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Identifying ‘Universal Design’

NEA Project Aims at Making It Easy to Spot

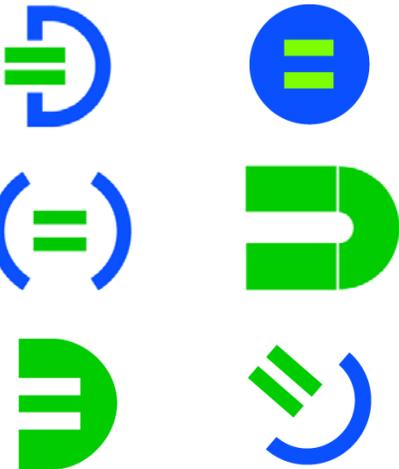
The preliminary results of the National Endowment for the Arts (NEA) Universal Design Identity Project were made public in a symposium held in Washington, DC in early June. The Project, launched through a cooperative agreement between the Office of Accessibility at NEA, headed up by Paula

Terry, and the School of Architecture and Planning at the University at Buffalo, was designed to investigate public perceptions and attitudes about Universal Design and to create a clear, unique identity program and a graphic symbol for Universal Design.

The principal investigators, Beth Tauke, Associate Professor in the School of Architecture and Planning at the University at Buffalo and Alex Bitterman, Assistant Professor at the Rochester Institute of Technology, have proposed a series of symbols which can be viewed on the project website.

The research into public perceptions
 See NEA Project, page 7

Universal Design Symbols



The proposed symbols are part of the NEA Universal Design Identity Project.

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Court Says ATMs Are Covered by the ADA

A federal court judge has denied the claim by the largest independent owner/operator of ATMs in the country that ATMs are not covered under the Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA).

In the case *Massachusetts, et al v. E*Trade Access, Inc. et al*, Judge Morris E. Lasker, of the US District Court, District of Massachusetts, denied E*Trade/Cardtronics motion for summary judgment regarding its claim that the ADA encompasses only the construction of facilities for occupancy and does not include devices, such as ATMs, that might later be affixed to such facilities.

In its arguments, Cardtronics, which acquired the E*Trade ATM business in 2004, noted that an ATM is “manufactured” rather than “constructed” and is “used” rather than “occupied.” In his analysis, Judge Lasker stated, “The Defendants submit that the events of first occupancy and obtaining building permits clearly do not apply to ATM construction and installation, and

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When Universal Design Does Not Work

Design that tries to fully integrate people with disabilities into society without user input (and insight) is not the best way to build. A simple example is taken from a chain of fast food restaurants that has tried to use Universal Design concepts. At the primary entrance to all of its restaurants it has constructed a parking space for

people with disabilities on each side of the path of travel to the entrance doors. These two accessible parking spaces share an 8-foot wide access aisle that is also the path of travel the general public uses to get to the entrance doors. This is classic Universal Design. The accessible parking spaces are the nearest parking spaces to an accessible entrance as required by the Americans with Disabilities Act Accessibility Guidelines (ADAAG). The access aisle is the required width. Everyone including people with disabilities use the same path of travel to the building entrance. On the surface this looks like a good example of effective Universal Design.

The problem is that too many people use the path of travel to the entrance which is also the 8-foot access aisle for the accessible parking spaces. An access aisle that is less than 12 feet in width, is simply not wide enough to simultaneously accommodate general circulation at the main entrance and deployed wheelchair lifts and ramps.

Imagine trying to deploy a power ramp with a constant flow of people walking in the access aisle. If the ramp is deployed, how does a person get off the ramp in a wheelchair with people walking past the bottom of the ramp? How can a person who drives, parks, assembles his or her wheelchair outside of the car, and then slides across from the driver's seat to the wheelchair do all that in a space that is normally used as the path of travel

for everyone entering or exiting the restaurant?

Many people with lift equipped vans who do their own driving will leave the lift out and on the ground when going into a store or restaurant. Raising the lift, folding the lift in, and closing the power door is a drain on the battery when the motor is turned off. Having to open the power door, deploy the lift, and be lifted back into the vehicle before being able to start the motor just adds to the



Fred Shotz

likelihood of a battery problem. When the lift is left out more than half of the width of the path of travel to the restaurant entrance is obstructed by the lift. While people should walk around the lift many will simply walk across the lift. That creates a liability problem for the restaurant owner if someone trips and is injured and leaves the person with a disability who leaves a lift out with the risk of someone damaging the lift.

