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Japan: Universal Design Movement Gets Organized

In Japan, the world's most rapidly aging country, advocates for universal design are quickly building interest by promoting the idea to consumers and manufacturers alike.

With Japan's Imperial Highness Prince Tomohito as its patron, the International Association for Universal Design (IAUD),

founded in the last two years, has already added well-known manufacturers to its membership rolls including: Mitsubishi, Toshiba, Nissan Motor Co., Panasonic, Fujitsu, Toto, Hitachi and Sony.

According to IAUD, approximately 18.5 % of Japan's population is aged 65 or older; that percentage is expected to increase to 25% by 2014.

"No one is 100% disabled. No one is 100% healthy," according to a quote by Tomohito in the IAUD membership material. "Everyone has disabilities in some parts of his or her body (or mind), and has healthy parts at the same time. Universal design lets everyone lead more affluent and comfortable lives."

IAUD calls for the creation of products in a "society where there is no need to feel inconveniences because of the differences in age, sex, race or one's abilities" and advances the idea that by taking universal design into account, manufacturers will "expand

See IAUD, page 8



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Process Teaches Universal Design

Ed Roberts Campus Aspires to be a UD Model

Eight non-profit groups in California have banded together to plan and develop a universally designed, transit-oriented campus that they hope will become the world's foremost disability rights service, advocacy, education, training, and policy center.

Known as the Ed Roberts Campus, the facility will be built at a Bay Area Rapid Transit (BART) station in Berkley, CA. The 80,000 sq. ft. project will provide offices, meeting rooms, exhibition space, a fitness center and a child development center for use by the community and the eight non-profit organizations.

A building committee and task forces, made up of representatives from the stakeholder organizations, have been formed to provide designers with input from actual users on their needs for specific elements of the facility.

"We hope that this will be a replicable case study for universal and sustainable design," says Project Architect William Leddy, FAIA, Leddy Maytum Stacy Architects, San Francisco, CA.

See Ed Roberts Campus, page 10



A Model for Us All

Accessibility Pioneer William Wilkoff Remembered

In the decades long crusade to create accessible environments for people with disabilities and to move our society toward universal design that will benefit all, many people have become pioneers and leaders. Well known people like Evan Kemp, Ron Mace, Ed Roberts, Hugh Gallagher and Sharon Mistler were very visible (and political); and their passing triggered memorial services around the country. There are, however, many lesser known individuals who have had a similarly profound, yet less recognized impact on the movement.

William Wilkoff, ASID was one of those lesser known pioneers. Bill was a representative of the American Society of Interior Designers (ASID) for two decades during the formulation of today's accessibility standards. He accepted appointments to sit on the President's Committee on Employment of the Handicapped, the National Center for a Barrier-Free Environment, the American National Standards Institute A117 Committee, the US Access Board's Americans with Disabilities Act Accessibility Guidelines Federal Review Committee, and was the chairman of the Washington, DC Building Code Ad-

visory Board's Barrier Free Subcommittee. Bill was present and involved in the discussions and voting for the accessibility standards that are used today to ensure that buildings throughout the US are truly accessible. William Wilkoff died last summer after working in the movement for more than a quarter century.

Bill was really just an average guy who became a passionate champion of barrier-free design. An industrial designer by training, Bill and his wife Paula raised a family in Washington, DC and owned a small interior design firm, District Design, that specialized in retail and commer-

cial interiors. I continue to be impressed by Bill's ability to volunteer so much time and effort to a social cause while keeping a small business afloat and a family fed. In the last 10 years, Bill increasingly utilized his accessibility expertise to write, teach and act as an expert witness.

I was fortunate enough to meet Bill when I first came to Washington in 1980 to work for the National Center for a Barrier Free Environment (NCBFE). Bill represented ASID on the NCBFE Board of Directors, but was not above coming in on a Saturday to help me hang shelves in the NCBFE office, or to help put together furniture for the struggling non-profit. While I have never forgotten the "correct" way to level and hang a wall-mounted shelf system, what Bill really taught me was a down to earth appreciation of how people really do things in the built environment. When building code meeting discussions got mired in technical criteria of an accessible sink, he was able to bring to the debate an understanding of how a person washes dishes in that sink. He helped us to step back and remember the real purpose of our efforts.

