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## Providing Public Access

### *Making the Lakefront 'Accessible to All'*

Universal access was “a given” as the architects began designing a project to provide hard to come by public access to a lake shore in Indiana. Perhaps an indication that universal design is coming of age, the project boasted no special initiative or mandate that the park be accessible for all. It was simply understood by all involved that this project would provide the same experience for all its visitors.

JJR Architects of Chicago designed the Portage Lakefront and Riverwalk Development which is a piece of the Indiana Lake Shore Reinvestment Strategy, or Marquette Plan. The plan calls for purchasing former industrial sites, or “brown fields,” and converting the space into public parkland.

It includes a pedestrian and bicycle trail that will stretch from the Illinois state line to the eastern boundary of the City of Portage, IN

See **Lakefront**, page 4



Photo Credit: National Park Service

Portage Lakefront and Riverwalk Development Project breakwater.

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## Judge's Ruling a Mixed Bag for Advocates and Hotels

A federal judge's decision, handed down in March, could make it more difficult for organizations representing people with disabilities to sue under the Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA). But, at the same time, the judge left the door open for requiring pre-January 1993 hotels to provide dispersed accessible guest rooms.

The judge's ruling is part of a lawsuit by two disability advocacy groups and three individual plaintiffs who claimed that more than 2,800 hotels operating under the Hilton brand violated the public accommodations accessibility requirements of the ADA. The plaintiffs sought significant retrofits to every hotel, as well as changes to the company's central reservations system. The attorneys for the defendants filed a motion to dismiss the suit which resulted in the case being limited to four out of the

See **Mixed Bag**, page 8

by John P. S. Salmen



## Really Understanding the Rules

**W**e architects, like most construction professionals and students, dissect building code text and terms in our attempts to understand the meaning of a requirement as it applies to a certain unique condition, e.g. How does the term “comparable line of sight” [found in 1991 Americans with Disabilities Act Accessibility Guidelines (1991 ADAAG) 4.33.3] apply to accessible seating in a “black box” experimental theater on a college campus?

We at Universal Designers & Consultants Inc. find that we spend a lot of time discussing and trying to understand the “spirit” of the text in the accessibility criteria found in the Americans with Disability Act Standards -- which are currently the 1991 ADAAG and will soon be the 2004 ADAAG. We compare sections to comparable paragraphs in the ICC/ANSI A117.1 Standard for Accessible and Useable Buildings and Facilities and other accessibility codes. We call the technical assistance lines, read the manuals and technical appendices, check earlier versions to see how the text has changed over time and then color it all with judicial interpretations in our search for the “why” behind the rule.

Over time, we increasingly have

seen legal interpretations based on civil rights instead of construction code.

After our recent presentation at the AIA Convention in San Francisco, my colleague Andrew Yarrish and I, were surprised by how many people came up to us saying this was the first time they had understood the “civil rights” nature and implications of the rules. This was further reinforced by the proposed settlement agreement related to the accessibility lawsuit filed against the Apple Computer Store (see *Universal Design Newsletter*, April 2009).

Part of the settlement agreement between the store and the plaintiffs requires that the store management insures “that an adequate supply of toilet paper is placed in the upper dispenser.” So it is not enough to have a toilet paper dispenser located in the correct location, it must also be continuously stocked as well.

Designing environments that go beyond minimal “technical compliance” to support the civil rights nature of the ADA Standards seems to be the way of the future.

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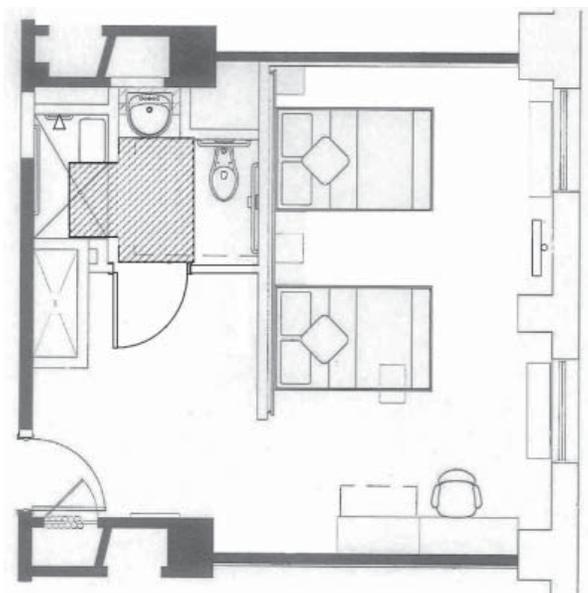
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## Design Tip Correction

Our thanks to Rob Gilkerson an Information Specialist with the Rocky Mountain ADA Center for pointing out a mistake in the Design Tip “Efficient Shower Design” (*Universal Design Newsletter*, April 2009). The shower controls were in the wrong location. A corrected version of the image is below.