In this application of Universal Design everyone loses. The restaurant loses because customers will have difficulty getting into the restaurant and may have verbal conflicts with people trying to get out of their vehicles. People with disabilities will have difficulty getting out of their vehicles and will not be happy customers. Customers who find themselves unintentionally obstructing people using wheelchairs will be uncomfortable at having been in the way or annoyed over the problem.

When it comes to equal access for everyone, the general public and people with disabilities, there is no one size or one style that fits all. A decision to build using the concepts of Universal Design must be made with careful analysis of the impact of using such design considerations. Having accessible parking spaces share the access aisles with the general path of travel might be popular to building owners. but the path must have the 4 foot wide path of travel to the entrance in addition to the 8 foot wide access aisle -- it just does not work without at least 12 feet of width.

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Rulemaking Process Inches Forward

The US Department of Justice (DOJ) has announced it will not take the next step in revising the Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA) Title III regulations until January 2007, nearly 18 months after the deadline for comments on the previous round of rulemaking.

In a *Federal Register* notice published on April 24, 2006, the DOJ noted that it will issue a Notice of Proposed Rulemaking in January 2007, with the comment period ending in July 2007. In the document, DOJ maintains that it is required to make its enforceable standards consistent with the US Architectural & Transportation Barriers Compliance Board (Access Board) ADA Accessibility Guidelines (ADAAG). The Access Board published its latest version of the guidelines in final form in July 2004.

AMC Stadium-Style Movie Theaters Ordered to Become Accessible

AMC stadium-style movie theaters nationwide will be made accessible under a Jan.10, 2006 ruling in *United States v. AMC Entertainment, Inc., et al.*, (C.D. Cal.). Previously, AMC was found in violation of the Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA) for failing to locate wheelchair and companion seating in the stadium sections of its stadium-style movie theaters. According to the US Department of Justice (DOJ), after attempts to reach an agreement with AMC on retrofits for existing theaters and other remedies proved unsuccessful, DOJ filed a motion for summary judgment and a proposed remedial order, which the court endorsed in its

entirety. The order requires AMC to: (1) perform specified modifications in approximately 1,200 stadium-style auditoriums nationwide, including building ramps in about 350 of these auditoriums; (2) ensure that any new stadium-style theaters built by AMC over the next five years conform to specified design standards, including DOJ's interpretation of line-of-sight requirements; (3) pay \$200,000 in total monetary relief to complainants; and (4) pay \$50,000 in civil penalties for each of two AMC defendants.

When asked about DOJ interpretation of line-of-sight requirements, DOJ Spokesman Eric Holland said, "The ADA Standard includes a requirement for wheelchairs in seating locations to provide comparable lines of sight to those offered to other patrons which includes choices of sightlines within the stadium."

DOJ Argues that All Public Entities Must Make Existing Sidewalks Accessible

The US Department of Justice (DOJ) has filed an *amicus* brief in the federal court in New Jersey arguing that all public entities, including those with fewer than 50 employees, are obligated to make existing sidewalks accessible for people with disabilities by installing curb ramps.

The New Jersey Protection and Advocacy Agency sued Riverside Township, a municipality in Burlington County, NJ, claiming that Riverside Township violated the Americans with Disabilities Act by failing to install curb ramps in public sidewalks. The township, which has fewer than 50 employees, asserted that it did not have an obligation to install curb ramps in existing sidewalks because transition plans, in which public entities identify the structural changes needed to make existing facilities accessible, are only required for public entities with 50 or more employees. The agency asked the court to reject this view and rule that public entities regardless of size have an obligation to install curb cuts to provide access to existing public sidewalks. In its *amicus* brief DOJ agreed, arguing that the exemption for small public entities only applies to the administrative obligation to complete a transition plan and not to the obligation to make public sidewalks accessible. 

...DOJ noted that it will issue a Notice of Proposed Rulemaking in January 2007, with the comment period ending in July 2007.