Bill shared his time and abilities as a teacher, mentor, consultant, advocate and collaborator in an effort to advance a social good. He was in many ways a model for us all.

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ANPRM Deadline Pushed Back

The US Department of Justice (DOJ) has extended the deadline to submit comments on the Advanced Notice of Proposed Rulemaking (ANPRM) implementing the new federal accessibility guidelines to May 31, 2005.

DOJ noted that numerous interested parties had requested the extension citing the complexity of the data requests, the need to distribute surveys, the overlap of the comment period with the holiday season and the need for additional time in order to provide an informed response to DOJ questions. According to the statement in the *Federal Register*, "The Department believes this extension is ample for an 'advance' notice of proposed rulemaking, which is merely a preparatory stage in rulemaking process. Interested parties will receive another opportunity to comment when the Department issues a formal notice of proposed rulemaking."

The original Advance Notice of Proposed Rulemaking is available on the DOJ web site: www.ada.gov/proposal.htm. Comments on the ANPRM may be provided by May 31, 2005 online at www.adaanprm.org, or by mail, at P.O. Box 1032, Merrifield, VA 22116-1032.

NCD Pushes for ADA Restoration Act

The National Council on Disability (NCD), an independent federal agency, is calling on Congress to restore the Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA) to its "original intent."

In a report issued in December, NCD highlights "problematic" court rulings that have "narrowed the scope of the ADA," describes the resulting impact on people with disabilities and offers a legislative proposal.

"...the provisions of the ADA that have been narrowed by Court rulings currently do not provide the same scope of opportunities and protections expressed by those involved in the creation and passage of the ADA," according to NCD Chairperson Lex Frieden in the report. "Legislation is urgently needed to restore the ADA to 'assure equality of opportunity, full participation, independent living, and economic self-sufficiency' for Americans with disabili-

ties."

Among the provisions outlined in the proposed "ADA Restoration Act," is a revision of the references in the ADA to discrimination "against an individual with a disability" to refer instead to discrimination "on the basis of disability."

"The change recognizes the social conception of disability and rejects the notion of a rigidly restrictive protected class," according to the report. The proposed legislation would also restore "the standard of undue hardship as the sole criterion for determining the reasonableness of an otherwise effective accommodation."

For more information, contact NCD at www.ncd.gov.

Supreme Court Hears Cruise Line Case

On Feb. 28, the US Supreme Court heard arguments in *Spector v. Norwegian Cruise Line Ltd.*, a case about whether and to what extent Title III of the Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA) applies to companies that operate foreign-flagged cruise ships in United States waters. Norwegian and other cruise ship operators have maintained that they are exempt from the ADA because they are of foreign registry. A decision is expected this summer.

Courthouse Accessibility Advisory Committee Formed

The US Architectural & Transportation Barriers Compliance Board (Access Board) advisory committee tasked with exploring the issues related to courthouse accessibility held its first meeting in November in Washington, DC. During the meeting, the committee organized formal subcommittees on education, courtroom access and courthouse spaces other than courtrooms.

The 31-member committee is made up of representatives of disability groups, the judiciary, court administrators, model codes and standards entities, and government agencies, as well as designers and architects. The committee is expected to meet quarterly. 



The proposed legislation would also restore "the standard of undue hardship as the sole criterion for determining the reasonableness of an otherwise effective accommodation."

Putting Universal Design to the Test

IDEA Center Studies Universal Design Fundamentals

Universally designed environments are easier to use than environments that are not universally designed, and work just as well for everyone, according to researchers at the Center for Inclusive Design & Environmental Access (IDEA Center).

In a series of studies over the last five years, the IDEA Center, housed at the University at Buffalo, the State University of New York, set out to document what proponents of universal design have always believed – universal design benefits everyone.

The center has conducted three studies testing the claimed benefits of universal design.

The Lighthouse International Headquarters

The IDEA Center researchers, led by Ed Steinfeld, PhD and Gary Scott Danford PhD, initially performed a case study of the Lighthouse International Headquarters building in New York City. The building is often cited as an early exemplar of universal design practice. Participants performed tasks and were asked questions about usability as compared to other “non universally designed” buildings.