**Snow Removal and the ADA**

The Town of Tilton, NH has an obligation under the Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA) to remove snow, ice or debris from a particular sidewalk that is used by a person with a mobility impairment, according to the New Hampshire Supreme Court.

The ruling in the case of *William Charles Tinker v. Town of Tilton*, comes after nearly four years of litigation. Tinker, who uses a scooter to travel the sidewalk along Route 3 to get to the stores and community amenities, filed an action in the state Supreme Court to require the town to clear the sidewalk pursuant to the ADA.

According to the Disabilities Rights Center, located in Concord, NH, the Town of Tilton “refused to provide any snow removal efforts for this section of sidewalk and even attempted to close the sidewalk in the winter to avoid its ADA obligations.”

The Supreme Court called the town’s stand on not removing snow from the sidewalk “an abdication by the town of its obligation altogether.” The town has been ordered to pay Tinker’s legal fees, according to the Disabilities Rights Center. In its decision, the Supreme Court noted the limited nature of its ruling, “...we construe the trial court’s order as declaring only the town has an obligation under the ADA to keep the sidewalk that is at issue in the present dispute clear of snow, ice and debris.”

**What We’ve Heard**

After talking with Department of Justice (DOJ) officials this spring, Minh Vu, an attorney with Seyfarth Shaw LLP, believes that changes are being considered to the proposed revised Americans with Disabilities Act Accessibility Standards that were finalized, submitted and withdrawn by the Bush Administration late last year. If changes are made, a new Notice of Proposed Rulemaking will likely need to be issued.

According to Vu, among the key issues are likely to be “safe harbor” and service animals. Regarding the hotel industry’s concerns about alterations and dispersion of guestrooms in pre-1993 properties, DOJ indicated that it understood the in-

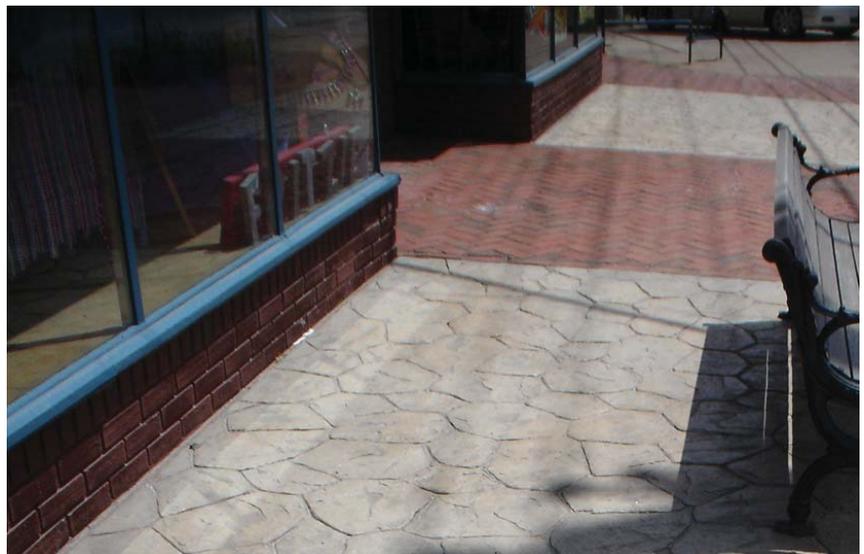
dustry’s concern and has attempted to address it. “Whether the industry will like how it was addressed is an open question,” said Vu.

**Anderson Elected Chair of the Access Board**

Douglas Anderson, Associate AIA, of Wheaton, IL, was elected Chair of the US Architectural & Transportation Barriers Compliance Board (Access Board) at a board meeting in March. Anderson was first appointed to the board by President Bush in 2003 and was reappointed to a second term in 2007. He is a Partner at LCM Architects in Chicago. Before joining LCM Architects, he worked at the Great Lakes Disability and Business Technical Assistance Center (DBTAC) at the University of Illinois at Chicago.

