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Built on a Promise

A beautiful new home now stands on the location of a derelict dairy farm in a rural community in Virginia. It was designed by a man with an extraordinary vision and a promise to keep.

Ron Knecht never planned to move from his home in Fairfax, Virginia, but that was before his wife and partner of 46 years became ill with cancer. As her health deteriorated, she exacted the promise from Knecht that he would move to live closer to his daughter.

When Knecht started house hunting to keep that promise, he was decidedly underwhelmed by the choices the realtor gave him. They found plenty of “McMansions” with, as Knecht says, “lots of stairs, chopped up floor plans and formal rooms people don’t even use.” If there was one thing Knecht knew from experience with his wife’s progressive physical impairment, it was that he didn’t want

See *Built on a Promise*, page 6



Knecht added extra space to the garage to enable disembarkation in a protected area.

Showcasing Universal Design at 2012 International Builders’ Show®

Universal Design will have a greater presence at the 2012 NAHB International Builders’ Show (IBS), reflecting the growing demand from both consumers and contractors for the tools and products to incorporate Universal Design into their lives and homes. The show will take place in Orlando, Florida, February 8 - 11, 2012.

Two NAHB Councils, 50+ Lifestyle and Remodelers, will feature Universal Design in more education and community events than ever before. Each Council’s community events will take place in a complimentary, large meeting room, located nearby the Education sessions and open to all show attendees with a badge and an interest

See *IBS Preview*, page 7

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by John P. S. Salmen

Do-it-yourself Universal Design

Over the last 30 years, I've watched the field of Universal Design grow and have been amazed and impressed by recent developments. The promise of safe, stylish, green and comfortable homes is becoming a reality for people all over the world. The latest efforts by

the National Association of Homebuilders and AARP are making Universal Design a common-use term in homes around the country and a widely-sought amenity in housing construction and renovation. AARP's Better Living Design Institute and the advanced CAPS program from NAHB (see news about the IBS show on page 1) are helping to make consumers more aware and contractors more capable of how to create universally designed homes that last for a lifetime.

And it's getting so that it's not only affordable but doable by many people, especially aging baby boomers. Late last fall I had the opportunity to visit the home of Ron Knecht in Fairfax, Virginia. Ron recently designed and built a universally designed home using what he calls the

three pillars of Universal Design: efficiency, durability and accessibility. Using books and reference material that he found on the web, Ron was able to find contractors, purchase products, identify and customize details and basically design himself a universal home that would work for him and his

"The promise of safe, stylish, green and comfortable homes is becoming a reality for people all over the world."

daughter and her family. Learn more about Ron's experience with doable Universal Design on page 1.

The potential of Universal Design homes for everyone is becoming a reality for all. ■

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LETTER

to the EDITOR

Comment on this and other discussion topics on the Discussion Forum at UniversalDesign.com or contactus@udconsultants.com.

Touch Screens Not Accessible to the Blind

In the October issue, there is a statement regarding how devices are now designed for universal accessibility. I believe that's incorrect. There is a proliferation of devices using "touch screen" technology that is not accessible to people who are blind. There may be specialized designs for many devices, but sources for these devices, if available, are uncommon, and not obvious. Also, they may be more expensive than inaccessible devices.

While some devices accessible to people with limited eyesight may be available, so to speak, one cannot go into a gym, for example, and find equipment that is tactile. The "buttons" are now universally "touch screens." And, "touch", in this case does not make it accessible.

Sincerely,
Douglas Hildie

Access Board Extends Comment Period for Public Rights-of-Way Rule

The U.S. Access Board has reopened the comment period on its proposed guidelines for accessible public rights-of-way and extended the deadline to February 2, 2012. The original comment deadline was November 23. This action was taken in response to requests from interested parties, including government and trade associations, for additional time to submit comments on the rule.

The proposed guidelines address access to public streets and sidewalks, street crossings, on-street parking, and other components of public rights-of-way. Comments can be submitted or viewed through the www.regulations.gov website. Further information on this rulemaking is available on the Board’s website: <http://access-board.gov/prowac/index.htm>.

