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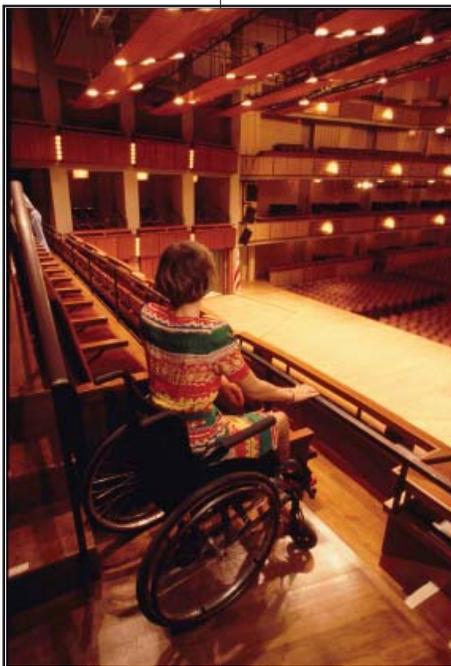
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Proposed ADA Regs Withdrawn from OMB Review

The Department of Justice (DOJ) has delayed publication of updated final regulations under the Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA) due to the presidential transition, according to the DOJ. DOJ, which had submitted the new regulations to the Office of Management and Budget (OMB) for review and clearance in early December, withdrew its submission Jan. 21 in response to a memorandum from the Obama Administration. The memo directed Federal agencies to postpone publication of any new regulations until incoming administration officials have had an opportunity to review them. The draft final rules were to amend the regulations implementing Title II and Title III of the ADA.

According to DOJ, “This action was taken in response to a memorandum from the President’s Chief of Staff directing the Executive Branch agencies to defer

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Balcony seating in the Kennedy Center Concert Hall

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Historic Theater to Accessible Venue

The challenge of transforming yesterday’s theaters

by Denise McGiffin Hofstedt

Communities often rally around efforts to save a beloved historic landmark theater from the wrecking ball. But once the theater is saved, those in charge are faced with the reality of converting what was once most likely a former vaudeville house into an accessible multi-purpose performance venue with its historic integrity in tact.

“Pre-1950s theaters were not built to be accessible,” says Betty Siegel, Director of Accessibility at the John F. Kennedy Center for the Performing Arts in Washington, DC. “They don’t have accessible restrooms and they don’t have enough restrooms. Most older theaters have balconies, but don’t usually have elevators. And getting between levels – from the front of house or back of house – is difficult.”

The accessibility challenges are many, but with the proper attitude, they can be overcome, according to Siegel. The first step is to approach

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Two-Step Rulemaking Process Too Slow

by Ed Roether, AIA and Kleo King

With respect to establishing a new Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA) Standard, to us the issue is that the federal rulemaking process slows down the development of accessibility standards. Compressed schedules

for building projects are common in today's market and in a fast paced world with evolving building technologies, we cannot afford the luxury of an outmoded two-step process. The US Architectural & Transportation Barriers Compliance Board (Access Board), created by Congress specifically to address matters of accessibility, has a long history of working cooperatively with advisory committees, model codes and standards organizations to gain consensus. They have the necessary expertise to develop accessibility standards. The Access Board's guidelines should be adopted shortly after they are finalized so that the standards are timely and responsive to citizens' concerns. It would be beneficial to industry and citizens with disabilities alike if the Access Board, on which the Department of Justice (DOJ) is a voting member, was authorized to develop the ADA Standards, not just the underlying guidelines.

DOJ was instrumental in the development of the Access Board's guidelines. DOJ should be prepared to adopt those guidelines to replace their ADA standards without delay and without substantive change. Doesn't

ADA require DOJ to establish standards consistent with the Access Board's Guidelines? Are there really no time limits in the ADA requiring DOJ to respond to those Guidelines? The Access

Board published updates to its Guidelines for Children's Environments and State and Local Government Facilities in 1998; Play Areas in 2000; and Recreation Facilities in 2002. DOJ has adopted none of these, even those published 11 years ago. DOJ withdrew its regulations to adopt the 2004 ADAAG early in 2009 before they were cleared by the Office of Management and Budget (OMB). (See article on page 1.) However, DOJ had more than four years to consider the revised guidelines, to develop and submit its regulations for timely approval regardless of its involvement in the development of those guidelines.

