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'New ADA' Rules Move Forward

Public Can Comment on Proposed New Rules

Nearly four years after the Department of Justice (DOJ) announced its intention to update the Americans with Disabilities Act Standards, it has taken the next step in the process to make the new regulations enforceable. On June 17, DOJ issued notices to adopt the new design standards for facilities covered by the ADA.

The proposed regulations adopt the 2004 Americans with Disabilities Act Accessibility Guidelines (ADAAG) issued by the US Architectural & Transportation Barriers Compliance Board (Access Board) but add many new regulatory sections.

"It is apparent from this massive document that the Department

of Justice has paid careful attention to comments from business and advocates," said Carolyn Gray, of Barnes & Thornburg LLP, Washington, DC. "We are thoroughly reviewing and analyzing the document which does indeed serve to clarify certain situations while simultaneously raising new issues."

The proposed regulations are open for

See **NPRM**, page 3



The Carlyle Suites Hotel accessibility efforts resulted in this glitzy design that is true to the hotel's art deco decor.

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'Doing the Right Thing Shouldn't be So Hard'

DC Hotel Completes Phase in Accessibility Quest

by Denise McGiffin Hofstedt

The owners of the Carlyle Suites Hotel near hip Dupont Circle in Washington, DC have a history of being out in front of trends. They embraced the "all-suite" hotel concept before it became all the rage. They adopted a "boutique" hotel identity when other high end hotels were chasing world wide corporate branding models. And when the Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA) became law, its team was already tackling accessibility issues within the property fueled by the continuous quest to provide the best service to guests.

Crafting accessibility solutions in a historic 1939 art

See **Carlyle Suites Hotel**, page 6

Getting a grip

Handrail graspability is being hotly debated in some code development circles. Two authorities on the subject have agreed to share their views on the issues at hand -- so to speak.

See commentaries by Jake Pauls and Dave Cooper on the newly redesigned www.UniversalDesign.com.

Click on UD Newsletter and Newsletter Extras.



by John P. S. Salmen



I Was Shocked

When I read the long awaited Notice of Proposed Rule Making, published by the US Department of Justice (DOJ) on June 17, 2008, I could hardly believe my eyes. DOJ is proposing to amend Section 36.304 Removal of Barriers so that the 1991 Americans with Disabilities Act Accessibility Guidelines (ADAAG) -- the current standards for accessible design in *new* construction -- would be the determination of what constitutes a barrier in *existing facilities*. This seems to me to be a fundamental change to the central compromise of the Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA) established by Congress that allowed a reasonable approach to access in existing buildings while requiring a high level of access in new construction. Since the 1991 ADAAG and the 2004 ADAAG require very similar levels of accessibility, this new regulation will hold existing buildings essentially to the same standard as new construction.

The ADA Standards have always been the guide to the level of accessibility that should be created when alterations are undertaken to remove a barrier, but the courts, as well as DOJ, have never required that they be used as the yardstick for determining what constitutes a barrier. For example:

§ 36.304 of Appendix B to Part 36 (the Preamble) to the Title III regulations, written by DOJ, states, "...the

ADA establishes different standards for existing facilities and new construction..."

- Section 310. EFFECTIVE DATE establishes different implementation dates for the Section 302 and Section 303 provisions. Because the barrier removal requirements of Section 302 were considered to be simple, they became effective immediately upon signing of the Law; whereas the alterations and new construction requirements of Section 303 (i.e. ADAAG) did not become effective until 18 months later due

to the need to first educate those responsible for compliance as to its complex and extensive provisions.

Appendix B to Part 36, (known as the Preamble) of the ADA Title III regulations, states:

§ 36.304 Removal of Barriers:

- "In striking a balance between guaranteeing access to individuals with disabilities and recognizing the legitimate cost concerns of businesses and other private entities, the ADA establishes different standards for existing facilities and new construction. In existing facilities [pre 1/26/93], which are the subject of § 36.304, where retrofitting may prove costly, a less rigorous degree of accessibility is required than in the case of new construction and alterations (see §36.401-36.406) where accessibility can be more conveniently and economically incorporated in the initial stages of design and construction."