Access Board Releases New Draft of ICT Rule for Public Comment

The U.S. Access Board has released for public comment a revised draft of updated accessibility requirements for information and communication technology (ICT) covered by Section 508 of the Rehabilitation Act and Section 255 of the Telecommunications Act. This latest version includes changes made in response to public feedback received on an earlier draft issued last year.

The released draft is available for public comment until March 7. The draft rule and related information are available on the Board’s website: <http://www.access-board.gov/508.htm>. During the comment period, the Board will hold public hearings in Washington, D.C. on January 11 and at the annual CSUN Conference in San Diego on March 1. Further information on the rulemaking and hearings is available on the Board’s website: <http://www.access-board.gov/508.htm>.

New York Apartment Complex Will Be Retrofitted for Accessibility

On July 25, 2011, the developer and architect of a 143-unit residential apartment complex in New York, New York, entered into consent decrees with the Department of

Justice resolving a lawsuit that alleged they violated the Fair Housing Act (FHA) in the design and construction of The Melar, a 22-story apartment building on the upper west side of Manhattan. The lawsuit, filed on September 30, 2010, alleged that the defendants failed to provide kitchens and bathrooms that are usable by people with disabilities, failed to provide accessible routes into and within the apartment units, failed to make public and common areas accessible for people with disabilities, and located light switches, electrical outlets, and other controls in inaccessible locations. The lawsuit also alleged that The Melar’s design and construction violated the accessibility provisions of New York City law.

The consent decree with L&M 93rd Street LLC, the developer and owner of The Melar, requires the company to pay all costs related to retrofitting common areas to make them accessible to people with disabilities and reconfiguring the bathrooms, kitchens, and closets in apartments; some of the retrofits to the apartments are mandatory and some are upon the request of the tenants. In addition, the developer will establish a fund in the amount of \$288,300 to make additional improvements for the benefit of people with disabilities.

The L&M consent decree also establishes a settlement fund of \$180,000 to compensate individuals harmed by the lack of accessible features at The Melar. Anyone who believes that he or she may be entitled to monetary relief should write to the Chief of the Civil Rights Unit at the U.S. Attorney’s Office, 86 Chambers Street, Third Floor, New York, New York, 10007, or contact the Civil Rights Complaint Line at 212-637-2987 (voice) or 212-637-0039 (TTY).

The consent decree with Costas Kondylis & Partners, LLP, the architectural firm that designed the building, as well as the L&M consent decree, requires both companies to undergo training on the requirements of the FHAA and pay a civil penalty to the United States in the amount of \$40,000 each.

“The Fair Housing Act is an important safeguard for those with disabilities and helps



“The Fair Housing Act is an important safeguard for those with disabilities and helps ensure that they can enjoy full use of and access to their living spaces.”

Preet Bharara
U.S. Attorney
Southern District of New York

Mark Derry's Person-Centered Approach to UD

Mark Derry is a true entrepreneur in the field of Universal Design (UD). While many in the field gravitated to UD while working as architects or designers, Mark's professional expertise was honed not through formal education but practical experience. It is that practicality in finding solutions to problems that clients find especially helpful and quite often, cost effective.

Prior to founding his consulting practice, Eastlake, Derry and Associates, Mark provided technical assistance on the Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA) to clients of the ADA Technical Assistance Centers in New York and Maryland, but his grass-roots activism in the area of independent living is what started it all.

Mark first became acquainted with an Independent Living Center (ILC) in Middletown, New York, where he had gone for an appointment with a prosthetist and learned about their amputee support group. The ILC wanted to start a home modifications program and Mark was quickly tapped to lend his creative problem solving skills to the team. It helped that Mark "knows how buildings are put up and taken apart" having worked on construction projects much of his life. As the Center's home modifications expert, Mark was eligible to participate in the first comprehensive ADA training program offered by the Disability Rights Education and Defense Fund under a grant from the U.S. Department of Justice. There, Mark learned the fundamentals of the original ADA and the details of the ADA Accessibility Guidelines, making him one of only a handful of ADA experts in the Northeast in 1993.