The 2004 ADAAG is closely harmonized with the International Building Code (IBC) and its accessibility standard, the ANSI A117.1. Two editions of the IBC have been issued in the time DOJ has been considering the adoption of the Access Board's guidelines. This two-step federal rulemaking process, involving both the Access Board and the DOJ, is not only wasteful but unresponsive to the needs of our citizens. The unnecessary lag time between the issuance of federal ADA Standards and the model codes and standards makes it almost impossible for federal agencies to be responsive – no standard is ever perfect. The codes and standards development process is transparent and conducted on a

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About the Authors: Ed Roether, AIA, is an Associate Principal with Populous, formerly HOK Sport Venue Event. Kleo King is the Senior Vice President of Accessibility Services for United Spinal Association.

BOMA: 'Grandfather' Existing Elements

The Building Owners & Managers Association (BOMA) remains strongly in support of the prompt issuance of the new ADA guidelines, provided they include the essential grandfather clause for existing elements in compliance with the current guidelines (for both barrier removal and path of travel obligations).

Larry Perry, AIA

BOMA International Codes Consultant



Apple Store to Move Toilet 1/8”?

The owners of an Apple retail store in San Francisco will be moving a toilet 1/8” if a proposed settlement agreement is approved as written by a judge.

The bathroom alteration is part of a proposed agreement that would settle a lawsuit filed by two California women who found the store on Stockton Street inaccessible and in violation of the Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA) and California law. The women, who use wheelchairs, filed a joint lawsuit after having similar experiences when visiting the store in 2007.

According to the complaint, the women were unable to reach the buttons in the elevator; merchandise was out of reach and store employees did not offer assistance; there were barriers in the path of travel and service areas such as the “genius bar” were inaccessible.

In the proposed settlement, the store agreed to modify its unisex bathroom by moving the toilet 1/8”, installing a motion activated light and adjusting the push pressure of the bathroom door to comply with the Americans with Disabilities Act Accessibility Guidelines (ADAAG) and California law. Under the agree-

ment the store would also have to monitor the toilet paper dispenser and “insure that an adequate supply of toilet paper is placed in the upper dispenser.”

In addition, the Apple store would provide mandatory training to its retail employees on how to offer assistance to customers who use wheelchairs and how to maintain an accessible path of travel. The agreement was signed by the parties involved in early February and has been sent to the judge for approval.

Two More NYC Hotels Reach Agreements with DOJ

Two more New York City hotels targeted in the May 2005 Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA) sweep have settled up with the Department of Justice (DOJ). It was announced that the Sheraton Manhattan Hotel and the Park Central Hotel had reached voluntary ADA compliance agreements with DOJ. The agreements were the result of the May 2005 compliance review effort by US Attorney’s Office for the Southern District of New York.

Of the 50 targeted hotels, five are being sued by DOJ, 17 have reached voluntary compliance agreements with DOJ and 27 additional agreements are being finalized. The status of one property has not been made public.

Inclusive Home Design Act Returns

Federal legislation that is intended to increase the number of homes for people with disabilities was re-introduced in the US House of Representatives in March. The Inclusive Home Design Act (HR 1408), introduced by Rep. Jan Schakowsky (D-IL), would require that all newly-built single-family homes and townhouses receiving federal funds meet four specific standards:

- Include at least one accessible (“zero step”) entrance into the home,
- Ensure all doorways on the main floor have a minimum of 32” of clear passage space,
- Build at least one wheelchair accessible bathroom on the main floor, and
- Place electrical and climate controls (such as light switches and thermostats) at heights reachable from a wheelchair.

According to Schakowsky, currently, 95 percent of new single-family homes and townhouses built with federal assistance fail to include any features that make it possible for people with mobility impairments to live in or visit the homes.

... currently, 95 percent of new single-family homes and townhouses built with federal assistance fail to include any features that make it possible for people with mobility impairments to live in or visit the homes.



Connecting with our readers

Universal Design Newsletter

Publisher John Salmen will be in the Exhibit Hall at the AIA Convention in San Francisco April 30-May 2

Stop and say “hi” to him and pick up a free **ADA template***

He will be in the **Hogan Manufacturing** booth (#2333) in the AIA Exhibit Hall on May 1st & 2nd, 9:45 am-11:00 am and

he will be at the **Lutron** booth (#6910), May 1st & 2nd, 1:00-2:00 pm

*While supplies last

Mandatory Ordinances Make Visitability Happen

AARP Report Calls for Increasing Public Awareness

If a locality really wants to boost its stock of visitable homes, a mandatory ordinance beats a voluntary program every time.