The ADA Handbook published in 1992 by the DOJ contains a copy of the Law and supporting information to explain its provisions and intent. Section VIII Existing Facilities: Removal of Barriers explains on page 6, "Barrier removal measures must comply, when readily achievable, with the alterations provisions of the ADAAG." This plain language indicates that ADAAG is only to be used when barrier actions are undertaken at existing facilities and when such actions are readily achievable. This Section neither requires, nor implies, that ADAAG is to be used as the basis for identification of barriers at pre 1/26/93 existing facilities as has now been proposed.

In addition, various court rulings addressing the ADA Title III requirements, confirm that ADAAG is not the basis for identifying barriers at existing facilities.

I hope that I am not alone in recognizing the inherent injustice in requiring existing buildings to meet new construction standards.

Regulatory standards should be limited to the minimum requirements necessitated by law or human function, and voluntary universal design standards such as those under development by the Global Universal Design Commission (see article on Page 5) should be relied upon to

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University of Michigan Agrees to Improve Accessibility at Football Stadium

In March, the University of Michigan reached a settlement with the US Department of Justice (DOJ) and the Michigan Paralyzed Veterans of America (MPVA) resolving a lawsuit challenging the lack of accessible seating in the University’s football stadium known as “the Big House.”

MPVA agreed to drop the lawsuit in return for



The University of Michigan football stadium.

a commitment from the university to add more wheelchair-accessible seating and make changes to stadium facilities such as bringing bathrooms and ramps into compliance with the ADA, according to Michael Harris, Executive Director of the MPVA.

Under the settlement, the university will add a minimum of 248 permanent wheelchair seats and 248 companion seats to the stadium during the next two years. The majority of these seats will be along the side lines. Currently, the stadium, which has a capacity of 107,000 seats, has 81 pairs of wheelchair and companion seats, all located in the end zones. By the 2010 football season, the stadium will have at least 329 pairs of wheelchair and companion seats dispersed throughout the stadium. At the end of the 2010 season, the parties will discuss whether to add

additional accessible seating along one of the sidelines. The university will also add accessible parking, accessible toilet rooms, and accessible routes to and throughout the stadium, and will improve access to other facilities and services at the stadium.

The university is currently in the midst of a \$226 million expansion of the stadium, including the addition of luxury boxes and suites. Those seating areas, which were not addressed in the consent decree, will include additional wheelchair seating.

The Justice Department intervened in this lawsuit on November 26, 2007, after receiving a referral from the US Department of Education following its lengthy investigation of complaints filed by people who use wheelchairs.

“If the settlement agreement with U of M is any indication of progress,” said MVPVA’s Harris. “Americans with disabilities just inched closer to ensuring that the guarantees and promises on which this country was founded will one day apply to all Americans.”

Report on Updated 508 Standards Released

A report recommending changes to the structure and substance of the federal standards covering accessibility for information and communications technology was recently released by a US Architectural & Transportation Barriers Compliance Board (Access Board) Advisory Committee.

On April 3, the Telecommunications and Electronic and Information Technology Advisory Committee (TEITAC) presented its report suggesting revised performance criteria and updated technical specifications for hardware, user interfaces and electronic content, audio-visual players, displays and content, real-time voice communication, and authoring tools. Unlike the current section 508 standards, these provisions are organized by the features or capabilities of a product, instead of discreet product types. The Access Board will propose updates based on the report. The report is available at www.access-board.gov/sec508/refresh/report/. For more information, contact Tim Creagan at creagan@access-board.gov, 202.272.0016 (v), 202.272.0082 (tty).

MPVA agreed to drop the lawsuit in return for a commitment from the university to add more wheelchair-accessible seating and make changes to stadium facilities...

Michael Harris, MVPVA Executive Director

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public comment until Aug. 18, 2008. Comments can be submitted on line at: www.regulations.gov. DOJ plans to hold a public hearing July 15 in Washington, DC, which will be webcast. For more information, contact DOJ at 202-307-0663 (v/tty) or visit www.ada.gov.

Technology Use Growing Fast Among People with Disabilities

Companies Looking to Universal Design to Improve Usability

While it is not surprising that the use of wireless technologies is on the rise in the US, it is interesting to note that their use is increasing faster among people with disabilities than with the general population.

A survey of the US population by the International Association for the Wireless Telecommunications Industry (CTIA) showed a 10 percent increase in use over 12 months. A Wireless Rehabilitation Engineering Research Center (Wireless RERC) survey of people with disabilities reflected a 13 percent increase in use of wireless devices.