One of the challenges Mark faced early on was helping contractors and code officials find the common sense solutions to remodel or new design challenges. Too often, contractors or code officials would try to apply one-size-fits-all solutions in their attempts at compliance. Such right-spirited but poorly conceived solutions sometimes missed the mark – badly, creating frustration and disappointment on all sides.

Mark recalls one home design problem he was called in on by a distraught homeowner who used a wheelchair for mobility. After spending \$20,000 and being out of her home for two months, she returned to her beautifully renovated

bathroom to discover she couldn't use the toilet. A wall with a grab bar had been removed to make way for a roll-in shower. Her contractor wouldn't modify it, claiming that all elements were "ADA compliant," which may have been acceptable for a public use area but didn't work for the homeowner. Unfortunately, he had not thoroughly discussed the plan with the homeowner or taken adequate time to determine what she really wanted. When Mark came in, he asked the homeowner to demonstrate how she accessed the toilet or would like to. She showed how she needed the formerly positioned grab bar to pivot from her chair to the toilet and that the technically conforming grab bars on the opposite wall would not work for her. Ultimately, Mark had to rebuild the wall positioning a 24" grab bar vertically for her to use in her transfer. The wall also allowed the installation of a shower seat and grab bar in the shower so that she could transfer and use the shower independently.

As a trainer for the ILC, Mark lent his expertise to other organizations throughout the Northeast working with other Independent Living Centers, Paralyzed Veterans of America and the regional ADA Technical Assistance Center where he repeated his mantra that "the consumer is the first person on the team." Mark also advocated the benefit to the remodeling or building professional of bringing in an Occupational Therapist or Physical Therapist to consult when an individual's physical limitations were known or anticipated.

With that person-centered approach, Mark was a natural for a leadership position within the National Council on Independent Living (NCIL). NCIL promotes the concept that "people with disabilities are the best experts on their own needs, that they have crucial and valuable perspectives to contribute to society, and are deserving of equal opportunity to decide how to live, work, and take part in their communities." He has served on the Governing Board and has chaired the ADA/Civil Rights Sub-Committee for the past 10 years, where he participated in the rulemaking process on the ADA Amendments Act. Mark has served his home state of West Virginia by participating on the Statewide Independent Living Council, a position to which he has been appointed by three Governors.



His grass-roots activism in the area of independent living is what started it all.

UNIVERSITY OF CAMBRIDGE/UNITED KINGDOM

Inclusive Design Toolkit

The Engineering Design Center at the University of Cambridge has released a second edition of its Inclusive Design Toolkit.

The online toolkit is divided into pages explaining inclusive design, making the business case for improving customer satisfaction and tips on how to get started. Further segments discuss user capabilities or human function considerations and design tools. The toolkit can be reviewed



and downloaded in segments or can be purchased as a book (350 pages) from the University of Cambridge. See it at: <http://www.inclusivedesigntoolkit.com/betterdesign2/> or contact: edc-toolkit@eng.cam.ac.uk.

BRUSSELS
European Partners Promote Accessible Tourism

The European Network for Accessible Tourism (ENAT) announced that it has joined with partner organizations the World Tourism Organization (UNWTO) and the ONCE Foundation for Cooperation and Social Inclusion of People with Disabilities in signing a Cooperative Agreement to develop more accessible tourism options for people with disabilities.

The Agreement, signed in Madrid, builds on the UN Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities of 2007 and a Resolution on Accessible Tourism for All of 2005.

Aimed at enabling universal access to tourism facilities and services, the Agreement entails a series of initiatives, including raising awareness, and providing technical support, indicators and training in the field of accessibility to national Tourism Administrations and tourism enterprises. The trilateral accord also involves the promotion of traineeships for young people with disabilities in preparation for entering the labor market. It will include pilot projects in tourist destinations and will involve the application of new technologies to facilitate the participation of persons with disabilities in tourism and leisure-related activities.

Ms. Lilian Muller, President of ENAT, said the initiative hopes to “bring greater awareness of Accessible Tourism for All among UNWTO members and to provide them with new tools and resources so that they can make effective progress in this growing field of tourism.”