According to an AARP Public Policy Institute report, the cities with the greatest number of visitable homes have mandatory ordinances. These ordinances require new homes not covered by existing law to have a zero-step entrance, wide doorways with 32" of clear passage space, and a half bathroom on the main floor. The top four localities in the US have a combined total of 28,600 visitable homes built as the result of a mandatory ordinance. In the next three locations on the list, all of which have voluntary programs, only about 1,000 visitable homes have been built.

"Many houses have steps at all entrances, narrow doorways, long and narrow hallways, and lack an accessible bathroom on the main floor," according to the report. "Although a majority of older Americans prefer to stay in their homes, these barriers can make it difficult for them to do so. Furthermore, architectural barriers make it difficult for nondisabled people to accommodate visits from older friends and relatives who need basic accessibility."

That National Association of Home Builders maintains that visitable design can be impractical for certain sites, restricts consumer choice and raises housing costs. In addition, builders say there is not much demand for visitable features.

Visitability advocates counter that the costs of the features are low when incorporated at an early stage and that innovation can solve issues at difficult sites.

The report, authored by IDEA Center's Jordana Maisel, MUP; Edward Steinfeld, AIA; and Concrete Change founder Eleanor Smith, recognizes the efforts of the International Code Council/American Standards Institute

A117.1 to develop consensus based technical standards for visitability features and LEED for its neighborhood design certification program that includes a credit for universal



This home features a zero-step entrance.

accessibility. The authors suggest there are many avenues for encouraging the spread of the visitability movement, including increasing public awareness and bundling visitability with another innovative housing concept could help expand interest and awareness in the concept. □

**... bundling
visitability with
another innovative
housing concept
could help expand
interest and
awareness in the
concept.**

AARP Public Policy
Institute Report

UNIVERSAL
Accessibility and the Americans with Disabilities Act
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UNITED KINGDOM

RIBA Launches New Guidance for Inclusive Design

The Royal Institute of British Architects (RIBA) has launched a new educational film for architects, designers and clients which explores innovative inclusive design.

Titled “Inclusive Design: Creating a User’s World,” the video focuses on three diverse but well-known venues as case studies, The Roundhouse in London, The Eden Project in Cornwall and The Willows School in Wolverhampton. The video demonstrates in detail how inclusive design can be incorporated seamlessly into a variety of buildings, enabling them to be ac-



The Roundhouse in London

cessible to all.

For more information about the video and details on how to access via YouTube or to request a copy, visit: www.architecture.com/NewsAndPress/News/RIBANews/News/2009/RIBALaunchesNewInclusiveGuidance.aspx

CHINA

New Internet Guidelines for Barrier-Free Surfing for Chinese Senior Citizens

The Senior Citizen Information and Technology Commission of the Shanghai Municipal Geriatrics Academy has published 15 rules to enhance the online surfing experience of senior citizens. The group is proposing that all websites across China provide barrier-free browsing for

“World Update” is compiled by Elaine Ostroff, Hon. AIA, founding director of the Adaptive Environments Center, and Denise Hofstedt, Editor of UDN. If you have information about international universal design efforts that you would like to have published in Universal Design Newsletter, write to us at: 6 Grant Ave., Takoma Park, MD 20912; or contact publisher@universaldesign.com

older people. The rules call for controllable font sizes; the use of larger fonts or bold fonts instead of color fonts; video or audio be replaced with sound or textual content; alternate text; and the option of using keyboard or voice control instead of a mouse.

SOUTH AFRICA

Inclusive Tourism on the Web

A new website, www.accessiblecapetown.com is designed to provide disability access information for visitors to Cape Town, South Africa. The creation of the site is timely in that South Africa will host the 2010 FIFA World Cup, soccer championship. The site, which will be launched in May, will allow users to book accessible hotel rooms, arrange for wheelchair accessible taxi service, find vendors who rent equipment and find information on accessible public transportation.

The information is expected to be available in French, Spanish, English and German.

In addition, the website will include information about the activities and attractions in the region and provides an opportunity for inclusive tourism service providers to advertise their offerings.

According to the site, “Cape Town Tourism’s wheels have started turning, prompted by a visit from Scott Rains in February 2009, but they are turning very slowly. Too slowly. Madness - considering the number of disabled visitors who are expected to flock to the World Cup 2010 from both South Africa and overseas - and considering the fact that travelers with disabilities make up an increasingly weighty sector of the tourism market.”