All study participants, including people with disabilities and people without disabilities, per-

ceived the universally designed building “to be far more usable than most other buildings they had experienced.”

The Restaurants Case Study

To build on their findings from the first study, researchers selected fast food restaurants as the focus of the next case study project. IDEA Center researchers sought to compare the usability of buildings in three categories: universally designed; compliant with the Americans with Disabilities Act Accessibility Guidelines (ADAAG); and ADAAG non-compliant. They studied participants using specific features from four actual buildings having a mix of features. The researchers grouped the features into one of three “virtual” buildings, i.e. a universally designed virtual building, an ADAAG-compliant virtual building, and an ADAAG non-compliant virtual building. They adopted this approach to ensure that there would be nothing uniformly good or bad about the actual buildings used for the project. To reinforce the idea that universal design is not synonymous with accessible design, researchers selected participants in four different categories: adults with children in strollers; adults inexperienced in dealing with temporary mobility problems; adults experienced in dealing with their permanent mobility impairment; and adults with no sensory or functional impairments.

Not surprisingly, researchers concluded the virtual universally designed building was more usable than the virtual ADAAG-compliant building which was more usable than the ADAAG non-compliant building. Researchers also came across some unexpected results. According to the IDEA Center’s Danford, “People with permanent mobility impairments were much less tolerant of architectural barriers – compared to people with temporary mobility impairments – than we had anticipated.”

Looking at Las Vegas

For the most recent project, researchers observed people using public spaces in Las Vegas, NV. Carrying inconspicuous cameras, researchers filmed universally designed, ADAAG-compliant and ADAAG non-compliant sidewalks,

All study participants, including people with disabilities and people without disabilities, perceived the universally designed building “to be far more usable than most other buildings they had experienced.”

Universal Design as a Business Decision

Businesses too often resist providing the Americans with Disabilities Act-required accommodations in their facilities because they consider the costs too high for the number of people benefitted, according to Scott Danford, PhD, the Center for Inclusive Design & Environmental Access at the School of Architecture & Planning at the University at Buffalo, the State University of New York. “Universal design is more attractive to businesses because its designs are more usable for everyone... so the costs are viewed as more reasonable since the designs benefit everyone. The data from our study demonstrates how universal design can be easier to use and work equally well for everyone.”



United Kingdom

The Dog Rose Trust, a United Kingdom-based charity that develops audio and tactile interpretation for everyone, has launched an Internet radio station. The broadcasting station, known as Dog Rose Sound, offers its programs in downloadable MP3 and streaming audio formats. Programming includes news, views, interviews and audio tours of walks in the country and famous buildings. Among the programs currently offered are: Coalport China Museum, Ludlow Craft Fair, Introduction to the Cathedral Audio Guides and Gloucester Cathedral Audio Guide.

The Dog Rose Trust, with many years of experience in the production and management of audio projects, uses the concept of multi-sensory design to produce interactive tactile models and plans with sound commentaries for people with visual impairments.

For more information and to tune in, visit www.dogrosesound.org

Norway

Norway continues its far-reaching work to infuse universal design into policy and practice with two current projects: an Illustrated Guide and an Action Plan.

Illustrated Guide for Architects

Making universal design interesting and inspiring to architects is the focus of a new publication from the Norwegian government. Currently only available in the Norwegian language, the new publication puts emphasis on integrating accessibility and universal design into architecture using 3D sketches and diagrams, photographs and checklists. The booklet, a joint effort of the National Office of Building Technology and Administration and the Norwegian State Housing Bank, also includes three chapters on the political and social aims of integration and inclusion and the corresponding legislation. The booklet can be found at: www.be.no/beweb/regler/meldinger/043UniversellUtf.pdf

Universal Design Action Plan

In January 2004 the Directorate of Public Construction and Property in Norway, Statsbygg, approved an action plan on universal design covering the development of new facilities and the repair and renovation of existing facilities. In 2004 the Action Plan addressed:

- Including universal design principles in all general documents and guidelines for programming and construction.

- Developing the general guidelines for architectural work.

- Developing checklists for universal design for the programming of buildings.

- Developing tools and methods to secure that planning and design competitions are based on universal design (universal design as an evaluation criteria).