Wireless customers with disabilities are using their devices more frequently and relying on

them more, according to researchers. In the most recent survey 77% of those surveyed considered their wireless devices “very important,” up from 60% in 2006 survey.

The RERC survey found that the features most important to users with disabilities were voice com-



Designers are beginning to embrace universal design ideals, such as devices that can be used comfortably by left-handed or right-handed people. Photo Credit: Matthew Tierney

AT&T recently announced its adoption of universal design methodology.

Universal Design Influence

A mobile phone that can be as easily used in the right hand as the left hand is among the examples AT&T Mobility cites in its universal design literature. The material, intended to be used by product designers and manufacturers, offers food for thought and practical examples of universal design principles. Designers are encouraged to consider a variety of scenarios when developing features for products, such as:

- A user may have difficulty seeing or not be able to read visual information.
- A user might be in the middle of a crosswalk when the glare of the sun obscures the screen of her mobile phone.
- Entering a movie theater impacts a user’s ability to read the screen, and suddenly it’s too dark to see the keys.
- If a user’s eyes are already elsewhere engaged when he receives a message on his phone, how does he find out who’s calling? Is it urgent? Can he respond somehow?

Some universal design solutions offered for the above scenarios are:

- Keys with tactile markings are designed to be perceived by touch and need no visible recognition.
- Bumps on the 5 key on the number pad aid orientation.
- Function keys should be uniquely identifiable by touch.
- The power switch should be located on the phone in such a way that discourages accidental presses, and is uniquely identifiable.
- Tonal status indicators provide contextual alerts to incoming messages.
- Provide a unique tone for Power On, Power Off, Low Battery, Roaming Status.
- Speech recognition, voice commands and voice dialing take advantage of voice input that needs no further interaction.

munication (78%), E-911 (45%), text messaging (43%), E-mail (41%) and internet access (35%).

The most important handset features were: a long battery life (63%); durability, toughness (61%); low cost (57%); simple operation (56%); and light weight (52%).

It appears that corporate America is beginning to recognize the importance of the usability of products for a broad range of customers. AT&T recently announced its adoption of universal design methodology. It did so in an effort to encourage application developers and handset manufacturers to consider the needs of seniors or customers who have disabilities when designing products, according to a company statement.

“It is our goal that the concept of ‘design for all’ is not viewed as a constraint but as a catalyst for innovation across the industry,” said Carlton Hill, Vice President of Marketing for AT&T’s mobile unit. “We believe that by making our methodology on universal design available for all to see, we can show the importance and value of creating wireless products and services that are usable and beneficial to as many people as possible. The end result will be more choices for consumers.”

AT&T consulted with many leading experts in the creation of its Universal Design Methodology, including the Wireless RERC at Georgia Tech.

“The release of AT&T’s Universal Design

See **Wireless Report**, page 11

Global Universal Design Commission Holds Inaugural Meeting

The effort to create voluntary worldwide universal design standards for the built environment and products was launched May 30 at the Global Universal Design Commission (GUDC) meeting in Syracuse, NY.

Among the 40 people in attendance at the group's inaugural meeting, were representatives from the United Nations and other government agencies, commercial development and the disability, aging and design communities. The



Ed Steinfeld addresses the GUDC meeting.

meeting, which was webcast, included the announcement of a consensus process for developing voluntary universal design standards and a measurement system to guide the application

of universal design of the built environment and products.

A proposed conceptual framework for the standard, which can be found at www.globaluniversaldesign.org, was outlined by board member Edward Steinfeld, Arch D, AIA, Professor at the University at Buffalo, State University of New York.

Supported by public and private entities, the GUDC, a not-for-profit corporation, has been established to increase the understanding and use of universal design throughout the world. The commission seeks to promote universal design in the creation of products and the built environment so that flexibility, choice and accommodating features can become common place in the physical world and business practices.

Currently efforts are underway to formalize subcommittees to address sections of the standards development process. The group hopes to have a draft standard available for review at the end of this year. 

The commission seeks to promote universal design in the creation of products and the built environment so that flexibility, choice and accommodating features can become common place in the physical world and business practices.