The board elected as its Vice Chair Loretta King who represents the US Department of Justice as the Acting Assistant Attorney General for Civil Rights. Board officers serve for a term of one year. The board’s 25 members include members of the public appointed by the President and representatives from federal departments.

*The commission noted that people who use wheelchairs and others with limited mobility find uneven surfaces extremely difficult to navigate.*



**Maryland County Limits Use of Certain Materials for Public Walkways**

In April, the Montgomery County (MD) Council voted to limit the use of brick pavers in the construction of streets, sidewalks and other public rights-of-way under the county’s jurisdiction unless certain conditions are met.

The resolution, which is one of the first of its kind on the county level, would limit the use of

Brick pavers and stamped concrete can create barriers for people with mobility and visual impairments.

## Lakefront, from page 1

on the southwest corner of the Burns Waterway and Lake Michigan.

“As the first built project of the Marquette Plan providing public access to the lake front we wanted to make the [Portage Lakefront Riverwalk Project] the poster child for the plan. We wanted to go beyond the minimums, beyond the [requirements of the Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA)].



We wanted to set the bar high for future projects in the plan,” says Gregg Calpino, JJR’s Principal in Charge of the project. “From the start we decided -- it’s going to be highly accessible, so let’s program the park accordingly.”

Located on the west side of the Burns Waterway Harbor, in Portage, IN, the new facility features a fishing pier, a riverwalk along Burns Waterway, a

rehabilitated breakwater, various hike/bike trails, beach access, and a 3,500 square foot pavilion.

The pavilion includes restrooms, a small food service area, and a glass walled meeting space and classroom. The pavilion is a Gold LEED certified building by the US Green Building Council.

A single accessible path leads park users to a decision point where they can elect to go to the beach, the breakwater or the fishing pier. There is no winding, separate, accessible route down to the water as is sometimes found in other facilities. “The main route down to the water is the one everyone uses,” says Calpino.

The maximum grade on any of the project’s trails is 1:20 (5%). This makes the paths comfortable for almost everyone to use and railings were not required, he says.

One of the hurdles in park design is managing the construction in light of the reality of a site’s topography. On site, project managers sometimes allow design changes because building to the specifications is more complicated than anticipated. JJR’s staff wouldn’t accept a “we almost got it all” effort from those on site. That stance challenged everybody involved in the project.

“It became a balancing act of providing true barrier free, universal access and protection of sensitive and evolving natural resources -- including dunes, steep topography and a constantly changing shoreline,” says Calpino. “This required a deep understanding of site conditions and a strong collaboration between owner, designer, construction manager and contractors to make the best possible decisions on documents and in the field.”

An aerial view of the Portage Lakefront Riverwalk Development Project. The lighter (blue) dashed line indicates the vehicular circulation. The darker line indicates pedestrian circulation path.

## Reg/Leg Watch, from page 3

brick pavers, cobblestones and stamped concrete in public rights-of-way. However, brick pavers would be allowed in urban districts charged with maintaining them or where there is a permanent maintenance and liability agreement in effect that provides for their maintenance. The recommendation for the resolution came from the county Department of Transportation and the Commission on People with Disabilities. The commission noted that people who use wheelchairs and others with limited mobil-

ity find uneven surfaces extremely difficult to navigate.

Uneven surfaces on the paths of travel deny “people with disabilities access to many places of entertainment, shopping and activities of daily life,” said Jackie Simon, a member of the Commission on People with Disabilities. “It has been said that ‘a community that excludes even one of its members is no community at all.’ This resolution is one step forward in creating inclusiveness in Montgomery County.”

**GERMANY  
UD Awards**

The Universal Design GmbH in Germany has presented its 2009 Universal Design Awards. The unique awards program has two groups select winning products from the pool of submissions. One group is a panel of universal design experts; the other is a cross section of 100 users who vote for their favorite products. This year’s event produced 19 entries that were selected by both the expert and consumer groups. Last year, only three products were selected by both groups.

Among the products recognized were an appliance hood that turns itself on when needed and a refrigerator with storage drawers through out.

