

ACCESSING THE PAST

A Historic Challenge

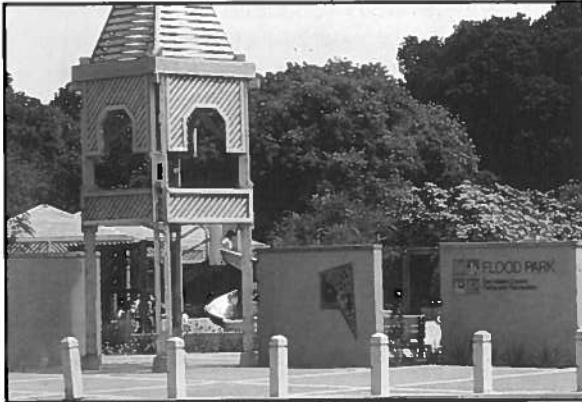
Making the past accessible to all in the present is a challenge that calls for careful balancing of the need for change and the need to preserve history. Property owners, design professionals and administrators have the dual responsibility of achieving the highest level of accessibility while minimizing alterations of historic materials and features.

According to *Preservation Brief 32: Making Historic Properties Accessible*, a US Department of the Interior publication authored by Thomas C. Jester and Sharon C. Park, the following three-step approach to identifying and planning modifications to historic properties is appropriate.

First, determine what makes a property historic. Consult the property's nomination to the National Historic Register or the files of the local preservation commissions and state historic preservation offices to discover its character-defining features.

Second, assess the property's existing and required level of accessibility. Do a building survey focusing on the following areas: building and site entrances; surface textures; widths and slopes of walkways; parking; grade changes; size, weight and configuration of doorways; interior corridors and path-of-travel restrictions; elevators; and public toilets and amenities. Also, research all applicable accessibility requirements, local building codes, state codes and federal regulations.

see *Accessing the Past*, page 10



The Chime Tower at the entry to Flood Park welcomes all. See article on page 4

RECREATION GUIDELINES

Access Board Receives Recommendations

The US Architectural and Transportation Barriers Compliance Board (Access Board) established a Recreation Advisory Committee in 1993 to recommend recreation standards for the ADA Accessibility Guidelines (ADAAG). The Committee has met on numerous occasions during the past 18 months and has developed recommended standards for the following types of facilities:

- **Outdoor Developed Areas** - including trails, campgrounds, picnic areas, scenic overlooks, beach facilities and snow facilities
- **Play Area Settings** - including playgrounds and other

see *Recreation Guidelines*, page 4

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THE DIFFERENCES BETWEEN ACCESSIBILITY AND UNIVERSAL DESIGN

The Universal Design Newsletter Editorial Advisory Committee recently discussed the differences between accessibility and universal design. That discussion became the genesis for this editorial intended for the consideration of all our readers. We welcome your reactions and comments.

Over the last 20 years, accessibility has come to mean compliance with building codes and regulations that are intended to allow people with disabilities, particularly those who use wheelchairs, to enter and use buildings. Accessibility is similar to barrier free design, but removing barriers from buildings is basically a negative approach to design. It is understandable, therefore, that some designers and building owners who view accessibility in this context find it to be difficult, if not a nuisance.

Universal Design, however, has begun to be used to describe a more proactive approach to the process of developing design solutions for the population at large. Universal Design anticipates diversity. Other terms which, likewise, try to capture the spirit of Universal Design are being readily accepted in some fields. They include: Design for the Lifespan, Inclusive Design, and Enabling Design. But, whatever it is called, Universal Design has established itself as an evolving discipline by which to create solutions, spaces and products that maximize the number of people who can use a particular design. While it may be unrealistic to expect that with the diversity within the human race all people will be able to use any one solution, it is certainly not unrealistic to move in that direction. Accessibility involves compliance with a set of minimum standards, whereas Universal Design addresses unlimited opportunities and choices.

These differences in approach are becoming very evident in the design of similar facilities by different architects and designers. The Baltimore Orioles, for example, recently moved into a new stadium at Camden Yards that is a state-of-the-art accessible sports arena, demonstrating how Universal Design can be a sound organizing concept for creating good architecture. (See article in the January 1993 issue of *Universal Design Newsletter*.) Contrast that with a baseball stadium of the past built on a flat site de-

signed as an earth berm, requiring fans to climb stairs to the top of the berm to buy tickets and descend stairs on the other side to get to their seats. Switch-back ramps would be required by accessibility codes on both sides and end up being ugly and extremely long. However, with the same amount of money and construction, the elements can be arranged to create a universally usable stadium rather than one that is expensive to maintain and difficult for everyone to use.

Elements within a universally designed project offer choices that accommodate different users.

1. Alternatives - such as the installation of several drinking fountains at differing heights

2. Adjustability - such as shelving systems which can be set at desirable heights

3. Modularity - such as computers with a variety of input device options: mouse, keyboard, voice recognition microphone, touch screen, etc.