Shock, from page 2

identify ways of achieving greater and greater access and usability. This multi-layered approach would allow product manufacturers and building owners/developers to promote their products by their level of usability to capture market share. By having the mandatory accessibility requirements reflect only the necessities and the voluntary universal design criteria that go beyond those minimums to certify good, better and best practices, we can satisfy both those wanting to modify the criteria to reflect the state-of-the-art

of accessible design, and those not wanting the requirements to go beyond the minimums that are needed to provide access.

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Carlyle Suites, from page 1

deco apartment building that had been converted into an all-suite hotel is like trying to make a Volkswagen Beetle seaworthy. It was a big, seemingly impossible job, but for the owners of the 176-room Carlyle Suites, it was a no brainer. “We are in a service industry and accessibility is a service issue,” says Great Addresses President Richard Spigler. “Some hotels look at it as if it’s a liability issue and back off. But this isn’t about liability – it’s about service. We treat it like it’s any other service issue.”

While the decision was easy because it was the “right thing to do,” according to Spigler, making their ideas reality proved challenging.

The Carlyle Suites’ team, whose long term success in the boom and bust lodging industry can be attributed to its attention to detail and its hands-on management style, immediately went about making guest rooms and the ancient elevators more accessible. But its biggest challenge was coming up with a plan to address a 30-inch rise inside the hotel’s tiny lobby. The staff engaged in their customary “outside the box” thinking to come up with a solution. They considered shifting the hotel’s main

entrance to another side of the building – an idea doomed, in part, by the narrow alleys that flank the building.

They then pursued the idea of an exterior ramp.



The kitchenette in one of the Carlyle universal access suites.

“...But this isn’t about liability – it’s about service. We treat it like it’s any other service issue.”

Richard Spigler
President,
Great Addresses

Just Normal ‘Good’ (Great) Service

Just the sniff of an Americans with Disabilities (ADA) lawsuit can send some hotel staff running for cover or frozen with the fear of doing something wrong.

It was in the middle of the ADA lawsuit drama involving the Carlyle Suites, when a mother and her adult daughter checked in for a stay. The daughter, who was blind and used a wheelchair, was having a difficult time heating up water to make her own tea because she was unfamiliar with the microwave oven in their accessible guest room. Learning of the difficulty, Great Addresses Vice President JoAnn Dana searched for, found and purchased a microwave oven with braille controls in less than a day. Dana felt triumphant that she was able to satisfy the need of a guest; and the mother was amazed by the effort put forth by the staff.

Great Addresses President Richard Spigler was proud of his team, “In spite of the fear of that comes with a threatened lawsuit... our staff came up with a great solution to satisfy a guest’s needs.”

Washington, DC architect Eric Colbert came up with a stylish, integrated, landscaped ramp that was true to the building’s art deco features. (See renderings on www.UniversalDesign.com) The plan successfully ran the gauntlet of neighborhood groups with all involved signing off on the design. It was then presented to DC’s Historic Preservation Review Board where it was dismissed and its advocates told, in no uncertain terms, that an exterior ramp would never be approved.

Drained by the bureaucratic battles and desperate for a simple solution, the Carlyle team members went back to the drawing board. They began considering the installation of a lift that could be recessed into the lobby floor and appear only when needed. They found the hidden access lift (HAL) which was in the initial stage of production by Hogan Manufacturing Company that seemed a perfect fit for their situation.

In 2005, representatives from the Carlyle traveled to California to see the lift, which had been approved for use in California. Enthusiastic about their prospects for approval, the team came back to the DC Elevator Commission to pitch the idea. With the previous Mayor exiting office and his successor all but elected, few city government of-

See **Carlyle Suites**, page 7

Carlyle Suites, from page 6

officials were willing to call attention to themselves by doing anything out of the ordinary. Despite the political climate, the Carlyle folks found a champion for their idea, but before it could get approved, the official died unexpectedly and so did their chances for HAL approval.

Ironically in the midst of the quest for a solution, the Carlyle Suites Hotel was served with an ADA lawsuit.

In light of its past efforts, the company was in a legally strong position to challenge the lawsuit, according to Spigler and others. It had gone beyond what was expected for a pre-1992 building. But in keeping with its practice of carefully



The registration area offers guests a variety of heights.

considering its actions, the company's leadership did the unexpected – it made a decision to not fight the lawsuit but instead sought to engage the people who were suing them and gain their insight.