For more information or to follow progress of the initiatives see ENAT at: <http://www.accessibletourism.org>



“World Update” is compiled by Elaine Ostroff, Hon. AIA, founding director of the Institute for Human Centered Design.

...a series of initiatives, including raising awareness, and providing technical support, indicators and training in the field of accessibility to national Tourism Administrations and tourism enterprises.

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ensure that they can enjoy full use of and access to their living spaces,” said Manhattan U.S. Attorney Preet Bharara. “Architects, owners and developers play a key role in making sure that these requirements are met, and when they fail to do so, this Office will hold them accountable.”



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Built on a Promise, from page 1

to have to deal with stairs or cramped spaces as he aged.

It became apparent to Knecht that to get what he really wanted, he would have to design it himself. Having a background as a defense contractor, Knecht was knowledgeable about the Americans with Disabilities Act and a number of accessible design features; and he rightly assumed there was more out there for the homeowner. “The Internet is a wonderful tool to start searching, then that leads to other things,” reports Knecht. However, he did find that some universally designed homes just lack “real life” functionality. For example, “traffic flow and storage in the kitchen just weren’t well thought out,” he says and “there was never enough cabinet space planned for a serious cook,” as he is. He researched sustainable and efficient panelized construction along with geothermal heat source and backup power



Wide aisles, multiple counter heights and knee and toe clearance make the kitchen useable by all.

generation to ensure a reliable and maintainable system. After looking at more than 100 different plans for design ideas, Knecht used a basic CAD program to draft his own single level design.

The next challenge was to find the right builder. In the course of his planning and research, Knecht defined three priorities for his new home: first, that it be designed to be usable by anyone regardless of age or ability, second, that it be built to the highest energy efficiency standards and third, that all features and finishes require little to no maintenance. This last point was particularly important to Knecht because it was his intention for his daughter to live in the house after him, and he didn’t want her to have to deal with maintenance issues in her senior years.

Looking for a contractor familiar with energy-efficient design, Knecht considered five builders in the area, talking with references and reviewing projects. He settled on Golden Rule Builders, an experienced green builder and winner of the Northern Virginia Building Industry Association (NVBIA) Builder of the Year award.

Anthony Palladino, Building Designer at Golden Rule, acknowledged that while people will come armed with photos and floor plans of homes they like, few have researched their projects as completely as Knecht. Still, certain elements of the plan presented real challenges in order to achieve both what Knecht wanted and to meet building codes. Anthony says, “Sometimes you have to think outside the box. A custom builder needs to be solution oriented to give the client exactly what they want.”

Knecht’s home was not the first Universal Design project for Golden Rule - it is a concept they espouse as a custom builder. Because custom builders are able to respond to lifestyle requests, they encourage customers to think into the future about how they want to live in and use their homes. Maintaining an active lifestyle can best be accommodated by a home that can be enjoyed and used by all ages, from children to adults to older adults.

Features of the Knecht home acknowledge and encourage health and wellness for anyone. An exercise room, located in the same hallway as the bedrooms, features a floating floor, easier on the joints than basement concrete. Day light tubes keep interior spaces from being gloomy and have the added advantage of saving electricity during daylight hours. A deep porch allows for ample outdoor socializing and doubles as a shield to keep too much sun from heating the great room in the summer. All entrances to the home have level thresholds allowing easy access and egress for anyone carrying groceries, moving furniture, using a mobility device or pushing a stroller.

Elements of the kitchen design allow everyone to get involved in meal preparation. From the dual islands (one lowered to 34”) to the touch control faucet on an island sink and a pull out extension counter, the large kitchen encourages everyone to gather and participate.

Continued on next page

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The home's three full baths all feature zero threshold showers with trench drains that allow the use of single plane sloped shower floors that help to prevent slips or falls. Other bathroom features include extended-lip sinks with open space beneath and comfort height toilets with nearby



Step-in/transfer tubs are usable by the whole family.

electrical outlets to accommodate the eventual installation of integrated toilet seat bidet units.

An unexpected feature in the laundry room is a low dog bath with a handheld sprayer so even the owner's pets can be effortlessly bathed.