In 2005, the plan calls for educating the directorate's staff knowledge of the documents listed above and of universal design in general.

Statsbygg will document and record the accessibility and universal design in existing premises and develop a list of measures to be taken to improve access. When the registration process is completed, the accessibility of all premises will be posted on the Internet. Exact measures will be provided so that an Internet search can be carried out on personal requirements.

International

Design educators from nine countries participated in the day-long International Educators Forum held at the close of the Designing for the 21st Century III international conference in Rio de Janeiro, Brazil.

More than 20 participants discussed universal design in academic programs, in community-based service learning, and in research. Their concluding recommendations for collaborative strategies to improve universal design education and practice included:

- Creation of an international educators' conference;

- Encouragement of the publication of cross cultural educational materials translated into at least three languages, on the Universal Design Educators Online (UDEO) website, www.udeducation.org;

- Drafting of an international universal design educators mission statement/manifesto;

- Fostering an international universal design teaching exchange program among several universities in different countries;

- Creation of a group of accomplished cross-cultural UD educators/experts in various design disciplines to supervise student thesis projects, mentor junior faculty who are already teaching or trying to teach universal design, serve as outside reviewers in the promotion and tenure process for UD educators.

The group will continue contact through the universal design educator's e-list and the Global Universal Design Educator's Online News at www.universaldesign.net. 

When the registration process is completed, the accessibility of all premises will be posted on the Internet. Exact measures will be provided so that an Internet search can be carried out on personal requirements.

Ron Mace Awards Honor Leaders in Universal Design

Presentations Made at Designing for the 21st Century Conference

Leaders in universal design were honored for their work at an international conference in Rio de Janeiro hosted by Adaptive Environments, an international non-profit organization dedicated to researching, gathering and promoting the most current ideas and information on “human-centered” design.

The 2004 Ron Mace Designing for the 21st Century Awards, named in memory of the “father” of universal design, were presented to 21 individuals and organizations at Designing for the 21st Century III, December 2004. Recipients included:

- **Leslie Young**, Director of Design at the Center for Universal Design at North Carolina State University, was honored for her substantial contributions to both universal design literature and multi-media resources.

- **Marcelo P. Guimaraes**, Professor of Architecture at the Federal University of Gerais, Brazil and Director of ADAPTSE Laboratory for Design Research, Education and Outreach was recognized for introducing universal design to Brazil in 1991 and mounting a national campaign promoting accessibility and universal design as a priority to design and construction professionals.

- **The Center for Universal Design**, founded by Ron Mace in 1989, was recognized for being an invaluable source of information on universal design in the United States and international movements.

- **Ed Steinfeld**, Professor of Architecture and Founder/Director of the Inclusive Design and Environmental Access (IDEA) Center at the University at Buffalo, the State University of New York, was honored for his 30 years as a driving force in accessible design practice.

- **Hubert Froyen**, Professor of Architecture and Initiator of the Belgian Universal Design Education Project was acknowledged for exhibiting leadership in his contributions to the European Institute on Design and Disability and his efforts to create a European Union-wide curriculum for occupations working on the built environment.

- **The Institute of Design and Disability in Ireland** was recognized for conducting the

Barcelona Project that brought together 97 local governments committed to inclusive practices in policies, services and the built environment. Ireland’s effort had the highest success rate of any European nation.

- **Ricardo Gomes**, Chair of the Design and Industry Department, San Francisco State University was honored for his leadership in promoting universal design to multicultural communities.

- **International Association for Universal Design (IAUD)**, Japan was recognized for its efforts to bring universal design to the mainstream in Japan.

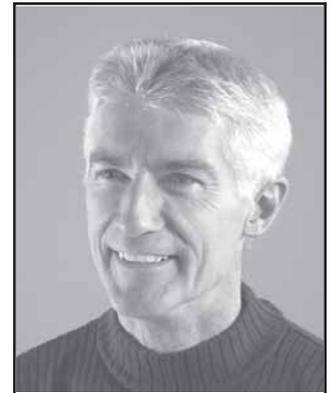
- **Inclusive Design & Environmental Access (IDEA) Center** at the University at Buffalo, the State University of New York, was acknowledged for its work in developing the knowledge base underlying the practice and teaching of accessible and universal design worldwide.