Accessible Cape Town is a sister site to the successful [AccessibleBarcelona](http://www.accessiblebarcelona.com), which was created by Craig Grimes. Site organizers will be working closely with Craig on the South Africa section of his new venture “accessible.travel,” which claims to be the world’s first instant online booking engine for people with disabilities. Hotel bookings can be made via “accessible.travel” at no charge. 

“...Cape Town Tourism’s wheels have started turning, prompted by a visit from Scott Rains in February 2009, but they are turning very slowly. Too slowly....”

Historic Theaters, from page 1

the project with the right mind set. In renovations of historic buildings, the big question to ask is: What makes this building historic? “Is it because of its grand history or the door knobs? It’s probably not the door knobs,” she says. It is difficult to get people to realize what matters. “There are a million things you can do, but people get locked into an ‘everything is historic’ mentality. It absolutely isn’t true.” She says that when it comes down to historic significance usually the seating in the house isn’t why the building is historic.

Challenge #1: Dispersed Accessible Seating

Historic theaters, which have sloped floors, don’t have the features that would easily accommodate dispersed accessible wheelchair seating. The wheelchair seating has to be 33” wide and 48” to 60” deep, it has to be level and has to have an accessible path of travel. It is not difficult to get the seating in the front row and in the back row. The challenge is getting the seating somewhere in the middle. “To get a flat area, you have to elevate the wheelchair seating location and that creates sightline problems,” she says. “To do it right, you have to tear up the floor.” She admits it is a big expense, but often necessary.

Making room for wheelchair accessible spaces can mean a loss in the total number of seats and theater managers are loath to give up seats. In describing the bottom line impact, Siegel notes, “Theaters are built with X number of seats. They can’t create more of their product, like a manufacturer can make more dishes based on demand. If they lose six or four seats, they have to add to the cost to the other seats. They can crank up their ticket prices – but the market will only bear so much.”

But it doesn’t have to be that way. In the three major Kennedy Center renovations, not a seat has been lost. She says that the renovations, which involved tearing out the floor, were beyond what is considered “readily achievable” but the result was worth the effort. The capacity of the renovated theaters

creased capacity,” she says.

In making renovation decisions, the key is knowing your audience, she says. “Our accessible seats do not go unused. We could have twice as many accessible seats and sell them all,” says Siegel.

The Americans with Disabilities Act Accessibility Guidelines (ADAAG) require wheelchair companion seating to be fixed. But for her audience, that type of seating doesn’t work.

Her favorite “equivalent facilitation trick,” which varies from the ADAAG but ultimately creates a better level of accessibility, is to put loose arm chairs in an accessible row on a cross aisle. “Sometimes five people who use wheelchairs come together. If you had fixed seating, they couldn’t sit together.” The Kennedy Center theaters’ accessible and flexible seating can handle just about any combination of people who come to a performance.

“The space is flexible. It can accommodate oversized chairs and someone who lies down. If we followed the letter of the ADAAG, we couldn’t do it,” says Siegel. She notes that to make this solution work, ushers are needed to move chairs around as necessary.

Challenge #2: Restrooms

The entrances to historic theaters tend not to be a problem. But small lobbies and insufficient restroom space are the norm. Sometimes a space for an accessible unisex restroom can be carved out on the first floor even if it means losing an office.

Challenge #3: Stages

Because stages were built to have vaudeville sets loaded on and off, they are often inherently accessible. But getting from a dressing room to the stage or from the audience seating to the stage is not easy. “Dressing rooms are usually on a different level. You can create an accessible dressing room in the wing space.”

Challenge #3: Balconies

Many historic theaters have balcony seating. If there is money and space, installing an elevator can solve the problem. Siegel says she has seen space-challenged theaters put the elevator in a building next door. “If you’re lucky...it works and everything lines up,” she says.

A Unified Approach

Those physical items that can’t be “fixed” can often be addressed through policy, procedures and customer service. In a historic facility, the physical

See **Historic Theaters**, page 7

“The space is flexible. It can accommodate oversized chairs and someone who lies down. If we followed the letter of the ADAAG, we couldn’t do it.”