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Improving People's Lives By Design

Universal Designer Cynthia Leibrock Makes it Happen

She had the career many young designers dream about...a firm of her own, designing homes for people for whom money was no object. In her own words, universal designer Cynthia Leibrock, MA, ASID, Hon. IIDA, now an award winning author and international lecturer, spent the first decade of her career "making rich people, look richer."

But instead of feeling successful, she felt empty. "I didn't find eternal satisfaction in doing that. I didn't feel like I had much purpose," she says.

So she fired her dozen employees, shut down her firm and went on a quest to find a purpose for her life. A simple invitation by one of her fired employees to attend a Bible study class led her to discover her life's work.

"I grew up with a brother with a mental disability. One of the reasons that I ended up doing high end work was that it was as far away from disability as I could get," she said. But her spiritual journey brought her full circle. "I found that I wanted to improve the lives of older people and people with disabilities by design," says Leibrock. With certain deliberateness, she works toward that goal in her many and varied projects and endeavors.

In the Beginning

Leibrock earned a Degree in Fine Arts with a focus on design from the University of Colorado in 1970 and a Masters in Barrier Free Design from Colorado State University in 1990. After closing her firm and discovering her mission, Leibrock began healthcare space planning and eventually founded Easy Access to Health, a design consulting firm that specializes in training for interior designers, architects, occupational therapists, physical therapists, and hospital administrators. Her first book was ground-breaking. *Beautiful Barrier Free: A Visual Guide to Accessibility* hit the market in 1992, at the same time that the Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA) went into effect. "It was one of, if not the first, glossy 'coffee table quality' architectural books showing off how beautiful accessibility and Universal Design can be, if done right," says John P. S. Salmen, President of Universal Designers & Consultants Inc. and Publisher of *Universal Design Newsletter*.

Her client list includes such companies as Toyota, Kohler and the Betty Ford Center; and projects like a Universal Design kitchen at the

Smithsonian with Julia Child through the Rhode Island School of Design.

A Teacher

She has served as an instructor at the Harvard University Architectural Department, Graduate School of Design. She has been a faculty affiliate and research associate at Colorado State University and she has been an instructor at Idaho State University.

Leibrock has found that teaching comes easy to her and spends much of her time speaking to design students and professionals. She is a thorough and committed instructor, says colleague Jim Terry, AIA of Evan Terry & Associates, Birmingham, AL, who has taught a class with Leibrock at the Harvard School of Design almost every summer for more than a decade. "Cindy spends hours and hours preparing for it every year. She will continue to review the material even though she can probably quote it in her sleep," says Terry. "She has an internal drive to be as good as she can be."

Leibrock recognizes that she has a gift. "I am strongest in presentation — in motivating designers and architects to use their skills to improve the lives of older and disabled people. ...I especially enjoy guest lecturing at universities."

At the college level she finds students receptive to Universal Design, while she finds many professors still treating Universal Design as a separate idea — "a special project for a special population."

"Universal Design should be a part of every project" says Leibrock. "My priority is to convince [students] to use the principles [of Universal Design] as a standard for all projects, not just for special projects."

Leibrock hosts seminars on "aging beautifully" at her home, Green Mountain Ranch in Livermore, CO. She is currently working on remodeling her home to be a showcase for Universal Design. More than 100 Universal and Green design features will be incorporated into the design. (See a partial list



Cynthia Leibrock

"I found that I wanted to improve the lives of older people and people with disabilities by design."

Cynthia Leibrock,
MA, ASID,
Hon. IIDA

EUROPE

Commitment to Design for All

The coordinators for the 23 companies participating in the “Commitment to Design for All” met in April in Barcelona. The annual conference is organized by the Design for All Foundation, an international foundation which seeks to develop, promote, research and disseminate the Design for All concept among public and private companies and organizations, government agencies, educational agents, designers and professionals who play a role with regard to the environment or the development and deliver of products and services.

In addition, the foundation offers advice and services on Design for All to companies, organizations and a variety of government agencies with the aim that the ethical values of Design for All are integrated into their efforts. It offers educational programs, designs the methodology and provides the appropriate tools so that entities can implement Design for All in each level of their organization. It also offers an official certification to identify that a particular organization has been “recognized” by the Design for All Foundation. It describes this “stamp” as a guarantee that human diversity is taken into account and that its objectives are socially positive.