They asked if they could meet with the plaintiffs to get their input on how the remaining accessibility challenges in the hotel could be addressed. The unusual request required and eventually received approval from the presiding judge.

For more than a year, the team worked on alternative after alternative to make the lobby accessible. The only solutions it came up with would be considered by the ADA Accessibility Guidelines as “structurally infeasible.” But since the company wasn't relying on the ADA for protection, the question the company's leadership

focused on was: “What would they do if structure wasn't an issue?” The solution they came up with was radical. They structurally realigned and expanded the lobby by significantly reducing the size of an adjacent meeting room to make room for a ramp – a big decision with bottom line implications for the long term financial future of the small hotel.

After more than 18 months of work and with the judge pushing for resolution, a settlement with the plaintiffs was reached. Construction on the lobby began in January 2007 and was completed in early 2008.

The final design stayed true to the building's history and décor. “It's glitzy and seamless,” says John P. S. Salmen, AIA, President of Universal Designers & Consultants, Inc., Takoma Park, MD and advisor on the project. “A ramp was added that enlarged the lobby and improved the flow of people and baggage. All-glass automatic sliding doors welcome guests into the bright and open lobby that features black and white marble floors and counters with silver accents and art deco detailing.”

The product of more than a decade of work, the renovated lobby is elegant and functional. “No guest coming in will know the energy that was expended to make the hotel so welcoming for everyone,” says DC-based artist Kevin Adams who designed the marble layout of the lobby. “We put the same amount of energy into every detail as the original builders did in 1939 and that's never done today.” And that's the way it ought to be according to Spigler, whose staff prides itself in making its service seem effortless.

Spigler, who is pleased with the results of their efforts, but happy that the lobby issue has been resolved, notes philosophically that “It shouldn't be so hard to do the right thing.” But it was. 

“No guest coming in will know the energy that was expended to make the hotel so welcoming for everyone...”

Kevin Adams, the artist who designed the lobby at the Carlyle Suites Hotel

To see more photos of the universally designed features in the Carlyle Suites Hotel, visit the *newly redesigned* www.UniversalDesign.com

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The Stanza entry keypad ensures a warm welcome upon your guest's entry and energy savings when your guest leaves the room.

* Stanza is the only guestroom light control system designed to support the principles of Universal Design. The Principles of Universal Design, Copyright © 1997 NC State University, The Center for Universal Design

New Game Controller

Ben Heckendorn and eDimensional have created the Access Controller, a game controller that allows the user to play with one hand. Compatible with the Playstation 2, Playstation 3 and PC platforms, the controller features a patented



Video game controller

modular control design, each control function found on a regular game-pad (including analog sticks, D-Pad, shoulder buttons, face buttons, etc.) is accessible and

built into its own module. Each module can easily be rearranged to suit any game style or need. The concave design can be set on a leg or table and provides proper balance and resistance for optimal responsiveness. The Access Controller utilizes 2.4 GHz wireless technology for added convenience.

Floor Washing Robot

The Scooba Floor Washing Robot, manufactured by iRobot, is a programmable floor washer that prepares, cleans, and dries sealed hardwood, tile and linoleum flooring. The device picks up loose sand, crumbs and dirt; washes using cleaning solution; scrubs to remove dirt and grime; and dries by picking up the dirty solution. A single tank cleans up to 200 square feet, covering each area an average of four times. The Scooba uses a rechargeable battery with a Charging Brick (both included). Additional batteries are available, as is a charging base. Other available



Floor washing robot

options include: storage mat, additional Virtual Wall units, additional cleaning fluid, vacuum port, and replacement tank, filter, cleaning brush, and cleaning head.

Wireless Talking BBQ/ Oven Thermometer

The Grill Right Wireless Talking BBQ/Oven Thermometer, model AW131, is a voice output cooking thermometer from Oregon Scientific. This wireless thermometer verbally alerts the user when meat on the barbecue grill has reached the right temperature. Battery powered, the thermometer can be programmed for eight entrées and for various levels of doneness. It has a digital liquid crystal display (LCD) screen with a



Talking wireless meat thermometer

remote wireless probe to identify temperature/readiness of meat. The unit speaks in five languages with corresponding display (English, Spanish, German, French, and Danish). The sensor has a temperature range from 32 to 572 degrees Fahrenheit. Four verbal and audio alert options let the user know the status of the meal (almost ready, ready, overcooked, and out-of-range). An audio alarm sounds when selected temperature is reached.