The stove hood, “Lógica” by B/S/H (3BD-898 XAD) has an automatic mode in which a sensor system switches the hood on at the right moment, adjusts speed according to the level of smoke and grease in the air and switches off when the air is clean again. Moreover,



Award winning stove hood

the sensor can be adjusted to user preferences. There is a manual setting as well. The hood also indicates when the dishwasher-proof aluminum filters should be cleaned. Visit: [www.bsh-group.com/](http://www.bsh-group.com/)

The Easy Store (KTR18P70) by Bosch, is a tabletop refrigerator with extendable drawers that allow easy access to items even at the back of the appliance. It features a “cold safe” with stainless steel door, full stainless steel housing and electronic temperature con-

trol with LED display. It includes extra-deep, partly separable, multi-level telescopic pullout drawers, a “BigBox” vegetable drawer, hanging racks and bottle holder. The height-adjustable shelves are made of hygienic safety glass. It is energy efficiency and includes “anti-bacterial protection.” Visit: [www.bosch-hausgeraete.com](http://www.bosch-hausgeraete.com)

The universal design GmbH is dedicated to promoting the challenge of universal design to a broad international audience. Its activities, including hosting this international universal design award, are



A table top refrigerator with pull out drawers and shelves

intended to serve as an inspiration for designers and manufacturers so that their creativity, competence and experience can flow into products, architecture and services for everyone.

**SWEDEN  
Easy Access in Stockholm**

The city of Stockholm continues its pursuit to become the most accessible capital city in the world. Ten years into its effort to reach the goal, the city has audited and created accessibility plans for each district. A model pedestrian crossing has been developed that includes a ramped surface, audible and visual signals, and contrasting markings. Six out of every 10 pedestrian crossings have been converted to conform with the model design. Sixty percent of the city’s gutters that direct rainwater from drain pipes over pavement have been replaced. The new gutters are wide and shallow and don’t have the abrupt edges the old gutters had. More than 10 percent of the bus stops have been raised to make it easier for people to get on and off buses. And contrasting markings now indicate where a bus will stop.

In addition, the Easy Access Project has produced and distributed a brochure for retail businesses entitled “32 Ways to Make Your Shop

See **World Update**, page 6

**This year’s event produced 19 entries that were selected by both the expert and consumer groups. Last year, only three products were selected by both groups.**

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

## World Update, from page 5

More Accessible.” A handbook has been developed for planners, architects and designers that describes how accessible environments can be created to comply with the laws and guidelines that apply to new construction and renovations and the needs of people with disabilities with regard to the built environment. The city also provides training to increase understanding of the needs of people with disabilities.

**“...Accessibility is therefore not just a matter of quality of life – it is also a matter of democracy.”**

“Accessibility means, for example, that you can manage to travel between your home and your place of work; that the city’s cultural life is available to all; that you can shop or have a cup of coffee where you want; and that all those things that we take for granted also apply to everyone. ...Accessibility is therefore not just a matter of quality of life – it is also a matter of democracy,” according to the “A City for All” presentation, produced by the Stockholm Traffic Administration.

### INTERNATIONAL Best UD Practices Wins Award

A publication describing international “best practices” in universal design has been recog-

nized by the United Nations with UN Habitat Dubai International Award. The publication, “International Best Practices in Universal Design: A Global Review” was produced by the Global Alliance on Accessible Technologies and Environments (GAATES). It compares accessibility codes and standards from around the world and is available in English, French, Arabic, Spanish, Serbian and in DAISY format.

The goal of the publication was to create a more accessible built environment for people with disabilities and older people around the world. “By making available the first informative international compendium of technical specifications that could be used to build capacity, a greater understanding and knowledge base could be developed that could be used to make the urban environment more inclusive,” according to the GAATES submission.

The purpose of Dubai Award is to recognize and enhance awareness of outstanding and sustainable achievements in improving the living environment. For more information, visit: [www.gaates.org](http://www.gaates.org)

## Confident in your compliance efforts?

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# ADA Regs: Architects Line Up for Update

## *AIA Convention Presentation Finds Interest High in Pending Changes*

Architects are hungry for insight on the yet to be adopted new Americans with Disabilities Act regulations found in the 2004 Americans with Disabilities Act Accessibility Guidelines. More than 1,400 people attended or viewed on streaming video “The New ADA: What You Need to Know” session at the American Institute of Architects convention this past spring in San Francisco. Presented by John P. S. Salmen, AIA and Andrew Yarrish, AIA of Universal Designers & Consultants Inc., the session offered a review of some of the most significant changes architects and designers can expect once

the new requirements move forward. Among the topics discussed were:

- **Everything is Covered.** The 1991 Americans with Disabilities Act Accessibility Guidelines (1991 ADAAG) (§4.1.1(1)) required accessibility only to the elements identified in scoping paragraphs 4.1.1 – 4.1.7. The 2004 ADAAG (§201.1) requires all areas of newly designed and constructed buildings and facilities to comply with the requirements unless there is an exception as in the case of new gasoline dispenser controls on existing curbs (§308.3.1).