Students of the Universal Design Education Project currently being conducted at selected collegiate design schools around the country are suggesting, however, that Universal Design may involve more than a simple expansion of the user population. They are broadening their thinking to include expanded environmental, historical and social consciousness as part of Universal Design. For example, can a design be universal if it excludes people who are homeless or economically disabled or if it fails to take into account future generations and other species with whom we share the earth?

This broadening of context leads us to the realization that Universal Design has to do both with process and end results. The differences between accessibility and Universal Design is symptomatic of a basic rethinking of the function of the designer in the design process. It is a broadening of the well-known, but time-proven, axiom that form follows function. Universal Design is, therefore, simply a broadening of our understanding of function.

As we move into the 21st century, designers will be challenged to develop solutions that are increasingly sophisticated and that meet the needs of more and more people. This may involve designing for lifestyles and circumstances that the designer has never imagined, much less experienced. Since it is impossible for designers to be expert in the needs of every user, they must learn to be facilitators of the design process in a manner that enables them to obtain effective input from the diverse array of people

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The board advises **Universal Design Newsletter** on current topics of interest. UDN is responsible for all editorial content and invites readers' comments and suggestions.

FEDWATCH

IRS Tentative Tax Credit Ruling

The Internal Revenue Service (IRS) has issued a tentative ruling allowing small businesses to claim a tax credit for consulting fees, as well as actual costs incurred in removing accessibility barriers.

The Disabled Access Credit, Section 44 of the Tax Code, is intended to help small businesses comply with the Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA).

According to an IRS official, "... [the IRS has] tentatively concluded that, where consulting fees are related to the actual removal of specific barriers, the fees can be treated as eligible access expenditures. In our view, this treatment would be analogous to including an architect's fee in a building's cost and deducting the cost through depreciation of the building."

A small business may elect to take a general business credit of up to \$5,000 annually for a wide variety of access expenditures to comply with any ADA requirements. The credit is in an amount equal to 50 percent of the eligible access expenditures for the tax year that exceed \$250. The maximum base for the credit is an expenditure of \$10,250.

"We knew the barrier removal costs could be claimed by small businesses, but now we know that our fee can also be an eligible expense," said consultant Larry Field of Middletown, DE. "This should really take the sting out of compliance."

Fact Sheet #4: Tax Incentives is available from the regional ADA Technical Assistance Centers at 800.949.4ADA

ANSI Plumbing Research

The ANSIA117 Committee is seeking funding to support research on how people, including those with disabilities, use the equipment in bathrooms.

The research, which is expected to last for approximately two years and cost more than \$200,000, is also intended to determine preferences for different types of fixtures such as showers versus tubs, and left versus right hand transfers to toilets. The data will be incorporated into the next version of ANSIA117.1 and is expected to impact the Americans with Disabilities Act Accessibility Guidelines (ADAAG).

The current standards for accessibility found in the ADAAG and local, state and federal building codes are "restrictive and arbitrary," according to Brian Black, chairman of the committee's Plumbing Task Force. He noted that the codes were developed from information with little empirical evidence.

For more information, contact ANSIA117 Committee, Plumbing Task Force at 703.931.4533.

State Accessibility Building Codes

The following are listings of states that have adopted the technical standards in the Americans with Disabilities Act Accessibility Guidelines (ADAAG) either in their entirety or in part; states where

ADAAG adoption is pending; and states that have adopted American National Standards Institute (ANSI) standards in whole or in part. The information was obtained from a contractor's study on automated doors performed for the US Architectural and Transportation Barriers Compliance Board in the summer of 1993.

States that use ADAAG technical standards in part or whole:

- | | |
|----------|---------------|
| Alaska | Nevada |
| Arizona | New Hampshire |
| Arkansas | North Dakota |
| Florida | Ohio |
| Idaho | Pennsylvania |
| Kansas | Rhode Island |
| Nebraska | Virginia |

States where ADAAG implementation is pending:

- | | |
|-------------|---------------|
| Connecticut | Maryland |
| Hawaii | West Virginia |
| Kentucky | |

States that have adopted ANSI standard in whole or in part:

- | | |
|----------------------|---------------|
| Alaska | Maine |
| Colorado | Maryland |
| Connecticut | Mississippi |
| Delaware | New Mexico |
| District of Columbia | Oklahoma |
| Georgia | Vermont |
| Illinois | West Virginia |
| Indiana | Wyoming |
| Louisiana | |

see FedWatch, page 11

"...where consulting fees are related to the actual removal of specific barriers the fees can be treated as eligible access expenditures..."