Add On Power Units for Bikes

The Electra Ride Power Kits, manufactured by Palmer Industries, are add-on power units for tricycles and bicycles that enable riders to choose the amount of assistance required: total power, power-assisted pedaling, or standard pedaling with no power. The kits include the drive unit, battery, battery case, wiring, and all components. Tricycle drive units mount on the front wheel. Model 100 Deluxe is designed for use on adult



Add on power units for bikes

tricycles for all-purpose cycling on hilly or level terrain and has a one-horse power motor. The models have a top speed of 10 to 17 miles per hour. The units are battery powered.



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

When 2 + 1 Doesn't Equal 3

Lodging Facilities Room Count in the 2004 ADAAG

by Lee Swinscoe, ADA/FHA Accessibility Specialist

Unfortunately, rounding causes the percentages of rooms with and without roll-in showers to not always equal the total number of required rooms.

Here is an example of the inherent dilemma for hotel/motel designers when using the new 2004 Americans with Disabilities Act Accessibility Guidelines (ADAAG) -- proposed for adoption by the US Department of Justice as the new ADA Standards -- in determining the required number of accessible rooms. First of all, Section 104.2 of the new regulations states that if the required number is in the form of a percentage with a decimal is, it must be **ROUNDED UP** to the next whole number.

To determine the total number of required accessible rooms with and without roll-in showers the table in Section 224.2 is used. The total number of rooms is calculated by adding the number of rooms with roll-in showers to the number of rooms required without roll-in showers.

Table 224.2 only uses percentages when the total number of guestrooms is between 501 and 1000 and requires compliance as follows:

Number of rooms **WITHOUT** roll-in showers = 2%

Number of rooms **WITH** roll-in showers = 1%

Total number of required rooms = 3%

Unfortunately, rounding causes the percentages and actual numbers to disagree.

Below are a few examples where the sum of the required rooms with and without roll-in showers doesn't equal the total number required. Designers who calculate the 3% of the total rooms instead of totaling the 1% and 2% breakdowns, will actually be off by one accessible room.

It remains to be seen if, and how, this dilemma will be resolved. However the US Architectural & Transportation Barriers Compliance Board's (Access Board's) technical assistance hot line suggested to us that the 3% total rooms be ignored and that the sum of the rounded up 2% and 1% be used to calculate the required number of guest rooms for hotel's with 501-1000 rooms. 

Total Rooms	Without Roll-in Shower @ 2%	Without Roll-in Shower Number (Rounded-up)	With Roll-in Shower @ 1%	With Roll-in Shower Number (Rounded up)	Total Accessible Rooms Required @	Total Accessible Rooms Required	Sum of Rounded up Rooms With and Without Roll-in Showers	Difference
610	12.2	13	6.1	7	18.3	19	20	1
620	12.4	13	6.2	7	18.6	19	20	1
630	12.6	13	6.3	7	18.9	19	20	1
660	13.2	14	6.6	7	19.8	20	21	1

Table showing example of when rounding total doesn't match the calculated total.

Log On to the New www.UniversalDesign.com

More insight, more information, more interactive

On July 14, Universal Designers & Consultants Inc. will unveil its redesigned website, www.UniversalDesign.com. The site is packed with design tips, products, information and resources that demonstrate universal design and assist visitors in enhancing the built environment – whether it is a business or house – making environments more usable, comfortable and safe for the broad range of human abilities.

For businesses, the site contains information on how to comply with the new 2004 ADAAG and the proposed Americans with Disabilities Act rules as well as simple solutions that can improve customer service and satisfaction as well as accessibility within a business.

Following the tradition of *Universal Design Newsletter*, leaders in the accessibility and universal design fields and visitors to the site share their opinions and insight through blogs and interactive forums. Industry specific news and design tips populate the site.

Visitors can subscribe (for free!!) to *Universal Design Newsletter* and sign up to receive breaking

news announcements and weekly design tips.