- **Sen Inc., Miyake Yoshisuke and Fusayo Asano** were honored for setting standards and guidelines for universal landscape design.

- **Jim Mueller**, Chair of the Industrial Design Society of America’s Universal Design Professional Interest Section, was recognized for his commitment and contributions to the field of universal design over the last 20 years.

- **Francesc Aragall**, President of the Design for All Foundation, Barcelona, was recognized for successfully initiating European-wide movement that is pursuing a more inclusive society.

- **The Norwegian Government**, led by the Ministry of the Environment, was honored for initiating and sustaining an unprecedented national approach to universal design and for sharing their strategies with the world community.



Jim Mueller

The Center for Universal Design, founded by Ron Mace in 1989, was recognized for being an invaluable source of information on universal design in the United States and international movements.



Website Spotlight: EasyLiving Home

The EasyLiving Home website provides information on the EasyLiving Home (TM) Program, a voluntary certification program for builders that specifies criteria in home construction to add convenience in a new home making it “easy to build, easy to live in, easy to visit and easy to sell.”

Developed by a coalition of public and private organizations, the certification is said to enhance both the initial and resale value of a home, and can be achieved for practically any home regardless of price, building site or architecture. For more information, visit: www.easylivinghome.org

ADA Basic Building Blocks

ADA Basic Building Blocks is an introductory webcourse on the Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA). The course, which explores the legal requirements and spirit of the ADA, includes 12 topics, is self-paced and free to those who do not wish to receive a certificate and a continuing education unit (CEU). To receive the offered .05 CEU, approved by Georgia Tech Professional Education, participants must complete all 12 topics and “Apply Your Knowledge” for each topic of the course; obtain a 90% score or better on the Course Post-Test; and submit \$50 CEU fee through the Georgia Tech Professional Education. For more information, visit: www.adabasics.org

NOD Accessible America Award

The National Organization on Disability is sponsoring its 5th Annual Accessible America Contest. The competition is open to all cities and towns across the nation. Its purpose is to recognize and promote replication of exemplary practices that communities use to facilitate the comprehensive involvement of citizens with disabilities in community life. The deadline for nominations is Oct. 31, 2005. For more information, visit www.nod.org.

Guide to ADA and Accessibility Regulations

The Guide to ADA and Accessibility Regulations: Complying with Federal Rules and Model Building Code Requirements, published by the Building Owners and Managers Association (BOMA) International, compares the April 2, 2002, draft of the Americans with Disabilities Act Accessibility Guidelines (ADAAG) with the 2003 edition of the International Building Code (ICC) and the revisions to the ICC/ANSI A117.1-1998 Standard, Accessible and Usable Buildings & Facilities. It includes comments concerning the consistency of the rules and conflicts. For more information, visit www.boma.org

ADA Game

Visitors to the Southeast DBTAC’s online ADA Game can help build virtual accessible communities. The ADA Game simulates how advocacy can promote positive changes in communities. Players take on the role of advocates for disability rights and work together to improve compliance with the Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA) in their virtual communities. To play the game, visit: www.adagame.org

Livable Communities Report

The National Council on Disabilities has published a report, “Liveable Communities for Adults with Disabilities.” It highlights existing examples of livable communities in the United States and describes how communities can develop and sustain their livability features. For more information, visit: www.ncd.gov/newsroom/publications/2004/LivableCommunities.htm 

Visitors to the Southeast DBTAC’s online ADA Game can help build virtual accessible communities.

IAUD, *from page 1*

the customer base and improve customer satisfaction.”

According to IAUD, “To design, from the start, equipment, a building, or living space that will be utilized by as many people as possible is called ‘universal design.’ In other words, universal design is a design that works for everyone, and this is how we should manufacture products at all times.”

IAUD promotes universal design through a continuous process of informing consumers and manufacturers of its studies, projects and research results. It takes a comprehensive approach to promoting universal design by encouraging it in clothing, food, homes, living spaces, education and leisure time.

Manufacturers have responded to the call for universal designed products. At Designing for the 21st Century: An International Conference on Universal Design held in December 2004, Japanese manufacturers highlighted their work in universal design.