Internal Revenue Service

Association of ADA Coordinators Fall Conferences and Workshops

Washington DC - September 21-23, 1994

San Diego, CA - October 5-7, 1994

St. Louis, MO - October 26-28, 1994

Pre-Conference Full Day Workshops

ADA Awareness Training

Understanding Accessibility Issues and Facility Survey Techniques

Pre-Conference Workshop Registration

\$175 for AADAC members or \$225 for others

Conference Registration

\$345 for AADAC members or \$445 for others

Single Day Registrations available for \$245

For More Information or to Register Call

800.722.4ADA

Recreation, from page 1

children's recreational facilities

- **Sports Facilities** - including field sports, court sports, rink sports, aquatic facilities, indoor multipurpose facilities, and other facilities
- **Recreational Fishing and Boating Facilities** - including docks, piers, boat access facilities
- **Places of Amusement** - including theme parks, water parks, fairs, zoos, carnivals, rodeos, dinner theaters, aquariums and interactive theaters
- **Golf Facilities** - including golf courses and driving ranges as well as miniature golf facilities

The Access Board plans to publish a proposed rule for comment in early 1995 based upon the recommendations of the committee. Over the next several issues, *Universal Design Newsletter* plans to publish articles discussing the issues surrounding each of the facility types. Readers who are interested in obtaining more information on the Recreation Advisory Committee's activities should call or contact Peggy Greenwell at the Access Board 202.272.5434.

The Access Board plans to publish a proposed rule for comment in early 1995 based upon the recommendations of the committee.

FLOOD PARK

REBUILDING A PUBLIC PLAYGROUND AND PARK FOR USE BY ALL PEOPLE

Project Profile

Planners and Designers: **Moore Iacofano Goltsman, Inc.**
 Landscape Architects: **Larry Wight Associates**
 Contractors: **Golden Bay Construction**
 Owner: **County of San Mateo**

Flood Park is a 22-acre urban park located in San Mateo County, CA, operated by the San Mateo County Parks and Recreation Division of the Department of Environmental Management. It was constructed in the 1930s for the regional community as a WPA project. For fifty years it served the recreational needs of its constituents.

In 1982, a new master plan for the park's future development was approved. The park was to receive \$42,000 worth of new equipment which was not usable by children or parents with disabilities. Amid concerns raised by disabled community groups over the scope and direction of the plan, the County Board of Supervisors commissioned Moore Iacofano Goltsman, Inc., to design a park that was accessible to all users.

The main goal of the Flood Park Universal Access Design Project was to improve accessibility to park facilities and amenities. Due to its popularity as a weekend destination for families, particular attention was given to accommodating a large number of children and adults of all abilities and to create an atmosphere where they could all play together. Special attention was paid to the specific needs of three user groups: children with and without disabilities; adults with disabilities; and older people.

Community Involvement

A public participation program was developed as part of the information-gathering process necessary to accomplish the goals of the project. The program involved all members of the community, including adults and children with disabilities, in a series of community workshops and walking tours.

Design of a Universal Park

Information gathered from the workshops, site analysis and survey became the basis for the \$800,000 redesign of Flood Park. Based on this information and a design program of play settings reflecting the opportunities and constraints of the site, a plan checklist (with additional criteria of maintenance and cost) was developed. This checklist then became a decision-making tool to weigh the tradeoffs required for each setting before moving into the design development phase.

The final master plan included areas that were

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DESIGN GUIDELINES FOR GOLF COURSES PROPOSED

Gary M. Robb, National Center on Accessibility

The US Architectural and Transportation Barriers Compliance Board (Access Board) has been working for the past year at expanding the ADA Accessibility Guidelines (ADAAG) to include recreational facilities. In all, six subcommittees have been addressing the gamut of recreational opportunities that exist in the USA.

One of the six subcommittees has been focusing on accessibility to golf courses. It has met several times and has received substantial input from the National Forum on Accessible Golf, which was established by Indiana University's National Center on Accessibility and Clemson University. The golf subcommittee has recently submitted preliminary findings to the Access Board.

The major underlying recommendation is that, because of the nature of the game and the unique playing characteristics of individual golf courses, an **accessible route** as currently defined in ADAAG is **NOT required through the green**. As a result of this determination, it is expected that most golfers with mobility impairments would play the game riding a golf cart or other means of travel. Since the golf cart path is not designed for pedestrian traffic, it would not be required to meet the ADAAG running or cross-slope standards.

New Construction

Major accessibility recommendations for new golf course construction include:

1. At least one, but as many as possible teeing grounds must be accessible (running slope of no greater than 1:20; cross slope not to exceed 1:50) from the golf cart path or golf cart parking area. (All courses do not have golf cart paths.)
2. The teeing ground must be wide enough to allow ingress/egress from a forward-moving golf cart with cross slope no greater than 1:50.
3. All control mechanisms on equipment such as

water coolers, ball washers, etc., must comply with ADAAG 4.27.

4. Teeing ground signage (if provided) shall follow ADAAG 4:30.2,3,5.

5. At a maximum of 75-yard intervals, access off the cart path to the fairway or rough must be provided, except where terrain creates extreme safety hazards or environmental conditions.

6. There shall be at least one accessible route at the putting green from the golf cart path or designated golf cart parking area to the green surface. The green surface itself does not need to be made accessible since doing so might alter the fundamental nature of the game.

7. Hazards and bunkers are not required to be accessible. However, where possible, at least one ingress and egress point should be provided.