The conference participants discussed the Design for All Commitment projects within their companies and came to a consensus about the common objective of developing an overall Plan of Implementation for Design for All.

Design for All is a broad reaching initiative with the aim that everyone, including future generations, regardless of age, gender, capabilities or cultural background, can enjoy participating in society, with equal opportunities to participate in economic, social, cultural, recreational and entertainment activities while also being able to access, use and understand the environment with as much independence as possible.

To apply the Design for All concepts in prod-

ucts and services, the foundation suggests two principles be taken into consideration:

- Make the use of products and services easier for everyone.
- Ensure that the needs, wishes and expectations of users are taken into consideration in the design and evaluation processes.

Visit www.designforall.org for more information.

EUROPE

Build for All Policy

In January, the Build for All Project, led by the Luxembourg National Disability Council, unveiled the “Build for All Handbook and Toolkit” which describes how public entities can ensure that the built environment is accessible and usable by all EU citizens.

The handbook explains to decision makers and public servants why accessibility for all citizens is important and how public procurement can play a role in achieving greater accessibility. The toolkit provides a “how to” approach for contracting authorities, including procedures and technical requirements for procurement.

According to European Commission President Jose Manuel Barroso, “Public authorities spend each year around 1500 billion Euros... on purchasing goods and services. This gives public purchasers considerable market power, which can trigger a decisive shift in attitudes towards accessibility for all requirements. The European institutions have worked together to introduce ‘access for all’ principles into European public procurement legislation. The new legislative package on public procurement, to be implemented by member states by the end of January 2006, enables contracting authorities to define technical specifications, taking into account accessibility criteria for people with disabilities and design for all users. This is a major change in public procurement legislation, which clearly responds to today’s needs of our society.” For more information, visit www.build-for-all.net



Build for All reference manual

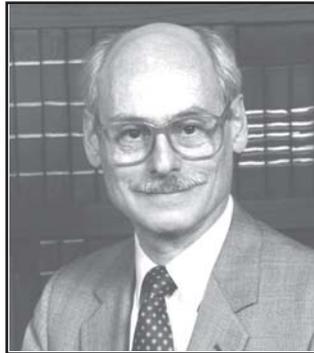
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Jose Manuel Barroso,
 European Commission
 President

“World Update” is compiled by Elaine Ostroff, 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.

Architect Paul Grayson Remembered as a ‘True Humanist’ *International Pioneer in Assistive Technology and Universal Design*

Paul Grayson, an architect whose focus was always on human centered design, passed away in March after a long struggle with multiple myeloma. He was 76. His life's work spanned decades of seeking ways to make environments that were usable and friendly to the broadest range of people. He was a true humanist whose range of knowledge extended from accessible buildings to assistive technology. His later work had a particular focus on aging and the needs of people to be able to stay in their homes as they age.



Paul Grayson

As a child, Grayson had been influenced to become an architect by visits with his father to the Architects Building in New York City to see and touch building materials and by a visit to the New York World's Fair when he was 10. He received a Masters in Architecture from the Harvard Graduate School of Design in 1956. Before founding his own company, he worked for Skidmore, Owings and Merrill, for I.M.Pei & Partners and for Hugh Stubbins in Cambridge.

Grayson was project architect

See Paul Grayson, page 11

His later work had a particular focus on aging and the needs of people to be able to stay in their homes as they age.

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UNITED KINGDOM DBA Design Competition Winners

A simple software tool that helps graphic designers and their clients understand the effect of common visual impairments and check their work throughout the development process for visual inclusivity won the Design Business Association Design Challenge 2006, an effort of the Helen Hamlyn Research Centre, Royal College of Art in London.

Sponsored by Scope, an organization which aims to help people with disabilities achieve equality, the sixth annual design competition attracted a record number of entries from a range of design disciplines. Of the top six finalists, three were visual communication and three were product design. This was a “welcome development that underscores the relevance of inclusive design to every sector, and a growing understanding of this fact in the design community,” according to organizers.