“If you want to be a part of the universal design community, you need to plug into the new UniversalDesign.com site,” says John P. S. Salmen, AIA, President of UD&C and Publisher of *UDN*. “It is a timely, practical resource for people who are trying to improve accessibility within their businesses or homes.”

The launching of the new site comes at a criti-

“If you want to be a part of the universal design community, you need to plug into the new UniversalDesign.com site.”

John P. S. Salmen, AIA,
Publisher of *UDN*



Wireless Report, from page 4

principles is one of the more public statements that companies are making about their interest in reaching diverse customer communities,” says Jim Mueller, Principal of JL Mueller Inc., Chantilly, VA and Project Director, User-Centered Research for the Wireless RERC. “But universal design is increasingly accepted as ‘just good business,’ and embedded into business development and planning. This is certainly a healthy thing, but it means that we will be more likely to find evidence of universal design in the marketplace than in the media. We’re watching the marketplace closely and hopefully.”

AT&T’s document on universal design is at: <http://developer.att.com/universaldesign>

cal time, according to Salmen. “The tidal wave of awareness of the need to create universal designs that are usable by people regardless of age, size, mobility or cognitive ability is approaching, and with the changes to the ADA rules, and the emergence of voluntary standards for universal design, it is important to have a source that provides unbiased access to this emerging field. A small investment in time to visit www.UniversalDesign.com, can pay off big time for businesses that want to maximize their markets and people who want to take advantage of the new technologies and concepts of UD in their homes and communities.”

The site was redesigned by WebAim, an web accessibility provider that specializing in developing and retrofitting web content for accessibility.

July 14!
Visit the Newly Redesigned
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Events to be placed in the UDN Calendar must be submitted to the editor one month before the publication date.

Universal Design Newsletter
6 Grant Avenue
Takoma Park, MD
20912

July 15, 2008: Public Hearing on the ADA NPRM, Washington, DC. The Department of Justice will hold a public hearing on the proposed regulatory amendments, 9 am to 5 pm at the Marriott Hotel at Metro Center, 775 12th St, NW. Contact: linda.garrett@usdoj.gov

July 21-23, 2008: US Architectural & Transportation Barriers Compliance Board Meeting, Washington, DC. Contact: www.access-board.gov/about/meetings.htm

Aug. 25-28, 2008: 21st Rehabilitation International World Congress, Quebec City, Canada. People with disabilities, their families and friends, human rights advocates, experts, government representatives, service providers and civil society leaders will gather to discuss key disability issues and build partnerships. Contact: www.riquebec2008.org

Aug. 25-28, 2008: 9th Global Conference on Ageing and Exposition, Quebec City, Canada. Sponsored by the International Federation on Ageing. Contact: www.expoageing.com/2/home.html

Aug. 26-28, 2008: ADA Accessibility Guidelines Training, Level 1, Bowie, MD. Offered by the DBTAC: Mid Atlantic ADA Center, the training includes information on the accessibility requirements of the ADA and the implementing regulations. Contact: 800.946.9471 (v/relay) or 304.296.3510 (v/relay), www.eastlakederry.com

Sept. 8-11, 2008: Retrofitting for Accessibility, Gatlinburg, TN. The course, designed for maintenance professionals, construction specialists, facility managers, trails supervisors, architects, access coordinators, includes application of accessibility standards, barrier removal and safety issues related to accessibility. Presented by National Center on Accessibility. Contact: www.ncaonline.org.

Sept. 23-25, 2008: ADA Accessibility Guidelines Training, Level 2, Bowie, MD. Offered by the DBTAC: Mid Atlantic ADA Center, this hands on training includes information on the use of survey tools, rulemaking efforts and the new ADAAG. Contact: 800.946.9471 (v/relay) or 304.296.3510 (v/relay), www.eastlakederry.com

Dec. 8-11, 2008: A Universal Approach to Interpretive Planning, Programs and Design, Indianapolis, IN. The course will focus on methods and techniques for developing programs and exhibits that are accessible to people with disabilities. Presented by National Center on Accessibility. Contact: www.ncaonline.org.

Sept. 30-Oct. 2, 2008: Universal Access to Airports, Rosemont, IL. This biannual conference offers industry leaders an forum to exchange ideas concerning accessibility to, in and around airports. Contact: www.opendoorsnfp.org