8. All on-course amenities such as rest room facilities, snack bars, and weather shelters (if provided) must be accessible from the golf cart path.

Alterations to Golf Courses

Accessibility recommendations for golf course alterations include:

1. Where teeing ground(s) are altered on one or more holes, at least one ground on the altered hole(s) must be made accessible in accordance with new construction provisions.
2. If a putting green is rebuilt, including changing the contouring or elevations, the accessible route provisions for new construction apply.

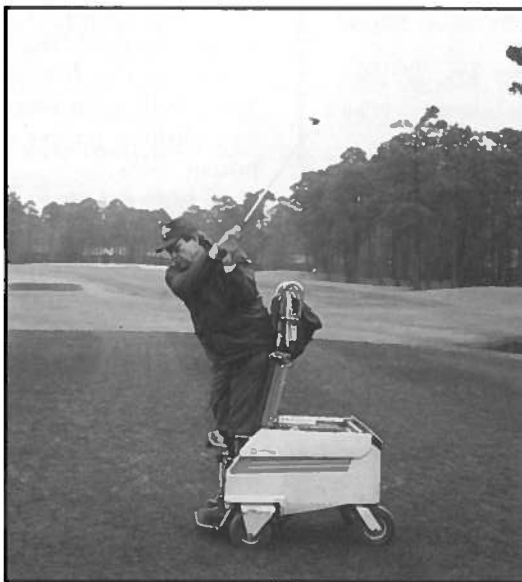
3. Alteration of the golf course is defined as changing the physical dimensions of the area. Re-sodding, reseeding, changing the type of grass or adding sprinklers are not considered alterations.

4. Altering the teeing ground or green on one hole does not require accessibility alterations on all other holes.

Practice Areas

Accessibility recommendations for practice areas at existing golf courses include:

1. There must be an accessible route from the parking area to all practice facilities, if provided (driving



Special Golf carts allow access without damaging greens




The major underlying recommendation is that, because of the nature of the game and the unique playing characteristics of individual golf courses, an accessible route as currently defined in ADAAG is NOT required through the green.

Accessibility vs Universal Design, from page 2

who will eventually use or employ their designs. A participative design process may be a necessary method to assist in the Universal Design process.

Universal Design can bring us together in many ways, while accessible design can separate us. When accessible products such as lifts and ramps are installed so they are only used by people with disabilities, not by the general public, the accessible product separates us into "people with disabilities" and every-

one else. Universally designed paths of travel, however, are used by everyone. In this way Universal Design brings us all together on one path.

The Universal Design Newsletter Editorial Advisory Committee is made up of the following individuals: Elaine Ostroff, Ron Mace, Jim Mueller, John Salmen, Cynthia Leibrock, Jim DiLuigi and Susan Goltsman. 

Can a design be universal if it excludes people who are homeless or economically disabled, or if it fails to take into account future generations and other species with whom we share the earth?

Designing the Future: Toward Universal Design

*A Universal Design Symposium held in conjunction with
Build Boston*

Wednesday, November 16, 1994

ADAAG, ANSI, Model Codes, Enforcement ... What's Happening Up There?

Ellen Harland - DOJ and Lois Thibault - ATBCB

New Access Recommendations For Playgrounds, Stadium Design, Wilderness, Boating and All Those Recreation Places

Multi-Family Housing: It's Good Design, It's Fair Housing and It's Affordable.

Thursday, November 17, 1994

Design For Diversity: An Issue of Sustainability

Universal Design: Coming Soon to a School Near You!

Product Design: What's Good, What's Bad, What's Intolerable

Showcase of the Universal Design Education Project and Reception

The two day symposium includes two plenary sessions, four workshops and a Poster Session/ Exhibit in universal design education. Register for any single session for \$60; two or more at \$45 each or the full symposium for \$270. The poster session on the exhibit floor is free to Build Boston Attendees.

Call 617.695.1225 (v/t)

Designing the Future is sponsored by the Universal Design Education Project, a program of Adaptive Environments, Boston, MA, developed in cooperation with the Center for Accessible Housing, Raleigh, NC. It is funded in part by the National Endowment for the Arts, the NEC Foundation of America, The NYNEX Foundation, JM Foundation, and the US Department of Justice, Civil Rights Division.


Flood Park, from page 4

accessible by people with and without disabilities, a signage system that was easily understandable by children and people who are visually impaired, as well as several "transfer walls" designed specifically to enable transfer from wheelchairs to recreational areas on grass and sand. In the fantasy play area, play houses were built with large windows and open sides so a child or parent with disabilities could play house.

A tower with a wind chime as a visual and audio cue was built to greet people at the entrance of the park. In order to direct users to specific recreational areas of the park, a tile map and pictographs were created to provide orientation and location information for children and people who are visually impaired.

Two small ponds were created and an accessible bridge provided. Rocks surrounding the pond's edges were placed with gaps in between them to allow people using wheelchairs to get right up to the edge of, or even in, the water.