In both the kitchen and the bath, Knecht utilized Gaggenau, GE Monogram, Toto and other high-end, though reasonably priced, products to create a highly functional and aesthetically pleasing interior.

The design feature of the home most important to Knecht is the extra space added to the garage. An often overlooked area, the space allows someone using a wheelchair or other mobility device to get in and out of the car in the interior space, so they don't have to transfer in the rain or snow.

Knecht is pleased with the results of his planning, and most everything came out as he had hoped. Of course, he is still thinking of improvements and will be focusing on exterior spaces in the next year: fencing for his daughter's horses perhaps or landscaping to join the dogwood tree planted by the builders. Appropriately, a plaque near the tree recognizes the project as "A Promise Kept." ■

50+ Lifestyle and Remodelers will feature UD in more education and community events than ever before.

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in the community. Called a "Central" by NAHB, the Council meeting room is staged informally with displays, a lounge area, presentation area and a place to grab breakfast, lunch or a snack in between Education sessions.

The 50+ Lifestyle Central will be located in West 314A, the Remodelers Central will be located in West 301 and the hours of operation for both will be Wednesday – Friday, February 8 - 10, 7:30 am – 6:00 pm, Saturday, February 11, 7:30 am – 12:00 noon.

On Wednesday, February 8, the 50+ Lifestyle Central will host Universal Design Day with special sessions including: Building a Successful Business through Universal Design; Navigating UniversalDesign.com, the web-based community for UD information, commerce and professional networking; Selecting the UD Right Product; and Architectural Plans and Marketing Review

And, back by popular demand, industry experts will lead product tours of the tradeshow

floor on Universal Design Day. The Universal Design Product Tours will take place from 2:30 pm – 4:30 pm, Wednesday, February 8. Select manufacturers will have experts in their booths to demonstrate the UD features and innovations of their product offerings. Participants will be able to meet and informally chat with professionals who have successful businesses and extensive experience problem solving for UD.

The Remodelers Central will offer special sessions featuring expert advice and examples of good practice including: Remodeling Hot Topics – Ask the Experts; Certified Aging-In-Place Specialist (CAPS) Day on Thursday, February 9; CAPS 10th anniversary luncheon; and CAPS Roundtables.

For a complete listing of all special sessions and roundtables happening in the Centrals, visit 50+ Lifestyle Central <http://www.buildershow.com/generic.aspx?sectionID=1994> and the Remodelers Central <http://www.buildershow.com/generic.aspx?sectionID=1997>. ■

Wounded Warrior Home - a New Model for Building Accessible Homes on Military Installations

This is an excerpt from the article "Architecture for Recovery: IDEO and Michael Graves Design a Home for Disabled Military Veterans," on Core77.com, published Nov. 30, 2011.

...veterans and their families face the beginning of their next great challenge: returning home and acclimating to a peacetime "normalcy."

In less than a month, the last American troops stationed in Iraq are set to return home. As the United States prepares to celebrate the close of a painfully fraught era of politics and war, veterans and their families face the beginning of their next great challenge: returning home and acclimating to a peacetime "normalcy." Oftentimes, United States' military men and women carry the physical and emotional wounds of their service home with them, "find[ing] workarounds to cope

with their surroundings based on individual capabilities and preferences." Today, IDEO and Michael Graves Associates see their work come alive as the U.S. Army Fort Belvoir and Clark Realty Capital unveil a new model for building accessible homes on military installations: the Wounded Warrior home.



Image courtesy of IDEO

The Wounded Warrior project is a collaboration with the Virginia-based real estate firm Clark Realty Capital and supported by a Department of Defense initiative to develop privatized housing for service members. Using IDEO's human-centered design process, the team interviewed and observed 10 civilians and 20 injured soldiers, "meeting with their loved ones, and getting feedback from nearly two dozen experts. [IDEO] asked questions that shed light on how active duty service members resume civilian life after debilitating injuries, what could make their experience more dignified and healthy, and what might reconnect them with family, close friends, and the world." IDEO

also immersed itself in the recovery and therapy process for disabled veterans and consulted with dozens of medical experts and advocacy groups.