See ADA Regs, page 8

## Exploring the Complexity of Compliance

If the Department of Justice (DOJ) comes knocking on your door in response to a complaint that one of your public restrooms lacked adequate floor space, be prepared for a full scale Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA) evaluation of your facility, according a speaker at the AIA Convention in San Francisco.

In its investigation, DOJ doesn't have to limit itself to only the features identified in the complaint, said Trevor Ashbarry, an attorney with McShane & Lee PC, Washington, DC, who spoke during an AIA session entitled “The Complexity of ADA Compliance.”

Ashbarry spoke of unsettling realities for businesses, court decisions and general trends that are defining architects and designers responsibilities when it comes to ADA compliance.

With the challenge of compliance defined, architects Harold Kiewel and John Salmen offered some ideas on how to create compliance strategies.

Among the suggestions from Kiewel, with HMC Architects in San Diego, was to seek out designers with disabilities as “user experts”.

“Today for legal, moral, sustainability and many other reasons, our designer's eye must be informed from an access perspective,” said Kiewel. He offered a number of sources to find such perspective, including:

- The Institute for Human Centered Design (formerly known as Adaptive Environments) which hosts a list-serve for designers with dis-

abilities.

- Independent Living Centers (ILCs) are consumer-controlled, community-based, non-residential, non-profit organizations that provide services and advocacy to help people with disabilities live, self-directed lives. They often provide outreach and disability awareness programs to the public, as well as consumers with disabilities. Independent living centers can be found across the country.

- Local AIA societies or chapters offer various types of professional directories – one of which may sort members into specialties, i.e., accessibility, universal design, or ADA consultants/experts.

Salmen encouraged those in attendance to try to understand user expectations. “Expectations change depending on the setting,” he said. “How well do you expect to hear in a nightclub? Do you expect marble finish material in a campground shower? What do you expect when you visit a sculpture gallery or a children's museum?”

Through universal design, anticipated user expectations choices can be provided. “It is a process that focuses on the user's perspective,” he said.

He described a new LEED-like universal design process being developed by the Global Universal Design Commission (GUDC). The standard, which is currently being drafted, will help those involved in the design of environments to consider users and their expectations. ■

“Today for legal, moral, sustainability and many other reasons, our designer's eye must be informed from an access perspective,”

Harold Kiewel, AIA  
HMC Architects,  
San Diego

## Mixed Bag, from page 1

more than 2,800 hotels originally targeted and a dismissal of a claim relating to the reservations system.

Specifically, in response to a motion to dismiss, US District Court Judge for the District of Columbia James Robertson held that advocacy organizations do not have standing to bring lawsuits under Title III of the ADA for injuries suffered as a result of disability discrimination against others. Second, the court held that to be able to bring suit on behalf of members, the advocacy organizations must -- at the outset of the case -- identify: the members; which establishments they visited; what accessibility barriers they encountered; and whether they would return to the establishment were it not for the accessibility barriers. Third, the court held that the organizations' standing to bring the suit on behalf of their members was limited to the scope of their members' standing. And finally, the court held that the members only had standing to sue hotels for which they had actual knowledge of accessibility barriers absent a corporate-wide common design and for which they claimed a specific and imminent desire to return.

"These legal principles are not only relevant to nationwide ADA Title III cases against hospital-ity companies, but also to such cases brought against retailers, restaurants, and other businesses that have multiple locations," according to a

statement issued by Epstein Becker Green, the defendants attorneys.

The judge however did not dismiss the part of the motion dealing with room dispersion. In the ruling, the judge rejected Hilton's argument that the room dispersion requirement found in the ADA Standards of Accessible Design Section 9.1.5 do not apply to hotels built before January 26, 1993.