Picnic tables were arranged in circles with one accessible table for every ten. These tables were designed to position wheelchair users beside the bench, next to someone, and not at the end of the table. Each accessible table accommodates 2 - 3 wheelchairs. Six accessible grills and eight accessible serving tables with electricity were installed. In addition, two accessible concrete washing sinks were located at the group picnic facility. Throughout the whole park, drinking fountains were made accessible for all people.

Flood Park became one of the first parks in the country to address universal design issues even before passage of the ADA and continues to serve as a model for creating play and recreation spaces for all people to enjoy. 

Transgenerational Design: Products for an Aging Population is the first of what we hope will be many books which investigate the Universal Design of consumer products for industrial and product designers. James Pirkel, FIDSA has aimed this publication at an audience with which he has a great deal of experience: designers, educators and students. And it shows! The organization of the book is logical and complete relating *demographics* to the size and shape of the market; *human function* to the evaluation criteria of good product design; and *concepts of independence* to the place and use of products in the home and society. The many product photographs are thought-provoking. The 260-page book is available for \$49.95 from bookstores or by calling the publisher, Van Nostrand Reinhold, at 800.544.0550 (Dept. Z1563).

Building for a Lifetime: The Design and Construction of Fully Accessible Homes is a comprehensive guide for home owners, contractors and designers interested in creating homes that work for people throughout their lives. The authors have combined state-of-the-art accessible residential design with hundreds of details, ideas and comments from real-life experiences [See **TIPS** page 8]. They explain the "why" behind the recommendations and illustrate the book with photographs, drawings and product ideas. Each chapter is followed by a listing of product resources. The book was written by Margaret Wyde, Adrian Baron-Robbins and Sam Clark. The 296-page book is available for \$44.95 from the Taunton Press, 63 South Main Street, Box 5506, Newtown, CT 06470-55506.

The Measure of Man and Woman: Human Factors in Design is a new publication written by Henry Dreyfuss Associates which provides anthropometric measurements and information in the form of over 180 detailed diagrams. The diagrams show anthropometric dimensions of men and women from childhood to old age and a section on "differently abled" people is

included. Measurements of specific environments are suggested, including seating, residential spaces, maintenance areas, vehicles, displays and controls. The book is available for \$60 from the Whitney Library of Design, 1515 Broadway, New York, NY 10036.

The Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA) & Health Care Providers: A Technical Assistance Manual was developed by the National Rehabilitation Hospital's ADA Health Care Facility Access Project under a grant from the US Department of Justice. This comprehensive three-ring binder includes employment, program and facility access information not only on Titles I, II and III, but also on Section 504 of the Rehabilitation Act of 1973. It includes chapters on case studies, questions and answers, and resources. This comprehensive guide is a must for human resource and ADA administrators of health care facilities. The book is available for \$65 from the National Rehabilitation Hospital; call 202.877.1498 to place an order.



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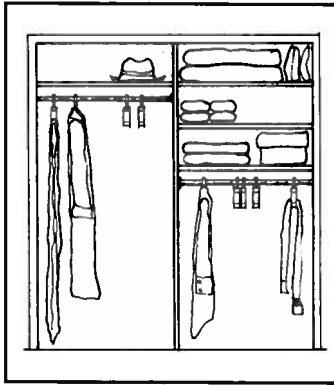
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COLUMN

? **PROBLEM:** How do you adapt the clothes rod in a hotel guestroom closet for people who use wheelchairs, but also make it convenient for a standing guest who may occupy the room?

TIP: Partition the closet in half and have a low rod mounted at 48 inches above the floor on one side and another rod at a standard height in the remaining space.

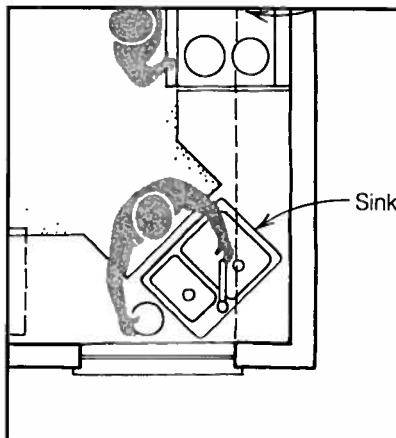


? **PROBLEM:** People who must lip read often have problems clearly seeing the face of a speaker who is standing in front of a bright window. How can this problem be minimized?

TIP: In new construction, rooms can be built using skylights or clerestory lighting (windows at the top of the walls). In existing buildings the use of blinds or draperies can reduce or soften the light from windows placed at normal eye height.

? **PROBLEM:** A person seated at a kitchen sink often has trouble trying to reach objects on the counter or shelves on either side, without having to reposition themselves.

TIP: The new book **Building for a Lifetime** [See **New Media** page 7] suggests that the sink be positioned at 45 degrees in a corner of the counter, with clear floor space below. This will place the area on either side of the sink within the range of reach, as well as utilizing otherwise "dead" corner space.