Representatives from Toyota described a 180-point universal design checklist used in the creation of the new Toyota Raum. The company performed extensive ergonomic studies of such things as visual clarity and ease of use. A “spiral up” design process was used on prototypes. Consumer opinion and feedback was continu-

ally sought throughout the product’s development.

Matsushita DNA (Panasonic) representatives noted that universal design has been a part of their guiding concept since 1947. They discussed several successful examples of universal design:

- Personal fax with large buttons, pre-recorded instructions and extra loud voice/volume settings.
- A remote control for an air conditioner with a large LCD screen with backlight and oversized characters, a speaking function that responds verbally and large buttons.
- A cordless steam iron that is lightweight and features a system to automatically replenish the water supply.

Toto’s universal design inspired products highlighted at the conference included:

- A bathtub with a rim that is wide enough to sit on while getting in and out of the tub.
- A height adjustable washbasin.
- A remote controlled flushing system for a toilet.
- A toilet paper roll that allows paper to be held and torn off with one hand.
- A toilet with a backrest.

IAUD is currently recruiting members. It is planning another universal design conference in Japan in 2006. For more information, visit: www.iaud.net 

“To design, from the start, equipment, a building, or living space that will be utilized by as many people as possible is called ‘universal design.’ In other words, universal design is a design that works for everyone, and this is how we should manufacture products at all times.”

Ron Mace Awards, *from page 6*

• **Singanapalli Balaram**, Senior Professor at the National Institute of Design, India was recognized for his efforts to promote inclusive design.

• **Centro De Vida Independente Do Rio de Janeiro** was acknowledged as the first independent living center in Latin America to embrace design as a key to social inclusion.

• **Jorge Falcato Simoes**, Architect, Lisbon, Portugal, was honored for 20 years of advocacy and commitment to strategic partnerships throughout the City of Lisbon and for his contributions promoting the state of the art of universal design on an urban scale.

• **Andrew Walker**, architect and Founder of the Environmental Access Program at the Architectural Association in London, was recognized for speaking out against “bad and disabling” design, promotion of the role of user/experts and contributions to inclusive design in historic buildings.

• **Schindler Elevators** was honored for its support of the 2004 Student Design Competition.

• **The Once Foundation** of Spain was recognized for its work procuring employment for people with disabilities and bringing accessibility to 53,000 workplaces.

• **Edison Passafaro**, Executive Director of the Comissao Permanente de Acessibilidade, Municipal Government, Sao Paulo, Brazil was honored for his work creating a model municipal agency responsible for promoting and implementing universal design at an urban scale in the largest city in Latin America.

• **Leslie Kanes Weisman**, Professor and former Associate Dean, School of Architecture at New Jersey Institute of Technology was recognized for her work as an educator and spokesperson for universal design and a leader in articulating the connection between universal design and other social justice movements. 

Directional Sound Device

ExitPoint Directional Sounder, from System Sensor, employs an audible means that can direct people to safety. Traditional fire systems notify people, but don't guide them. Directional sound clearly communicates the location of the exits using broadband noise. The varying tones and intensities coming from Directional Sound devices offer easy to understand



ExitPoint

Design Competition for Ride Transfer Device

The International Association of Amusement Parks and Attractions (IAAPA), in partnership with the US Architectural & Transportation Barriers Compliance Board (Access Board), is conducting a competition for the design of a transfer device that can be used to facilitate access to amusement rides.

The deadline for submissions is May 15, 2005. For more information, contact Corey Connors of IAAPA at 703.836.4800, cconnors@iaapa.org (e-mail) or visit IAAPA's website at www.iaapa.org/accessfun.

IDEA Center, from page 4

paths of travel, public meeting spaces, curb cuts, crosswalks, crosswalk islands, pedestrian bridges and hotel drop off areas, among other features.

Travels DVD Available

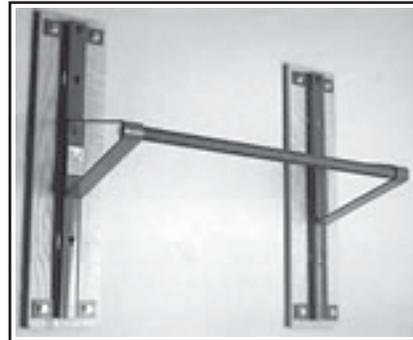
The data confirmed that universal design can make design features easier to use and work just as well for everyone.

