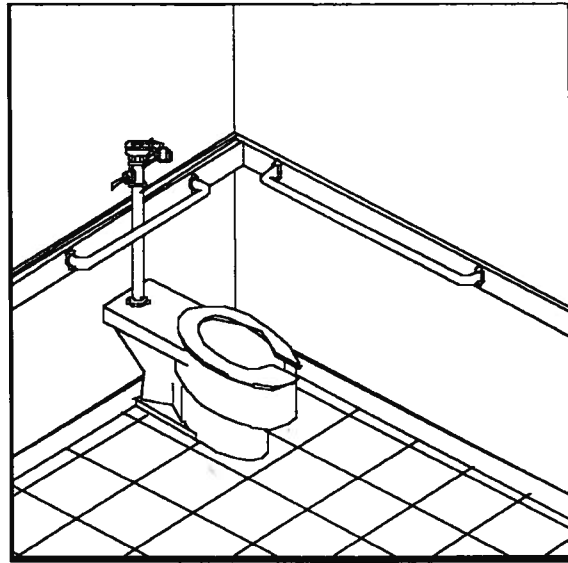
**Orientation and Wayfinding in Public Buildings: An Overview**, contains extensive data on wayfinding in public buildings and ways to extend environmental communications to people with disabilities. The booklet discusses state-of-the-art solutions for transferring information and recommends that signs displayed in public buildings be aimed at helping people with sight and hearing impairments.

**Wayfinding in Public Buildings: A Design Guideline**, discusses the common shortcomings of information; wayfinding definitions; processing environmental information; and designing for wayfinding.

Copies of all three booklets are free and available from Documentation Centre, Architectural & Engineering Services, Public Works Canada, Sir Charles Tupper Bldg., Riverside Drive, Ottawa, Ontario K1A 0M2.

COLUMN

**?** **PROBLEM:** What do you do with the rear wall grab bar at an accessible water closet when there is a flushometer valve piping obstructing the space where the bar should be placed?



**TIP:** David Berkowitz, owner of the Melting Pot Restaurant in Rockville, MD, and his designer came up with this innovative solution. By securing a 1" X 4" finished piece of lumber to a 2" X 4" attached to the wall studs, they avoided the supply pipe, provided a secure mounting surface and created an attractive chair-rail like design feature around the bathroom.

**?** **PROBLEM:** How do you provide seating that fits the variety of people who are likely to visit a public facility?



Photo by Joe Kracum

**TIP:** The Colorado Department of Transportation and the designers of the new Grizzly Creek Rest Area near Glenwood Springs, Colo., came up with this series of varying height cube benches which allow all users to find a seat that is at a comfortable height for them.



**?** **PROBLEM:** How do you make a front loading clothes dryer accessible to a person who cannot bend easily.


**TIP:** Whirlpool Appliances suggest placing the dryer on a platform that raises the door to an accessible height. This and many other appliance accessibility solutions are illustrated in a new brochure available from Whirlpool called **The Less Challenging Home**. The publication is available from Whirlpool by calling 1.800.253.1301. 



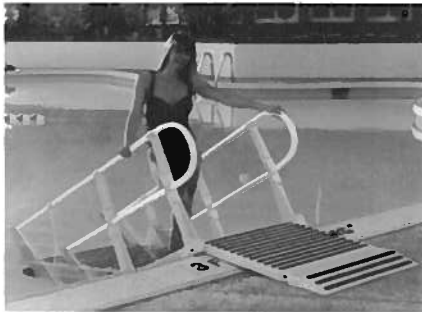
Photo Courtesy Whirlpool Corporation

Readers are encouraged to submit examples of Universal Design problems, solutions or design details for publication in Universal Design Newsletter.

PRODUCTS

**The Walk-In Step**

The Walk-In Step is a removable pool access attachment designed to allow people with limited mobility capabilities to enter and exit the water more easily than traditional vertical step ladders. The ramp is made of highly non corrosive polyurethane plastic with non-skid surface treads and fluted hand rails. The step can be customized to fit all pool and gutter systems and converted to a ramp. A wheelchair assist platform is also available. (Manufactured by Future Products, Inc.)



**Kroin Faucets**

The Kroin HV1CL model Commercial Lavatory Faucet features a single-control mixer that allows either temperature or volume to be controlled with a long lever handle. The HV1CL is only one of many in the manufacturer's series of the modern designed controls that requires little hand strength or dexterity to operate. This unit has a specially designed 45-degree angled spout which directs the water flow to the center of the sink basin providing easier access for washing hands, or inserting objects or containers into the water flow.