Reproduced with permission from Wylde et al., *Building for a Lifetime: The Design and Construction of Fully Accessible Homes*, The Taunton Press, Newton, CT, 1994.

ASAP Holds Forum on Accessible Sliding Doors and Thresholds

The Association for Safe and Accessible Products (ASAP) held its first Special Interest Forum on "Accessible Sliding Doors and Thresholds", in December 1993 in Washington, DC.

The Special Interest Forum examined issues related to achieving accessible door thresholds and tracks in conjunction with producing and installing practical building components. The forum was a unique opportunity for advocates of all sides of this important issue to exchange views and present potential solutions.

Presentations covered the current code implications, accessibility needs, construction constraints and safety issues. Speakers included representatives of Pemko, Dor-O-Matic, Andersen Windows, Kawneer Company and the US Department of Housing and Urban Development.

Currently, accessibility codes generally require that door thresholds be no higher than one-half inch for swinging doors and three-quarter inch for sliding exterior doors. Thresholds must be beveled and the slope of bevels can be as steep as 1:2. The result is that doorways covered by the codes cannot have higher thresholds unless ramps are provided at each side. In new construction, the slope of ramps has to be 1:12 or less. This means that ramps at sliding door thresholds that are one-inch high must be at least 12-inches long.

Many residential doors come prefabricated with integral threshold structural pieces that provide effective threshold heights of one inch or more. Such doors are not uncommon in lodging facilities and light commercial structures. The threshold structure in prefabricated residential doors can be modified or removed. However, this usually voids the manufacturer's warranty for the product, a major dilemma for builders and homeowners.

Sliding doors designed to prevent drafts and driven rain require threshold tracks as high as 1-1/2 inches. The resulting ramps of these doors may be 18-inches long. This can lead to slipping hazards for ambulatory people with attendant liability for building owners and designers.

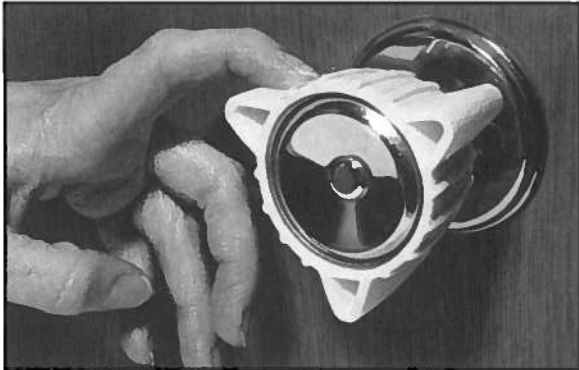
Several of the issues proposed during the Forum will be developed into concrete proposals and action plans by a newly established ASAP Door Threshold Committee.

ASAP is a trade association established to promote the development of products that are easy and safe to use. To receive proceedings from the Forum, or to join the Door Threshold Committee, or for more information on ASAP, call 202.347.8200.

PRODUCTS

Get-a-Grip Twisters

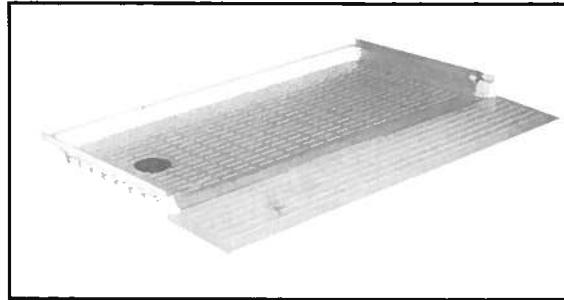
The Get-a-Grip Twisters are accessories designed to make gripping and turning door knobs easier for persons with arthritis or limitations of manual dexterity and strength. These knob sleeves are made of a cushiony thermoplastic that is ridged and provides



traction so that doors may even be opened with a closed fist. These cost-effective devices have been evaluated as "reasonable accommodations for the work place" by the National Rehabilitation Hospital. Contact Colorado Giraffe.

Shower Floors

DURABASE Barrier-Free Shower Floors are direct replacement fiberglass units designed to provide a wheelchair accessible bathing area that complies with the ADA. These units can be used for retrofitting tub spaces in commercial settings (such as hotels, motels, hospitals, and nursing homes) and



residences, or for new construction. The floor system features a 30 x 60 inch floor and a 12 x 60 inch entry ramp. No re-plumbing is required for replacement of standard tubs. Available with right or left hand drains and a variety of options. Contact E.L. Mustee & Sons, Inc.



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Evac+Chair

Evac+Chair 300-H is an emergency evacuation wheelchair for stairway evacuation and emergency transport. When a fire alarm shuts off the elevators, a single person can assist a wheelchair user or individual with a mobility disability to descend tight stairwells to the emergency exit. Both individuals should be approximately the same weight. The unit consists of a sling-style seat with safety belts, a tubular aluminum frame with a 300-pound user capacity, two step "skis" and two 6 inch diameter wheels for moving across flat surfaces.