For the entire article, visit http://www.core77.com/blog/architecture/architecture_for_recovery_ideo_and_michael_graves_design_a_home_for_disabled_military_veterans_21224.asp

Mark Derry, from page 4

While Mark continues to provide accessibility training to advocacy groups, most of his time these days is devoted to consulting with health care facilities on bettering their design and practices to serve patients with any range of ability. Hospitals, quick care facilities, and imaging centers have been called out by the U.S. Department of Justice and private plaintiffs for a variety of concerns including inaccessible examination tables and a lack of interpreter assistance for deaf patients.

Mark's approach as a consultant is to create a team to work through the facility and review the built environment as well as institutional policies to determine where barriers exist and find ways

to eliminate them or create alternative solutions. His macro approach is one designed to be both efficient and save the facility the costs of having to solve problems sequentially.

Ultimately, Mark is pleased that his somewhat unplanned career allows him to influence and improve major facilities that will better serve all users. He acknowledges that there is still much work to be done, but it is very gratifying to know that some of those many trainees over the past 20 years have launched their own consulting careers and are working to provide a more accessible landscape, eliminating one barrier at a time. Mark hopes that collectively, they will create a wave of access improvements for a more usable world. ■

Fold-Down Shower Seat by Moen Home Care

Moen enters the market of comfort/safety shower products with their teak and aluminum shower seat. A foldable bench seat integrates nicely into a contemporary spa-look shower room, providing a roomy spot to steam or bathe. The 20” x15” seat supports up to 400 pounds and folds neatly against the wall when not in use. Suiting an array of family users, the bench is an attractive universal design option for including seating in shower, home spa or other wet area. Note: While the seat may be ideal for many homes and residential settings, the seat size does not comply with the Americans with Disabilities Act criteria for public buildings.



Fold-down shower seat by Moen Home Care.

Electric Cooktop by Gaggenau

Designers of homes for multi-generational families have the combined challenges of addressing ease of use, aesthetics and safety in their product recommendations. Design solutions to meet the needs of one demographic cannot be in conflict with the safety of another. To provide accessibility to someone of short stature or a wheelchair user, a designer might select a cooktop with front mounted controls. For families with small, curious children, however, one might recommend higher, rear-mounted controls. The gesture-based controls also make it easy for people with poor hand dexterity to operate the appliance,

Gaggenau, a German manufacturer of high-end kitchen appliances offers, with its CE 490 electric cooktop, a solution to address both ease of use and safety. The smooth top unit is controlled with a removable, magnet-driven dial which, when used with the embedded touchscreen, controls the cook-

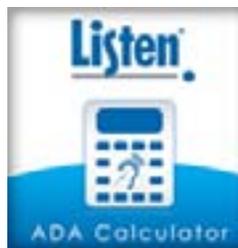
ing elements. When the dial is removed, the cooking elements cannot be accessed. For a family with a member with dementia or cognitive impairment, this feature could be a lifesaver. The unit features four horizontally arrayed burners in a 36” x 12” space. Other safety features include automatic turn off if the unit has not received a command in 4 hours, an automatic shut-off timer that can be set for one or several cooking elements, and visual indicators of residual heat.



Gaggenau electric cooktop with removable magnetic control.

Assistive Listening Calculator Mobile App Free iPhone and iPad app eases installation of assistive listening systems

The ADA Compliance Assistive Listening Calculator is a free mobile program for the iPhone and iPad from Listen Technologies. The company describes it as “a complete tool-set for understanding and calculating facility requirements to meet the 2010 Standards for Accessible Design.” The app includes a calculator, e-mail capability, helpful ADA information links, product assistance and



Listen Technologies Mobile App.

quote request button and is designed to take the guesswork out of computing for ADA requirements for assistive listening. The mobile app is based on Table 219.3 Receivers for Assistive Listening Systems from Section 706: Assistive Listening Systems of the Department of Justice Title III of the ADA. The table outlines the minimum number of receivers/ALDS required based on the capacity seating of assembly areas; and the minimum number of receivers/ALDs that are required to be hearing aid compatible. The ADA Compliance Assistive Listening Calculator App is downloadable as a free app at the iTunes App Store from Listen Technologies Corp. 