The winning entry, Consider™ by Wire Design, is a software tool that can be launched from any design software package or PDF reader and is available throughout the entire design and proofing process. The tool allows consideration of an audience from the perspective of age, expendable income and location and then offers the user data on common visual impairments such as dyslexia, color blindness, refractive error and partial sight.

The software replicates common eye conditions. Designers can choose any condition and degree of severity from a drop-down menu and view how their audience might see a design. Recommendations are provided on how to improve the design.

Receiving a Highly Commended Award was Caddy by Wood&Wood Design. The Caddy combines the benefits of a granny trolley, a



Caddy



Graphic design software

See World Update, page 7



Website Spotlight: Bruce Hannah's Top 13 Universal Design Examples

If you're looking for inspiration, see what industrial designer Bruce Hannah considers the best examples of Universal Design in cars, gadgets, furniture, signage, room design and playgrounds at www.pbs.org/pov/pov2004/freedommachines/special_universal_bh.html. Although done a couple of years ago, the collection of products and designs still serve as a reminder of the possibilities offered by Universal Design. The site includes descriptions

and images of: OXO "Good Grips," Toyota F1 Series, Aeron Desk Chair, Rhode Island School of Design Kitchen, Lighthouse Headquarters Signage, Voice Activated Telecom Equipment, Keyless Entry Systems, State University of New York at Buffalo Bathrooms, Playworld Systems Play Areas, No Step Bus Systems, Motion Detection Lighting, Adjustable Keyboard Platform and Lever Door Handles.

Distance Learning Opportunities

The ADA & IT Information Center for the Mid-Atlantic Region is offering a variety of audio conferences this year. The program is an opportunity to provide training for staff, consumers, employers and community organizations. Sessions are broadcast live via real-time captioning on the internet. Sessions are held on the third Tuesday of every month, 2:00-3:30 pm Eastern Time. Sessions are archived and available after the broadcast. Previous sessions include: Creating Accessible Play Areas – State of the Science and Permanent Rooms and Space: Accessible Signage.

For more information, call 800.949.4232 or visit www.adainfo.org/training

On Line Accessibility Products

The online store, DisabilityNavigator.com www.disabilitynavigator.com, provides accessibility products from around the world. "Many of these products will offer an individual more function and independence in their daily life," according to the site. The store offers products for independent living that assist people with low vision, mobility impairments and medical issues. It features household products, such as food choppers and can openers, as well as ergonomic furniture. 

Sessions are broadcast live via real-time captioning on the internet.

Sessions are held on the third Tuesday of every month, 2:00-3:30 pm Eastern Time.

World Update, *from page 6*

walker and a roller suitcase, without the stigma of being a mobility aid. The Caddy is a mobile case that can be pulled with one hand, pushed with two hands and provides storage, support and seating. Its pivoting rear leg frame and lockable castors allow the user to easily switch between the two-and four-wheel modes. Large diameter wheels with integral axles and molded rubber tires help users negotiate uneven terrain and small curbs. "Caddy resolves one of the biggest issues for disabled people – the social acceptability of key items of equipment," remarked one of the competition judges. Visit: www.hhrc.rca.ac.uk/events/DBAChallenge for more information. 

NEA Project, *from page 1*

and attitudes involved a web survey with more than 400 responses from around the world. It revealed that the vast majority of people are not familiar with the term "Universal Design." The research also investigated shapes and colors that are perceived to be more or less associated with Universal Design. The results indicate that the symbol or logo needs to be understandable at small scales, i.e., the size of a shirt button for display on product labels, or as large images on posters. Also to be truly "universal" the symbol needs to be able to be recognized by touch.

A complete report is due out later this year. For more information, visit www.ap.buffalo.edu/idea/udidweb/ 

Cynthia Leibrock, *from page 4*

of some of the features below and a complete list on our website www.UniversalDesign.com). In the works, is a gurney accessible bathroom. "It will be so visually integrated, that you'd have no clue" that the bathroom was built to accommodate equipment that size.

While she is using her home as a teaching venue, she also intends to stay in her home as she and her husband age. After years of studying health design, she is firm in her belief that the "nursing home" model, so prevalent in the US, doesn't work.

Most people think that when the time comes, they will move out of their current home and find an affordable, accessible apartment, says Leibrock. While affordable, accessible housing exists, it is in limited supply and often not available, so people have to move to nursing homes.