Adjustable Kitchen Cabinets

Adjustable Kitchen Cabinets with a powered raising and lowering mechanism and automatic safety shut-off provide accessibility to wheelchair users and persons of short stature. The cabinets can also be modified for use in bathrooms, laundry rooms, pantries, garages, or closets in both residential and commercial settings. These motorized cabinets are capable of lifting up to 250 pounds. Built-in lighting units are installed below the wall or ceiling mounted cabinets.

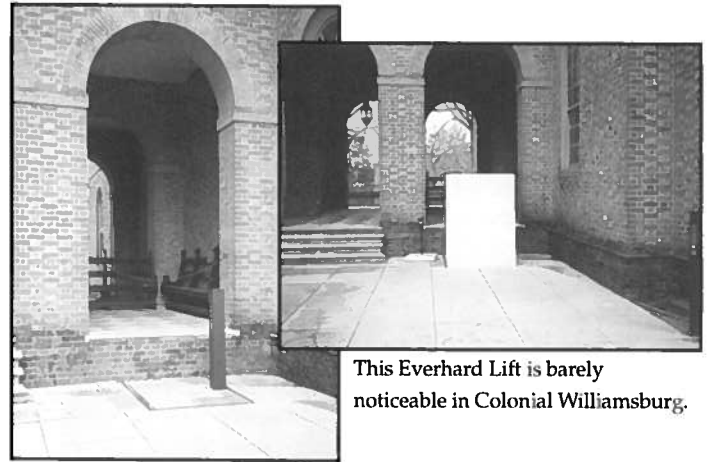


**Adjustable Designs/
Adjustable Systems,
Inc.**
94 North Columbus Road
Athens, OH 45701
614.593.5240

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

Accessing the Past, from page 1

Third, bring together the information gathered in steps one and two and develop solutions. Solutions should blend the preservation of the historically significant aspects of a property and the incorporation of the highest possible level of accessibility. A team of persons with disabilities, accessibility and historic preservation professionals, program operators and building inspectors should be gathered to evaluate proposed solutions. Any changes should also be checked against the Secretary of the Interior's "Standards for the Treatment of Historic Properties." These standards stress the importance of having accessibility features in scale with the historic property, visually compatible and reversible.



This Everhard Lift is barely noticeable in Colonial Williamsburg.

Common Access Modifications for Historic Facilities

Sites and Entrances

- Creating a designated parking space
- Installing ramps
- Making curb cuts

Interiors

- Repositioning shelves
- Rearranging tables, displays, and furniture
- Repositioning telephones
- Adding raised markings on elevator control buttons
- Installing flashing alarm lights
- Installing offset hinges to widen doorways
- Installing or adding accessible door hardware
- Adding an accessible water fountain, or providing a paper cup dispenser at a non-accessible water fountain

Restrooms

- Installing grab bars in toilet stalls
- Rearranging partitions to increase maneuvering space
- Insulating lavatory pipes under sinks to prevent burns
- Installing a 17" - 19" toilet seat
- Installing a full-length bathroom mirror
- Repositioning the paper towel dispenser

For more information, contact the US Department of the Interior, National Park Service, Preservation Assistance Division, P.O. Box 37127, Washington, DC 20013-7127 or call 202.343.9578.

According to the US Department of Justice, any modifications to existing facilities should generally be based on the following priorities:

1. Insuring the main or prominent public entrance and primary public spaces are accessible, including a path to the entrance

2. Providing access to goods, services and programs

3. Providing accessible restroom facilities

4. Creating access to amenities and secondary spaces

Jester and Park don't recommend replacing historic doors or door frames on the entry level of historic buildings, as doing so may alter the historic design. One solution is to retain the historic doors but make them easy to use by installing


automatic door openers or power-assisted door openers.

The key to accessibility is to provide persons with disabilities independent access. Within historic properties, primary spaces are the most difficult to alter without changing their character. However, secondary spaces offer opportunities to make changes without threatening important historic features.

Space is one of the biggest considerations when exploring the installation of ramps and wheelchair lifts. Elevators, even historically significant ones, can often be upgraded to accommodate special needs. Interior stairs may be made more user-friendly with the addi-

tion or modification of railings.

In some cases, restrooms, seating, telephones, counters and drinking fountains contribute to a building's historic character. Adding new features, rather than changing or removing historic ones, often makes the facility more accessible.

Historic preservation and accessibility are not mutually exclusive goals. With careful evaluation and proper planning, historic properties can be preserved and made accessible to all. 

ACCESSIBILITY AND HISTORIC PRESERVATION

RESOURCE GUIDE
&
"Entrances to the Past"
(Video)



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FedWatch, from page 3

Detectable Warning Research

The US Architectural and Transportation Barriers Compliance Board (Access Board) has received \$20,000 from the National Institute of Disability Research and Rehabilitation to continue its study of truncated domes, according to Dave Yanchulis of the Access Board.