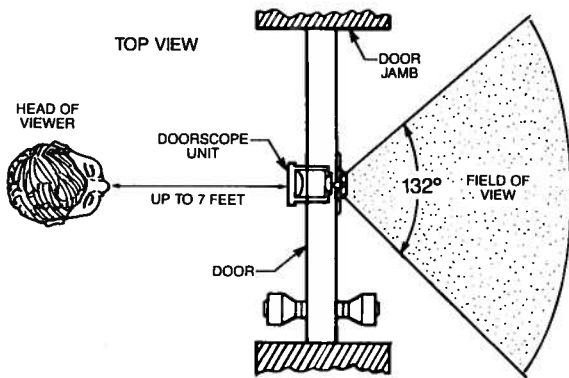


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**DoorScope**

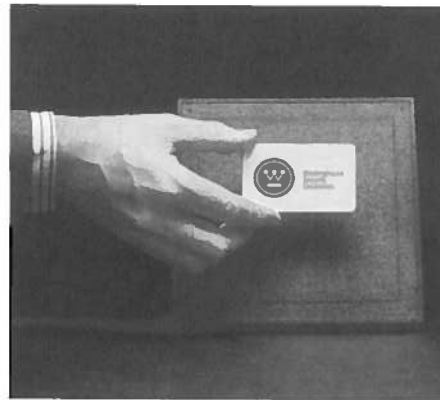
Omni Concepts Inc. has created a new product to increase the range and viewing size of normal door security scopes. The DoorScope is a high-tech, extra



wide-angle optical instrument which permits the viewer to stand up to 7 feet away from the door and still see the other side. A 132-degree picture of the outer door area is presented. Children, wheelchair users, and persons with low vision will benefit from the increased viewing area.

**Card Reader**

The Proximity Access Technology card is a door opening and I.D. verifier system in one. With a Command KeyR, authorized personnel gain entry by means of an electronic reader; no card insertion, swiping or physical contact is necessary. As a result, anyone may activate the system easily without arm movement. Proximity capabilities are included in several different Security Electronics systems.



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**Editor's Note:** The New Products Column was provided by the ABLEDATA project, a computerized database of information on assistive equipment which is funded by the National Institute on Disability and Rehabilitation Research and is administered by Macro International, Inc., Silver Spring, MD.

## The Art of Relaxing

### The Four Seasons Las Colinas Spa Offers Choice

The Four Seasons Resort and Country Club in Las Colinas, Texas was built ten years ago when accessibility criteria were almost unknown in many parts of the country. Yet, the designers of the hotel's health spa seem to have realized that accessibility would become increasingly important for an upscale resort that markets to affluent and aging America. They showed that fine materials and careful detailing can create a timeless functionality and elegance that looks and works as well today as it did the day the facility opened.

Throughout the spa, users find wide, easy to open doors and an absence of thresholds, making movement easier when people are tired after a workout or not wearing their glasses. Accessibility is provided in the saunas and steam rooms, where there is enough room for someone to do their stretches, or to turn and maneuver a wheelchair next to the benches which are set at a 19" high wheelchair transfer height.

A key to the success of the spa is the fact that the details and fixtures allow users to have choices. Moreover, choice is elevated to a position of luxury by numerous yet inconspicuous user options. The spa towels are arrayed in cubicles at varying heights putting

some in easy reach of both short and tall people. Lockers are designed over a bench on one side and flush on the other side of wide central aisles that allow easy passage, access and turning space. There's ample changing ease and room for both those who did and those who didn't bring a chair with them.

A variety of pools and tubs offer cold and hot therapy choices. (See photo page 1.) People who have difficulty using stairs find that the double handrails make entry easy and safe. Ledges at the rear of the individual whirlpools offer a convenient spot to place a cool drink, or an easy transfer surface for someone who has difficulty lifting their legs over a high sidewall.

Although universally designed details and features are becoming easier to find, it is still a rare case when



Cubicles put towels within reach of anyone

A key to the success of the spa is the fact that the details and fixtures allow users to have choices.