The IDEA Center has produced an overview of the research findings and methods in a DVD set entitled "Travels: A Look into Universal Design." For a copy of the "Travels" DVDs, contact the IDEA Center at idea@ap.buffalo.edu; phone/voice mail 716. 829.3485 extension 329; or 716.829.3758 (tty).

cues for finding the ways out. The devices are placed in successive order along escape routes moving toward exits.

Adjustable Wall-Mounted Chinning Bar

The Adjustable Wall-Mounted Chinning Bar, model EWM-30 from JayPro Sports, is designed for use in physical education at the elementary school through university levels. The bar can accommodate users with and without disabilities. The frame is made of welded steel with a powder coated finish. The bar is 30 inches wide and protrudes height adjustment in 6-inch increments.



Chinning Bar

Remote Control

The Accenda Remote Control offers a choice of completely hands-free voice operation or comfortable and reliable hand-held operation. From a single voice command or the press of a button, the Accenda can turn on a TV or VCR, turn TV to Channel 3 and have a VCR begin playing a tape. The Accenda features a voice feedback system that tells users which button they have pushed. Each set of buttons has a distinctive shape. The large, backlit keys have high-contrast large-type lettering easy-to-see even in a dark room. The unique design virtually eliminates fumbling for buttons and the pressing of wrong buttons.



Remote Control



System Sensor
(ExitPoint)
Phone: 800.736.7672
www.systemsensor.com/exitpoint

JayPro Sports, LLC (formerly Jaypro Corp)
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www.innotechsystems.com/accenda/accenda.htm

Ed Roberts Campus, *from page 4*

While the project design is expected to include technology-related design solutions, Leddy notes that simple economics dictate that the design will include some old-fashioned creativity. "We don't have unlimited amounts of money. We can't go for all high-tech solutions," he says.

"We want to make it a project that uses readily achievable technology – technology that already exists. We want to be able to duplicate it," he says "We're trying to make the case that [universal and sustainable design are] economically feasible."

Wayfinding

Universal design elements have been integral to the design process from the beginning. Leddy says that the building itself will be "readily legible." The design will be simple and straightforward. The entrance will be obvious and all services will be accessible from the interior courtyard. In addition, there will be sophisticated audio and visual wayfinding systems.

Current plans also include a helical ramp that will connect the first and second floors. Provided as a way to get into and out of the building, the ramp is also envisioned as an architectural element and a symbol of universal design, according to Leddy. In addition, the ramp would be a

safety measure to ensure that in an emergency people who use wheelchairs can exit the second floor of the building independently. Designers are receiving input

from Technical Director and Founder of Wheelchair Whirlwind, Ralph Hotchkiss, and are hoping to address some of the issues related to ramp use for people who use wheelchairs.

Restrooms

Currently the plans call for two large restrooms for each gender and two for people who have attendants. The collaborative design process is expected to yield some innovative restroom designs, says Leddy.

Acoustics

Special attention will be paid to acoustics in the building. The open court yard will be a community gathering place. "We will try to strike a balance between making it lively enough so that people can be heard, but not too lively so that



Image credit: Ed Roberts Campus

The transparent lobby provides a welcoming view of the dramatic, helical ramp and covered courtyard.

people with hearing impairments or assistive devices," will have difficulty, says Leddy "We will try to balance everyone's sometimes conflicting needs."

Sustainable Design

Another goal is to make the facility accessible to people with chemical sensitivities. The plan calls for:

- Natural ventilation and non-toxic materials,
- Abundant, glare-free daylight that will enhance visibility and reduce energy,
- Localized temperature controls,
- Energy-efficient building systems that will reduce energy consumption by more than 50 percent, and
- Roof-top photovoltaic array to further reduce ongoing energy costs.

"We want a healthy building and environmentally responsible building," says Leddy.

The project, currently in the design development phase, is proceeding through a lengthy public approval process. Completion of the project is expected in 2007-08.

project that uses readily achievable technology....We're trying to make the case that [universal and sustainable design are] economically feasible."