"Nothing in Sect. 9.1.5 exempts existing hotels from dispersing the accessible rooms they do have among the various room classes. While existing hotels may legally have fewer accessible rooms, and may therefore be unable to disperse accessible rooms across all room classes, the accessible rooms they do have must still be dispersed in compliance with [Section 9.1.4]."

"While there are elements of the decision that are disappointing, we are pleased that the U.S. District Court for the District of Columbia ruled that hotels have an obligation under the ADA to disperse accessible rooms, even in existing facilities," according to a statement issued by Elaine Gardner at the Washington Lawyers' Committee for Civil Rights and Urban Affairs, one of the plaintiff organizations. "We are also pleased that the Court rejected Hilton's argument that, as a matter of law, it does not exercise enough control over its franchised hotels to be liable for their accessibility." ■

*"While there are elements of the decision that are disappointing, we are pleased that the U.S. District Court for the District of Columbia ruled that hotels have an obligation under the ADA to disperse accessible rooms, even in existing facilities."*

Elaine Gardner,  
Washington  
Lawyers' Committee  
for Civil Rights and  
Urban Affairs

## ADA Regs, from page 7

- **Limited Construction Tolerances.** Unlike the current standards, in the 2004 ADAAG where the requirement is stated as a range with specific minimum and maximum end points, there are no construction tolerances beyond that range. For example, in the case of toilet centerlines the range is 16" to 18", thus 18 1/8" will not be allowed.

- **Parking.** An access aisle of 5' is required for van and standard parking spaces, but van spaces must be 11' wide.

- **48" High Maximum Reach Range.** When the new requirements go into effect, no operable element may be higher than 48" or

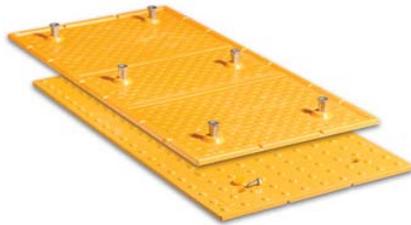
lower than 15" AFF; 54" AFF will only be allowed in a few existing conditions. Things that users commonly reach must be in that optimum reach zone.

- **Partially Obstructed T-Turn.** Maneuvering space will be needed in every room. The turning circle and T-turn will be allowed to be partially obstructed along one side providing only knee and toe clearances.

The AIA/CEU accredited Powerpoint presentation can be found at [www.UniversalDesign.com](http://www.UniversalDesign.com). An video recording of the session can be viewed on the AIA website at <http://www.softconference.com/aia/sessionDetail.asp?SID=161652> ■

**Replaceable Detectable Warning**

ADA Solutions has developed a replaceable Detectable Warning unit. The product, which is installed by pressing it into wet concrete, is made up of replaceable pavers that come in 2' x 3', 2' x 4', 2' x 5', 3' x 4' and 3' x 5' sizes. The pavers are



Detectable warning unit

made up of a homogenous glass and carbon composite which is color fast and UV stable and comes in five standard

colors: Federal Yellow, Brick Red, Clay Red, Dark Grey and Black.

**Mirror Shelf with Handles**

HEWI has developed a new bathroom accessory that allows users to hold on or steady themselves at a mirror shelf that features support rails. When properly installed, the vertical grab bars can be



Mirror Shelf

reached from a seated or standing position. The handles can be installed at

0° to 30° angle. The mirror shelf, approximately 28" wide, 8.7" high and 6" deep is chrome plated and features all around edging. Its concealed assembly includes corrosion-free HEWI fixing material.

**One Piece European Style Floor System**

The UniFloor©, from Best Bath, is a one-piece design that eliminates bathroom floor cracks, joints, seams and pores. For commercial applications, the integrated shower area reduces the amount of space required by combining turn-



One piece flooring unit

ing radius for toilet and shower usage. The pre-sloped base allows for quick installation with an entire floor drain feature.

With no-step to get into the shower, the chance of a fall is reduced. The system's durable surface is easy to clean and maintain. The toilet base is pre-engineered to make placement and installation easy.

**Hand Dryer**

The energy efficient Columbia Vortex Hand Dryer dries hands in less than 15 seconds. It is



Hand dryer with recess kit

GreenSpec® listed and the majority of its components are biodegradable. Columbia offers a conversion kit that makes it easy to replace existing semi-recessed dryers. The kit, which comes in three colors, covers the opening so that tiles or walls don't

have to be mended and allows the unit to be installed in a recessed position thus eliminating it as a protruding object hazard.