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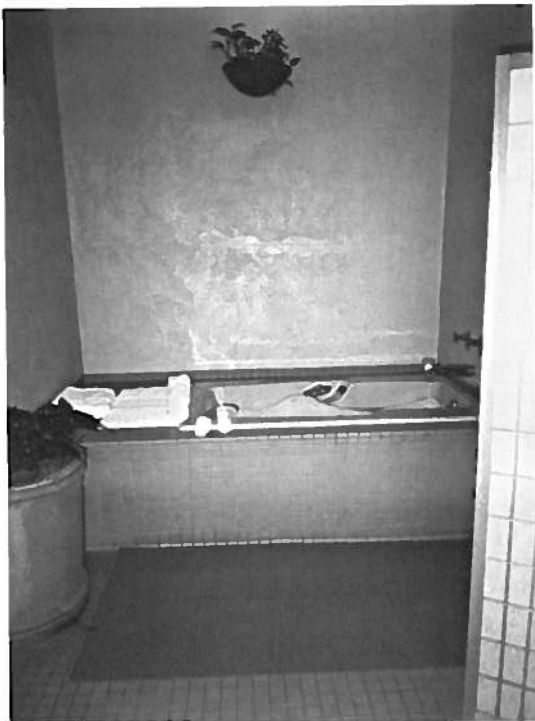
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Lockers with a choice of access

**Spa**, from page 10

every detail is accessible. At the Four Seasons, a single step from the main level of the resort into the health club may require the assistance of spa personnel. Once inside, however, you are surrounded by choices that make the experience universally enjoyable for all.



Transfer Seat At Whirlpool Tub

**FedWatch**, from page 3

**ANSI Update**

By year end or early 1995, the 1992 CABO/ANSI A117.1 Standard may be open for review and revision. When the ANSI committee met last summer, it decided it would meet within a year to consider when to reopen the standard for revision. The committee has been studying the use of plumbing fixtures, ATM's and signage as well as developing multifamily residential criteria to coordinate with the Fair Housing Act Accessibility Guidelines.

**New Media**, from page 7

**New Video**

**Work in Progress** shows actions taken by Montgomery County, MD, and the city of Rockville, MD, to comply with the ADA in employment, communications, recreation and historic facilities. It was produced by Ward Associates and funded by the National Institute on Disability Research and Rehabilitation. The video demonstrates an on-going coordinated process for ADA compliance. It provides examples of topics covered in the Title II Action Guide for state and local governments. The video is a two-tape set that provides accessible formats, including open captioned, standard audio and audio description. To order, send \$13.98 plus \$4 shipping and handling to Barrier Free Environments Inc., P.O. Box 39634, Raleigh, NC 27622, or call 919.782.7823; fax 919.787.1984.

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■ **April 7&8: Assistive Technology Workshop**, sponsored by the Missouri Assistive Technology Project. St. Louis, MO. Call 800.647.8557

■ **May 13-15: Edges: Succeeding Through Change**, American Institute of Architects Annual Convention includes seminars on Universal Design and the ADA. Los Angeles, CA. Call 202.626.7395

■ **May 26: 1:00-3:00 pm (EST), Bridging the Networks IV: Barrier Free Environments for People who are Aging and have Developmental Disabilities**. A video teleconference, sponsored by the Coalition on Aging and Developmental Disabilities and the Gerontology Department, Sonoma State University. Call 707.527.7331

■ **June 2-3: Measuring Handicapping Environments**, a working conference to discuss the empirical measurement of how architectural environments handicap people with disabilities in their daily activities. Attendance by invitation. Buffalo, NY. Contact Dr. Edward Steinfeld at 716.829.3485 x 328

■ **June 17-22: RESNA '94**. The Rehabilitation Engineering Society of North America will host its annual conference titled "Tuning In To the 21st Century through Assistive Technology." Nashville, TN. Contact RESNA at 202.857.1199

■ **July 17-20: Charting Your Course to the Future**, Annual International Convention of Self Help

for Hard of Hearing People Inc. (SHHH). Baltimore, MD. Call 301.657.2248 (V) 301.657.2249 (TT).


■ **Sept. 19-23: Retrofitting for Accessibility** sponsored by Project Access and the National Center on Accessibility - Indiana University. Martinsville, IN. Call 317.349.9240

■ **Oct. 8-11: ASLA Annual Meeting and Expo** featuring LANDTECH Seminars will include a presentation on what the U.S. Architectural & Transportation Barriers Compliance Board's Recreation Committee is proposing. San Antonio, TX. Call 202.686.2752.

■ **Nov 19: Universal Design Education Project** will present the results of its first year of programs in educational sessions and exhibits in conjunction with the Boston Society of Architects Annual Convention in Boston, MA. Contact Elaine Ostroff at 617.695.1225 (v/tt).

■ **Dec 5-9: Universal Design** sponsored by Project Access and the National Center on Accessibility/Indiana University. San Antonio, TX.. Call 317.349.9240

## CALL FOR PAPERS

■ **April 19-21, 1995: 2nd Symposium on Elevators, Fire and Accessibility** will be held in Washington, D.C. and co-sponsored by many federal and national organizations and associations. Contact Marcy Weinstock at 212.605.8793 

If you have events that you would like placed in our calendar, please send them to Editor, Universal Design Newsletter.

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