Last year, the Access Board and the US Department of Justice adopted a joint rule to suspend the requirements for detectable warnings at curb ramps, hazardous vehicular areas and reflecting pools until July 26, 1995. The suspension was to allow for research on the issue.

The first phase of research is assessing the need for truncated domes, according to Yanchulis. The research will examine how visually impaired people cross intersections and how they detect the edge of the street. It will also study how effective truncated domes are in warning people of street intersections. In addition, the test sample will be expanded to study the impact of detectable warnings on people with mobility impairments, said Yanchulis.

Results from the study are expected in July of 1994. The Access Board will then decide whether or not to proceed to the second phase of the research. If the study proceeds, Phase 2 would assess the previous guidelines and attempt to determine which kind of detectable warnings are most effective.

Golf, from page 5

range, practice green, practice bunker, chipping area).

2. Where practice areas are provided, at least five percent but no less than one of each must be accessible according to current ADAAG standards.

3. The dimensions for an accessible practice station (tee) should be a minimum of 10 feet by 10 feet. This will allow a player to hit balls from the side of a golf cart.

4. Where practice bunkers are provided, at least one shall meet the following standards:

a. Ingress/egress route minimum of 52 inches in width

b. Bunker lip at ingress/egress point not to exceed two inches

c. Approach to bunker not to exceed current ADAAG slope and cross-slope guidelines

d. Area provided *within the bunker* of at least 5 feet by 5 feet

5. Golf ball dispensing machines or other vending machines shall meet ADAAG 5.8.

Miniature Golf Courses

Currently there is disagreement relative to accessibility of the playing surface of miniature golf courses. The subcommittee has recommended that the entire playing area should be accessible to disabled participants. The Miniature Golf Association recommends that only starting and ending points at each hole be made accessible. Deliberation is continuing.

Next Month:
Signage Update
and more
Recreation
Guidelines

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July 11-14 (Chicago), July 18-21 (San Francisco), July 25 - 28 (Los Angeles): The 1994 **Summer Series on Aging**, sponsored by the American Society on Aging, is a selection of intensive seminars providing training on cutting-edge issues. Contact ASA at 415.974.9600.

July 13-14: US Architectural & Transportation Barriers Compliance Board Meeting, Washington DC. The board will receive the recommendations of the Recreation Advisory Committee for modifying ADAAG. Contact the Access Board at 202.272.5434.

August 16-20: IDSA Educational Conference and 1994 National Conference at the Henry Ford Museum and Greenfield Village, Dearborn, MI. The conference will include presentations on Universal Design in education and professional practice. Contact the Industrial Design Society of America at 703.759.0100.

September 7-10: Council of Educators in Landscape Architecture will hold its annual conference in Biloxi MI. The conference will include a session on Universal Design Education. Contact Glenn Cook 601.325.1457.

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

Sept. 21-23 (Washington DC), Oct. 5-7 (San Diego, CA), Oct 26-28 (St Louis, MO): Fall Conferences and Pre-Conference Workshops sponsored by the Association of ADA Coordinators. These sessions will update attendees on implementation of the ADA. Call 800.722.4ADA for more information.(See Page 3)

Sept. 22: Easy Leisure: Access to Sports & Entertainment;
Oct. 13: As Young As you Feel: Lifespan Design;
Oct. 20: The Accessible Alternative: Access to the Home Office;


Nov. 3: To See or Not To See: Access to Sight. *Access by Design* seminars sponsored by Pratt University Center for Advanced Design Research. Design and Decoration Building, 979 3rd Ave., New York City, 5:30 pm. Call 718.636.3690 for more information.

Oct 1: 1994 Conference on Universal Design sponsored by the Cooper-Hewitt National Museum of Design, Smithsonian Institution, will be held at the Hotel Macklowe, in New York City . Contact Deirdre Scott at 212.860.6868.

Oct 4 - Nov 22: Universal Design Seminars, sponsored by the University of Maryland School of Architecture, College Park, MD and covering such issues as housing, historic preservation, recreation and workplace design. Series of eight Tuesday evening programs will feature federal regulators and national experts from the Washington DC metropolitan area. Call 301.405.6294 for more information.

Oct. 8-11: ASLA Annual Meeting and Expo featuring LANDTECH seminars will include a presentation on proposals of the US Architectural & Transportation Barriers Compliance Board's Recreation Advisory Committee. San Antonio, TX. Contact the American Society of Landscape Architects at 202.686.2752.

Nov 16 & 17: Designing the Future: Toward Universal Design, Boston, MA. The Universal Design Education Project will present its first national conference on Universal Design Education and Practice in conjunction with Build Boston, the Boston Society of Architects Annual Convention in Boston, MA. Contact Leslie Jo at 617.695.1225 x 0 (V/TT).(See Page 6.)

Dec 5-9: Universal Design: Designing to Include People with Disabilities in Park and Recreation Facilities is being sponsored by Project Access and the National Center on Accessibility/Indiana University. San Antonio, TX. Class size is limited. Call 317.349.9240. 

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

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