Fold-Down Shower Seat by Moen Home Care

1-800-BUY-MOEN
(1-800-289-6636)
www.moen.com/homecare

CE 490 electric cooktop by Gaggenau
877.4GAGGENAU
www.gaggenau.com

Assistive Listening Calculator Mobile App Listen Technologies Corp.
1.800.330.0891
www.listentech.com

National ADA Expert Lex Frieden launches a new weekly blog, “The Flat Earth Paradigm”

Lex Frieden is professor of biomedical informatics at the University of Texas Health Science Center at Houston. Frieden is regarded as one of the architects of the Americans with Disabilities Act and has served as Chairman of the National Council on Disability, appointed by President George W. Bush. He has served as an advisor to the US Access Board and has led the Southwest ADA Technical Assistance Center.

Frieden’s new weekly blog will focus on issues affecting the public, particularly people with disabilities, their families and friends.



Lex Frieden

Each week he will discuss matters like reserved parking for people with mobility impairments or new technologies that have the potential to make life easier for everyone, including people with visual, hearing, mobility and cognitive impairments.

In the first installment of his blog, Frieden reflects on where and when “the flat earth paradigm” was born. He invites comments and suggestions of topics for discussion. Find it here: http://www.yourhoustonnews.com/blogs/the-flat-earth-paradigm/article_b55cf6dc-1149-11e1-b85a-001cc4c002e0.html

***Lives Worth Living* the first television history of the Disability Rights Movement**

Lives Worth Living, a 60-minute independent film, premiered on PBS, October 27, 2011. It is both an historical documentary about the Disability Rights Movement and a biography about one man’s struggle to survive.

Charismatic leaders of the Disability Rights community, including Judith Heumann, John Wodatch, Michael Winter and Mary Jane Owen, narrate the story of a long, hard, and successful drive for civil rights — a drive that

brought together a once fragmented population into a powerful coalition that created some of the most far-reaching civil rights legislation in our nation’s history.

People with disabilities are one of the largest of any minority within our nation, and this is the first television history on the subject. It is a window into a world inhabited by people with an unwavering determination to live their lives like anyone else, and a passage into the past where millions of people lived without access to schools, apartment buildings, public transportation, etc. — a status quo today’s generation cannot imagine. <http://www.itvs.org/films/lives-worth-living>



Judith Heumann talks to supporters outside the HEW building in San Francisco in early April 1977.

Build Boston 2011 Presentations

Presentations on Socially Sustainable Design presented at Build Boston 2011 are now available on the website of the Institute for Human Centered Design (IHCD). Contact information for each presenter is included for those seeking more information on the topics of discussion.

Titles include:

- Research to Practice: Evidence-based Inclusive Design – a panel discussion on the impact of design choices on human performance and experience.
- Mixed Use Planning and Development for the 21st Century – social sustainability is as much a compelling driver for mixed-use development as environmental and economic sustainability.
- Patient- Centered Health Care Design – ways to create good design in healthcare while still meeting the needs of patients.

People with disabilities are one of the largest of any minority within our nation, and this is the first television history on the subject.

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- Why Choose Universal Design as a Design Philosophy – three design experts explore where we are now in relation to inclusion in design of the built environment, as well as the impediments and enticements to change.
- Beyond Accessibility: Designing museums and exhibits that welcome and satisfy all visitors – museums and exhibits needs to be designed to welcome everyone and engage visitors in a rich, multisensory experience.