Betty Siegel,
Director of Accessibility,
John F. Kennedy Center
for the Performing Arts



The flexible space in the Concert Hall accommodates a variety of patrons.

were 260, 1,500 and 2,000. “The architect worked really hard not to lose seats and in some cases in-

Historic Theaters, from page 6

access to the property needs to work in conjunction with its operating policies. “To provide accessible solutions, you need a unified approach... physical access and policy – they are interconnected,” says Siegel.

For example, if a theater’s ticket prices are \$10, \$50 and \$100 and the theater only offers wheelchair accessible seating in front or orchestra section at \$100 a ticket, then there is discrimination. But a policy can be crafted to compensate for the lack of accessible seating in the lower priced sections.

Bill Patterson, President of Art Accessibility Solution in New Oxford, PA, agrees that good policies, procedures and customer services are important to a theater’s success.

Patterson worked on developing policies and training staff and volunteers at the recently renovated Majestic Theater in Gettysburg, PA, which was built in 1925 as a movie/vaudeville house. The accessibility challenges were many, making the program access even more important.

The policies developed for the theater “make it easy for anyone to be a patron,” says Patterson. The scope of the Majestic’s policies range from the seasonal training of the volunteer staff, availability of sign language interpreters, large print programs, elevator escorts, as well as how long to hold wheelchair accessible seats and when to release them.

“A theater that lacks in physical access, can make up for it in good customer service,” says Patterson. 

The policies developed for the theater “make it easy for anyone to be a patron.”

Guest Editorial, from page 2

predictable cycle with ample time for consensus development – at a minimum, the federal process should imitate the codes development process. Ideally, the federal process should capitalize on the codes and standards whenever possible, concentrating efforts on the development of new areas of interest to benefit persons with a disability.

At best, harmonization between the federal standard and the model codes and standards is

extremely difficult to maintain when the federal process and codes process are not harmonized. Harmonizing with a federal standard that is hampered by its development process restricts codes and standards development from being as current with the needs of our citizens as it could be. It is time for a change; both industry and persons with a disability deserve a federal standard that is current and responds in a timely manner to their needs. 

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Number of People with Disabilities is on the Rise

US Census Report Confirms Perceived Increase

One in five US residents report some level of disability, according to the latest US Census Bureau report. Released in late December and based on data collected in 2005, the report noted that 54.4 million Americans reported a disability, or 19 percent of the US population. That total is up from 51.2 million people in 2002, the last time the data was collected.

The survey found that 46 percent of people age 21 to 64 with a disability were employed, compared with 84 percent of the people in this age group without a disability. In addition, the report noted that the chances of having a disability increase with age. Fifty-two percent of people 65 and older, or 18.1 million people, have a disability.

For people 80 and older, the disability rate was 71 percent.

The study, "Americans with Disabilities: 2005," also found that among people 15 and older, 10.2 million use canes, crutches, or walkers, and 3.3 million use wheeled mobility aids. An estimated 7.8 million are reported to have difficulty hearing a normal conversation, including 1 million without any hearing. Another 7.8 million are estimated to have difficulty seeing ordinary newspaper print, including 1.8 million without any vision. Other findings from the survey indicate that more than 16 million people have a cognitive, mental, or emotional disability and that more than 5.4 million children under age 15 have some type of disability. For more information on the study, visit the Bureau's website at www.census.gov/Press-Release/www/releases/archives/income_wealth/013041.html



DESIGN TIP

An Efficient Shower Design



T-Shaped Shower Design

? PROBLEM: Are there any "techniques" that can minimize space in a hotel guestroom bathroom under the 2004 ADAAG?

TIP: One technique we have found to work especially well in hotel renovations is to have the wheelchair turning space requirement satisfied by a T-Shaped Space (allowed by 304.3.2) that has one arm within an Alternate Roll-in type shower compartment (allowed by 608.2.3) with a flush grating over a trough drain threshold (see Linear Drain, page 9).

Customized Bicycle Products

Little Cycles has introduced customizing cycling products for little people. The company offers a six- speed bike with Shimano components, a comfortable saddle, high pres-



Customized bike

sure tires and front suspension. The price of the bike includes a consultation process to gather information about riding preferences, i.e. trail, road, etc. and the body proportions of the buyer. In addition, shipping is free and the company will pay to have the bike built at the buyer's local bike shop.

Linear Drain

Quick Drain USA™ has introduced a low profile linear shower drain. The stainless steel



Low profile linear drain

channel slot shower drain and can be used with any tile size. It can be installed as a channel drain under the shower door or against the shower wall as a linear trench drain.