She is finding that the people currently thinking about Universal Design are wealthy consumers. "They are determined to never go to a nursing home," she says. "The truth is that if people don't think about Universal Design now, they will probably end up in an institution and are going to lose control."

She would like to see the government and busi-

nesses encourage "aging in place" by offering reduced interest rates for universally designed housing. She is convinced that Universal Design can reduce government Medicaid or Medicare costs. She would like to see reduced insurance rates because of fewer accidents in universally designed housing or discounted long term care insurance rates because people can stay in their houses longer, reducing the need for institutional care.

"Universal Design will not move rapidly unless consumers are interested in it," says Leibrock. Financial incentives will get consumers' attention. "There has to be some way to positively influence consumers," she says.

Grassroots Efforts

Not content to simply talk about the importance of aging in place, Leibrock has founded a grassroots effort to provide supportive environments to "keep people at home." Rehabitat is a non profit organization that uses Christian volunteers to help people of all faiths modify their homes to enhance independence and prevent accidents. The organization reflects Leibrock's belief in the power of design and the power of God. It provides training in Universal Design, friendship evangelism, resource development, and needs assessment. She is building on the success of her local effort and is encouraging the establishment of Rehabitat chapters across the country. The proceeds from her book *Design Details for Health: Making the Most of Interior Design's Healing Potential* go to support Rehabitat.

"The mix of her commitment to research and an unflinching missionary zeal" make Leibrock an effective Universal Design force, says Valerie Fletcher, Executive Director of Adaptive Environments, Boston, MA. "Her optimism never flags but she is very methodical in how she pursues an evolving insight into the design details that can influence the user's experience not only of the physical environment but also of one's sense of self and well-being."

Although showered with awards and accolades in her 30-year career, Leibrock says that her proudest accomplishment is her faith. "Everything I have accomplished has come from the direction I receive in my hour of prayer each morning. Without my faith, I would still be trying to make rich people look richer in Pocatello, Idaho!"

For more information on Leibrock, visit www.agingbeautifully.org. 

"She is convinced that Universal Design can reduce government Medicaid or Medicare costs. She would like to see reduced insurance rates because of fewer accidents in universally designed housing or discounted long term care insurance rates...."

Cynthia Leibrock,
MA, ASID,
Hon. IIDA

Bringing It Home

Cynthia Leibrock and her husband have selected 100 Universal Design features that they plan to demonstrate in their renovated house. All will be visually integrated so they won't serve as emblems of age or disability. For a complete list, visit www.universaldesign.com.

Lighting

- High lighting levels without glare including 100fc on counters
- Solar lighting on sidewalks
- Touch controls on lamps
- Rope lights in the kitchen kick space to improve visual acuity

HVAC

- Zoned heating
- Low "E" glass to prevent heat loss and increase visual privacy

Kitchen

- A zero clearance entry to the kitchen from the garage.
- 36" accessible route from the kitchen entry to the living room, bedroom, and gurney accessible bath. Adaptable route to all spaces.
- Grease resistant rubber floor in

the kitchen (to prevent slipping)

- Touch controls on kitchen cabinets
- White interiors on cabinets for visual acuity
- Appliance caddies at counter level to prevent lifting
- Recessed door mat
- 9" removable drawer in the kick space recessed for wheelchair users
- Magnetic induction cook top (for sliding pans and to prevent burns)

Bathroom

- Removable shelf under the sink to clear the space for wheelchair users
- Hand-held shower on a vertical grab bar
- Stop valve in the handset
- Floor drain which cannot be blocked

SkimStone Hybridized Portland Cement

A decorative concrete floor finish, SkimStone Hybridized Portland Cement is made of a blend of acrylic resins that produce a textured appearance.



Hybridized Portland Cement

According to its manufacturer, the Rudd Company, SkimStone has an organic appearance and provides more design options and durability than concrete paint or stain. It can be made to look like carpet, but does not pose problems for people with mobility impairments.

SkimStone is a proprietary blend of acrylic resins and dry ingredients, including Portland cement. The end-user controls the color and the color strength of each coat by adding the desired amount of the color. Though primarily intended for floors, SkimStone can be used on many different substrates and virtually all concrete surfaces, including walls, countertops, fireplace surrounds, and pools.