Bill Leddy, FAIA
Leddy Maytum Stacy
Architects, San Francisco



Image credit: Ed Roberts Campus

The semicircular plaza -- an embracing civil gesture.



Market for Accessible Computers Going to Grow

Study Shows Majority of Users Could Benefit from Increased Accessibility

There is a growing need for accessible technology to allow individuals to customize their computers to help overcome physical and cognitive difficulties and impairments, according to a study commissioned by Microsoft Corporation.

The study of working age adults (individuals 18 to 64 years old) was conducted to measure the current and potential market of accessible technology in the United States and understand how technology is being used today.

Researchers found that 57 percent of computer users in the United States could benefit from the use of accessible technology. In addition, they found that 44 percent of computer users currently use some form of accessible technology.

“The fact that a large percentage of working age adults have difficulties or impairments of varying degrees may surprise many people,” according to a report on the study. “However, this study uniquely identifies individuals who are not measured in other studies as ‘disabled’ but who do experience difficulty in performing daily tasks and could benefit from the use of accessible technology.”

The researchers concluded that making accessibility options easier to discover and use will result in computers that are easier, more convenient, and more comfortable to operate.

Citing the aging US population, the trend of older workers remaining in the workforce past traditional retirement ages, a continued emphasis on productivity and the growing use of computers for work, information and communication, the study notes that “it becomes clear that future computer users will demand and expect greater accessibility in computers—regardless of their abilities.”

“There is a strategic business opportunity for IT companies to improve technology optimism, and perhaps customer satisfaction with their own products, by developing more accessible technology for computers,” according to the report. “Addressing the growing need for accessible technology requires accepting the fact that the concept of ‘disability’ may have limited the understanding of the need for accessible technology. Instead of assuming that accessible technology is only useful to a distinct group of people with disabilities, the IT industry must consider the wide range of people who could benefit from using accessible technology.”

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April 5-8, 2005: INCLUDE 2005, London, UK. An opportunity to discuss work on inclusive design at one of the key research and design business conferences of 2005. Contact: www.hhrc.rca.ac.uk/programmes/include/2005/call.html

May 2, 2005: National Preservation Institute: Accessibility and Historic Integrity, Madison, WI. Contact: info@npi.org

May 10-12, 2005: US Architectural & Transportation Barriers Compliance Board, Washington, DC. This is the bi-monthly meeting of the Access Board. Contact: 202.272.5434 (v), 800.872.2253 (v), 202.272.5449 (tty) or www.access-board.gov.

May 17-19, 2005: National DBTAC ADA Symposium: The Annual Conference on Disability Issues, Kansas City, KS. This symposium brings together nationally recognized experts in their fields to conduct interactive trainings in an environment that encourages networking and group problem-solving. Contact: www.adaupdate.org/Symposium.html.

May 24-25, 2005: 5th Conference of the International Society for Gerontechnology, Nagoya, Japan. This conference will focus on: health and self-esteem, housing and daily living, mobility and transport, communication and governance, work

condition and work ability, geriatrics and dementia cares, leisure, robotics for human support, universal design and standards for the older people and people with disabilities. Contact: www2.convention.co.jp/Sisg/english/

June 15, 2005: Universal Village: Livable Communities in the 21st Century, Washington, DC. Hosted by AARP, this international conference is intended to encourage efforts to build communities with a range of transportation options and appropriate, affordable and accessible housing that will enable people to age in place. Contact: www.aarp.org/livable

Sept. 28-30, 2005: International Conference on Accessible Tourism, Kenya, Nairobi. The conference topics include: accessible tourism, accessible accommodation, accessible transportation, accessible environment, universal design and accessibility as a human right. Contact: bodo@avu.org.

Oct. 23-26, 2005: White House Conference on Aging, Washington, DC. This conference, which occurs once a decade, makes policy recommendations to the President and Congress to assist the public and private sectors in promoting the dignity, health, independence, and economic security of current and future generations of older persons. Contact: www.aoa.gov/press/conferernce_on_aging/conf_on_aging.asp

Events to be placed in the UDN Calendar must be submitted to the editor two months before the publication date.

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