It is easy to install, easy to clean and has a very high flow rate.

Destination Control System

Kone has developed an elevator destination control system. The KONE Polaris™, system allows users to indicate their destinations before they board an elevator. The system optimizes the traveling time by taking passengers to their destination with the fewest



Destination elevator call system

intermediate stops. It reduces time spent riding in an elevator and alleviates overcrowding in elevators.

Porous Paving System

Grasspave2 is porous paving system that allows users to park, drive, walk, roll, ride, or lounge on a beautiful grass surface. It performs the functions of asphalt or concrete pavement, with the aesthetics of a lawn. The system, manufactured in 1 square meter units (3.3' x 3.3') or quarter-meter units (1.65 feet x 1.65 feet) and assembled into rolls, is a pervious load bearing surface, that can serve to filter storm water pollution. Grasspave can be used for overflow parking, fire lanes, special event parking, grass driveways and accessible pedestrian access routes. 



Paving system

Little Cycles
[Customized Bike]
www.littlecycles.com

Quick Drain USA™
[Linear Drain]
www.quickdrainUSA.com

Destination Control System
[Elevator System]
www.kone.com

Grasspave2
[Porous Paving System]
Invisible Structures, Inc.
1600 Jackson St.,
Suite 310
Golden, CO 80401
800-233-1510
303-233-8383
www.invisiblestructures.com



The Often Overlooked Alcove Condition

When alcove requirements meet clear floor space

Welcome to *Universal Design Newsletter* "Aha! Moments." Accessibility experts know that no one knows it all. Those in the field occasionally come across technical accessibility criteria anomalies that evoke an "Aha! Moment." This column seeks to identify those surprising criteria and present opinions as to their intent. We welcome your discoveries as well. If you have comments or other examples of strange things you have found in the technical standards that made you scratch your head or otherwise change your mind -- send them to us.

If you have examples of strange things you have found in the technical standards -- send them to us.

One of the most common mistakes we find in accessibility surveys and plans reviews is the lack of recognition of an alcove condition and how it affects the clear floor space at an element.

Many designers overlook the criteria found in the current [Americans with Disabilities Act Accessibility Guidelines (1991 ADAAG) Section 4.2.4.2] that requires a wider space when a 30" by 48" wheelchair clear floor space is constrained on more than two sides. The IBC/ANSI A117.1 and the 2004 ADAAG have the same criteria at Section 305.7)



A toilet compartment in an alcove that is 30" wide and about 5' deep.

When a forward approach clear floor space extends more than 24 inches into an alcove the clear floor space must widen from 30" to at least 36".

We frequently find urinals located next to a toilet compartment in a 30" wide alcove that is about 5' deep. (See photo on the left side of this page.)

When a side approach clear floor space extends more than 15" into an alcove, the clear floor space must widen from 48" to at least 60".



ATM's at the end of a 3' or 4' wide aisle with controls in positions that require side approach.

Reg/Leg Watch, from page 3

Hotels.com Makes Changes

Hotels.com, one of the world's leading online travel agencies, has agreed to add features to its online travel reservations systems so that travelers with disabilities can use the service to search for and reserve hotel rooms that have the accommodations they need.

As part of the settlement, Hotels.com and its parent company Expedia.com, will gather information about hotels' accessibility features, and will then incorporate that information into their websites so that travelers can both search for hotels with rooms that offer the particular accommodations, and make special requests online to book those accessible rooms.

This settlement ushers in a new era, said

Kevin Knestrick, an attorney with Disabilities Rights Advocates, Berkeley, CA "A wheelchair user who reserves a hotel room online will no longer have to worry that she or he literally might not be able to enter the room after they arrive."

The settlement, which was announced in late January, stems from a lawsuit, *Smith v. Hotels.com L.P.* In the suit, the co-plaintiffs claimed that despite making reservations online and contacting Hotels.com's customer-care representatives, they found that wheelchair-accessible rooms weren't guaranteed.

No damages were sought in the case which was filed in the California Superior Court for Alameda County. ▣

Access to Design

Two new slide shows from The Access to Design Professions Project are now available to view and or project from your computer. *Becoming an Architect, Opportunities and Challenges for Students who are Deaf or Hard of Hearing* and *Universal Design as a Success Strategy for University at Buffalo Students, Faculty and Staff* were devel-



New Slide Show

oped by Beth Tauke through a collaborative project with the Institute for Human Centered Design funded in part by a grant from the National Endowment for the Arts. The shows are posted at www.accessstodesign.org under publications.