Hotel Guest Solutions Kit

MaxiAids has an Accessory Kit for the lodging industry that includes a selection of products to make guest and meeting rooms more accessible. "Our cost effective adaptive devices and accessories... provide an elegant solution for addressing a wide range of special needs," according to the manufacturer.

The Guest Collection for the bathroom includes: transfer tub bench, hand held shower, anti slip shower mats, step stool with railing, portable shaving and inspection mirrors, shower mits with soap holder, portable grab bars, tub

mounted grab bars, toilet mounted grab bars, door knocker with strobe, auto soap dispenser, multi-opener for tooth paste and reachers. The availability of the kit allows a guest room to become instantly more accessible when a guest arrives with unexpected needs.

Door Closer

The Jackson Easy Open™ door closer with its 5 lbs opening force will overcome stack pressure created by most HVAC systems, according to the manufacturer. In the normal position, the system's spring power is adjusted to between 8 and 10 lbs. opening force which will typically overcome ??? pressure. When activated, the closer automatically adjusts to 5 lbs. opening force. It will stay in that position up to 20 seconds, but can be adjustable in 5 second increments.

Text Magnifier/Reader

The Zoom Text Magnifier/Reader software,



Text Magnifier/Reader

from Ai Squared, enlarges and enhances everything on a computer screen and can read what you are doing as you move around the screen. Users can rest their eyes while ZoomText reads documents, web pages and email. The software offers a choice of speech synthesizers and includes program, typing and mouse echo options to narrate a user's actions. The software can magnify from 1 to 36 times and allows users to change fonts and screen colors to enhance readability.

SkimStone Hybridized Portland Cement
 Rudd Company/Inc.
 Seattle, WA 98107
 800.444.7833(v)
 www.skimstone.com

Maxi Guest Solutions
 Maxi-Aids, Inc.
 42 Executive Blvd.
 Farmingdale, NY 11735
 800.522.6294(v)
 631.752.0738 (tty)
 631.752.0689 (fax)
 www.maxiaids.com/guest

The Jackson Easy Open™
 3447 Union Pacific Ave.
 Los Angeles, CA 90023
 877.394.8338 (phone)
 www.jacksonexit.com

ZoomText Magnifier/Reader
 Ai Squared
 PO Box 669
 Manchester Center, VT 05255
 802.362.3612
 800.859.0270
 www.aisquared.com



Is it 29" or 30"?

Exploring Urinal Clear Floor Space Width Requirements

Welcome to the newest column in *Universal Design Newsletter*: "Aha! Moments." Accessibility experts know that no one knows it all. This column seeks to identify surprising criteria and present opinions

as to the intent of those criteria in the hopes that we can share our "Aha! Moments." They occasionally come across technical accessibility criteria anomalies that evoke an Aha! Moment. We request comments or other examples of strange things you have found in the technical standards that made you scratch your head.

Urinal Clear Floor Space Width

The ADA Standards for Accessible Design always require a clear floor space at plumbing fixtures. This clear floor space must be a minimum 30 inches wide by 48 inches deep to accommodate a standard wheelchair. A careful reading of Section 4.18.3, Clear Floor Space requirements at urinals, however, reveals that the partitions defining the clear floor space may be only 29 inches apart, rather than 30 inches.

The new Americans with Disabilities Act/ Architectural Barriers Act Accessibility Guidelines (ADA/ABA-AG) has changed the requirement and made the clear floor space for urinals be consistent with all other clear floor space criteria, but as we all know, the ADA/ABA-AG is not the law, and the the clear floor space between the partitions at urinals is presently allowed to be different than everywhere else. ■



Urinal privacy panels limit clear width.

Send comments to: dmhofstedt@universaldesign.com

ATMs, *from page 1*

that terrain affects only the design of a building, not the design of an ATM." The judge disagreed with Cardtronics' interpretation. He stated that "... relevant regulations and guidelines issued by [the Department of Justice] seem to clearly establish that built-in ATMs are facilities covered by the new construction mandate. The Defendants present no evidence suggesting that any ATMs at issue in this case are moveable structures not contemplated during the building process, as was the case with the display racks at issue in *Colorado Cross-Disability Coalition [v. Too (Delaware), Inc.]*" case.