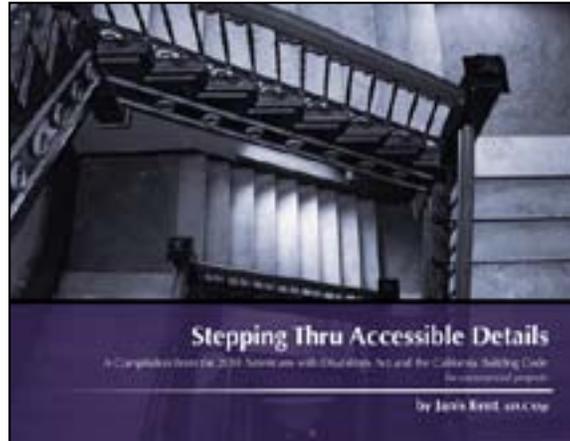
Find them all on the IHCD website: <http://www.adaptenv.org/index.php?option=Event&articleid=1136j>

Stepping Thru Accessible Details

Stepping Thru Accessible Details is a compilation of over 100 architectural details and specifications based on the 2010 ADA with a color-coded overlay of the 2010 California Building Codes. The details include sourcing information from both the ADA and the CBC. Since each detail and specification that applies just within California is color-

coded, it is a valuable resource for out-of-state projects as well.

Who is this book meant for? Architects,



landscape architects, interior designers, civil engineers, facility managers, plan checkers, building inspectors and anyone else involved in the built commercial environment. A CD is included in the book.

<http://www.steppingthruaccessibility.com/shop/stepping-thru-accessible-details/> 

Presentations on Socially Sustainable Design presented at Build Boston 2011 are now available on the website of the Institute for Human Centered Design (IHCD).

DESIGN TIP

Are Courtesy Flush Buttons Compliant?

PROBLEM: Automatic flush valves on accessible toilets may have courtesy flush buttons that are non-compliant.

TIP: Most automatic flush valves for water closets are now manufactured with a courtesy flush button for manual operation, however not all manufacturers place the courtesy flush button in the same location. To comply with

ANSI A117.1 or 2010 ADA Standard §604.6, accessible water closet flush controls must be located on the open side of the water closet. It is important to specify the location of the courtesy flush control to the open side whenever selecting an automatic flush valve for an accessible water closet. 



INCORRECT: Courtesy flush is not on open side.



CORRECT: Courtesy flush on open side.

January 5, 2012: Accessible Golf Courses, Access Board Webinar and Audio Conference 2:30 – 4:00 ET. <http://www.accessibilityonline.org/Schedule>

January 17, 2012: Refresh on the 2010 ADA Standards, ADA Audio Conference 2:00 PM ET. <http://www.ada-audio.org/Schedule/>

January 18, 2012: Keeping up with the New ADA Regulations, Mid-Atlantic ADA Center one day training for the hotel industry. <http://chamber.oceancity.org/Events/details/keeping-up-with-the-new-ada-american-s-with-disabilities-act-regulations-1>

January 25-27, 2012: Annual Accessibility Professional Association (APA) Conference, continuing education provider for Registered Accessibility Specialists (RAS) in Texas, Round Rock, TX. <http://www.trasatexas.com>

February 2, 2012: Accessible Courthouses and Courtrooms, Access Board Webinar and Audio Conference 2:30-4:00 ET. <http://www.accessibilityonline.org/Schedule>

February 6-7, 2012: Universal Design/Build Course, Pre-show education, 2012 International Builders' Show, Orlando, FL. http://www.buildersshow.com/Global/EventFrame.aspx?sectionID=2007&url=http%3A//ibs12.buildersshow.com%2F5_0%2Fsessions%2Fsession_results.cfm%3FType%3Dibscommunity%26CTrackID%3D56

Feb 8, 2012: Universal Design Day and Product Tours, 2012 NAHB International Builders' Show, Orlando, FL, 50+ Lifestyle Central, West 314A. <http://www.buildersshow.com/generic.aspx?sectionID=1994>

Feb 9, 2010: Certified Aging-In-Place Specialist (CAPS) Day, 2010 NAHB International Builders' Show, Orlando, FL. <http://www.buildersshow.com/generic.aspx?sectionID=1997>

March 1, 2012: ADA Standards for Accessible Design, Access Board Webinar and Audio Conference 2:30- 4:00 ET. <http://www.accessibilityonline.org/Schedule>

March 12-14, 2012: National ADA Symposium, Orlando, FL, hosted by Great Plains and Southeast ADA Centers. <http://www.adasymposium.org>

For more information or to submit your event for the next issue, visit www.UniversalDesign.com/Calendar

Universal Design Newsletter

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