National Center on Accessibility

If you need ideas on best practices for developing and designing outdoor activities, visit the National Center on Accessibility website, www.ncaonline.org.

NCA promotes access and inclusion for people with disabilities in parks, recreation and tourism. Based at Indiana University and established in 1992 through a cooperative agreement with the National Park Service, NCA has emerged as an authority on access issues unique to park and recreation programs and facilities. The center offers training and a multitude of resources on facility and program access.

Institute for Human Centered Design

Take a YouTube virtual tour of the “show-

room” of the Institute for Human Centered Design, formerly Adaptive Environments. The tour, found on www.adaptenv.org, showcases the the Institute as a living laboratory where universally designed products are incorporated into the work and exhibit space of the facility.

The staff offers exhibitors first hand feedback on their ideas and designs. The work stations feature Haefele and Humanscale products. Humanscale chairs surround the conference room. All the restrooms are equipped with Dyson Airblades, hygienic hand dryers, and TOTO sinks and digital bidets.

The facility also includes exhibits which showcase projects and competitions from the UK, Europe, Japan and anywhere in the world where good examples illuminate the vision of socially sustainable design. 

NCA has emerged as an authority on access issues unique to park and recreation programs and facilities.

ADA Regs, from page 1

publication of any new regulations until the rules are reviewed and approved by officials appointed by President Obama. No final action will be taken by [DOJ] with respect to these rules until the incoming officials have had the opportunity to review the rulemaking record. Incoming officials will have the full range of rulemaking options available to them under the Administrative Procedure Act.”

Withdrawal of the draft final rules does not affect existing ADA regulations. Title II and Title III entities must continue to follow the DOJ existing ADA regulations, including the ADA Standards for Accessible Design, according to a statement on the DOJ website.

A DOJ spokesperson had “no further information” when asked when the final rule would be resubmitted to OMB and if there would be any changes to the final rule before it is sent back to OMB. 

April 22-24, 2009: 3rd International Conference on Accessible Tourism (ICAT) 2009, Singapore. Themed "Tourism Unlimited: Access for All," the conference will be hosted by The Disabled People's Association which promotes accessible tourism in the Asia-Pacific region. Contact: www.ICAT2009.com.sg

April 30-May 2, 2009: AIA National Convention & Expo, San Francisco, CA. This national conference will feature at least many sessions on accessibility and universal design. Contact: www.AIAconvention.com. (Details on the sessions are below.)

April 30: Designing for Everyone: Universal Design's Importance in a Socially Responsible Practice (Karen Braitmayer, FAIA; Erick Mikiten, AIA and Elaine Ostroff, Hon. AIA) 7-8 am

April 30: Designers with Disabilities at Work: Sustainability and Social Justice (Karen Braitmayer, FAIA; Daniel G. Hunter, BLA, MLA; Harold Kiewel, AIA, CSI, CCS), 10-11:30 am.

May 1: Out of Sight, Out of Mind: Aesthetic Message Written in the Built Environment About People with Disabilities (Daniel G. Hunter, BLA, MLA), 6-7 pm.

May 1: The New ADA Standards: What You Need to Know (John Salmen, AIA and Andy Yarrish, AIA) 8:15 -9:45 am.

May 2: ADA: The Complexity of Compliance (Salmen, Harold Kiewel, AIA, CSI, CCS and Trevor Ashbarry, Esq.) 8:15-9:45 am.

May 28, 2009: Town Hall Meeting, the US Architectural & Transportation Barriers Compliance Board, Boston, MA. This multi-event day-long gathering will include presentations by professionals on efforts to promote accessibility in design education, panel discussion of an accessible museum exhibit and an "open mic" opportunity to talk to the Access Board members. Contact: www.access-board.gov, 202-272-0041(v), 800-993-2822 (tty).

July 8-10, 2009: 2nd International Conference on the Inclusive Museum, University of Queensland, Brisbane, Australia. The program will include presentations by the leaders in museum studies as well as numerous papers, colloquiums and workshop presentations. Contact: <http://z09.cgpublisher.com>

July 15-17, 2009: US Architectural & Transportation Barriers Compliance Board Meeting, Washington, DC. Contact: www.access-board.gov/about/meetings.htm

Events to be placed in the UDN Calendar must be submitted to the editor one month before the publication date.

Universal Design Newsletter

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