The judge agreed that the Plaintiffs' suggested modification to the Cardtronics' policies – allowing customers who are blind to use ac-

cessible ATMs operated by other companies without a surcharge – "is generally reasonable." He denied the Plaintiff's motion on summary judgment regarding the alleged violation of Cardtronics' reasonable modification mandate. "The record in this case establishes that ATMs with voice-guidance technology are accessible to and independently usable by the blind. This court cannot require the Defendants to employ voice-guidance technology, as such technology is not required by the [Americans with Disabilities Act Accessibility Guidelines]." He noted that the burden now shifts to the Defendants to show that "the suggested modification would fundamentally alter the nature of their electronic banks services." ■

Paul Grayson, *from page 6*

for the World of Century 21 Theme Exposition for the Seattle World's Fair. He was particularly proud of his design for the Sisters of Charity Retirement Center in Wellesley and of having been part of the team that made the Tampa Airport a model of seamless accessibility.

Through his company, Environments for Living, Grayson was an international pioneer in promoting and educating people about both assistive technology and Universal Design. He was among the first Americans to establish extensive collaborative relationships with other design and business leaders in accessible design in Europe and Japan.

"Paul Grayson was one of the most gracious people working in the field of universal design," says Edward Steinfeld, Arch.D., AIA, Professor of Architecture and Director of the Center for Inclusive Design and Environmental Access School of Architecture and Planning, University at Buffalo, State University of New York. "He was always willing to share thoughts and ideas. His experience in the mainline architectural pro-

fession provided invaluable insights for us in our dissemination and educational work. He will surely be missed by the entire field."

Before his death, Grayson was working with Adaptive Environments to donate his library and papers to the new Adaptive Environments library. When the library is finished, Grayson's well-documented work, as well as his international collection of books, periodicals and materials, will be available to students and researchers.

"What I remember about him was his quiet determination to make UD a practical reality and an openness to new ideas," said Speed Davis, Policy Advisor with the Department of Labor Office of Disability Employment Policy and a member of the Adaptive Environments Board of Directors.

Grayson leaves his wife Beatriz, an accomplished artist, their son, David and two brothers, Mark and Stanley. Beatriz Grayson can be reached at P.O. Box 698, Winchester, MA. 01890. 

"What I remember about him was his quiet determination to make UD a practical reality and an openness to new ideas."

Speed Davis, Policy Advisor, Office of Disability Employment Policy, Department of Labor

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Job Announcement: Accessibility Program Specialist - Smithsonian Institute

Make a difference in how millions of visitors experience the Smithsonian museums. Join the central office that guides the Smithsonian's efforts to become fully accessible to people with disabilities. This position offers the opportunity to develop creative programming and manage internal and external relationships and programs. You will assume responsibility for developing, and presenting an Institution-wide accessibility training program for staff, docents and volunteers; manage an external partnership for public access initiatives; provide visitors with accessibility services; and assist the Director in managing the office, website and outreach programs. This is a Federal Civil Service position GS 9 /11. For complete position requirements and application instructions go to <http://www.si.edu/ohr/job.htm>. Scroll to announcement # 06JD-6177. The Smithsonian is an Equal Opportunity Employer.

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

July 13-14, 2006: Universal Design & Visitability: From Accessibility to Zoning, Columbus, Ohio. Sponsored by National Endowment for the Arts and Ohio State University. Contact: www.knowlton.osu.edu/ped/universaldesign.htm.

July 24-26: 2006: US Architectural & Transportation Barriers Compliance Board Meeting, Washington, DC. Contact: www.access-board.gov/about/meetings.htm

Oct. 22-26, 2006: 2nd International Conference on Universal Design, Kyoto, Japan. Sponsored by the International Association of Universal Design and Kyoto Prefecture. Contact: www.ud2006.net/en

Nov. 17-19, 2006: World Congress & Expo on Disabilities, Philadelphia, PA. The conference and expo includes five educational tracks and four special pavillions, including one focused on a home accessibility and universal design. Contact: wcdexpo.com

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