**ADA Solutions Inc.**  
(Replaceable Detectable Warning)  
[www.adatale.com](http://www.adatale.com)  
800.372.0519

**HEWI**  
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**UNIVERSAL DESIGN**  
Accessibility and the Americans with Disabilities Act

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## Head Banger Showers

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 at [publisher@universaldesign.com](mailto:publisher@universaldesign.com).

**...the curtain rod in all roll-in showers must comply with the 80" high minimum headroom requirement...**

Always astute accessibility expert Mark Derry recently contacted us with this startling revelation.

Unlike tubs or showers with curbs, where the raised edge acts as a detectable element, the curtain rod in all roll-in showers must comply with the 80" high minimum headroom requirement of 1991 ADAAG 4.4.2 (and 2004 ADAAG 307.4). This requirement provides unobstructed headroom for visually impaired guests. 



A roll in shower with curtain rod at 80" AFF.

**DESIGN**

**TIP**

**?** PROBLEM: What should be the height of accessible guestroom beds in hotels?

TIP: Accessible bed heights are the source of much controversy. Several state accessibility codes require beds that have open frames.



An open bed frame

These open frames facilitate the use of rolling portable "Hoyer" type lifts. The lifts allow an assistant to move and position

a severely disabled person to and from the bed, wheelchair, toilet or tub/shower seat. The use of these lifts eliminates any concern about the bed height.

Independent wheelchair users call for the

bed to be at standard wheelchair seat height, ~18" AFF.

We have found that with luxury bedding, meeting these two needs may be very difficult. Our suggestion is to use bedding appropriate for the quality of room on an open bed frame allowing 7" of clear height below the bed. The height of the box spring and mattress (without the frame) should be about 18" combined. When a guest wants the bed at the wheelchair seat height, housekeeping can go in and remove the open frame from the bed. Otherwise the bed works as an upscale amenity for able bodied guestroom users and useable for guests who use portable lifts.

Note: Guests need to be made aware of the availability of this bed height adjustment amenity. We recommend tent cards, a guest directory page about accessibility features, and a portion of the hotel's website that tells what accessibility features the hotel provides. 

## The “New” ADA Standards: What You Need to Know

The new Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA) Standards, awaiting Department of Justice (DOJ) review, vary in important ways from the Americans with Disabilities Act Standards that architects have been using for the last 17 years.

“The ‘New’ ADA Standards: What You Need to Know” presentation from the 2009 AIA Convention that features John P.S. Salmen, AIA and Andy Yarrish, AIA of Universal Designers & Consultants Inc. was one of the few programs selected for a live internet feed.

The program is available on line until the end of July. The program highlights issues found in the 2004 Americans with Disabilities Act Accessibility Guidelines that is currently under review by the DOJ. Architects can earn CEU credits after viewing the program. To view the video, visit: [http://info.aia.org/aiarchitect/thisweek09/0515/0515n\\_adaondemand.cfm](http://info.aia.org/aiarchitect/thisweek09/0515/0515n_adaondemand.cfm)

Universal Designers & Consultants is expecting to offer a version of this course online for AIA CEU credits. If you would like to receive notification when it is available, email [aiaceu@universaldesign.com](mailto:aiaceu@universaldesign.com)

## Residential Universal Design Video

People considering remodeling their homes need to think about how a house is going to affect their family now and in the future, according to a new video on residential universal design by Ohio State University Extension Services.

The 20-minute video describes the benefits of including universal design features in a home and demonstrates numerous practical features that work in kitchens and bathrooms.

The video highlights how universal design elements such as a shower bench benefit a variety of users in one family from the very young to aging parents. To view the video (in Windows Media), visit: <http://ehe.osu.edu/ud/ud-video.htm>

For additional universal design resources, visit: <http://ehe.osu.edu/ud/index.htm>

## Accessible Museums and Meetings

The Department of Justice (DOJ) has released two new publications to help businesses enhance their accessibility. “Accessible Information Exchange: Meeting on a Level Playing Field” and “Maintaining Accessibility in Museums” are available for free downloads on the DOJ website, [www.ada.gov](http://www.ada.gov).

“Accessible Information Exchange: Meeting on a Level Playing Field” describes the issues that meeting hosts need to address in order to facilitate participation of all attendees, including people with disabilities.

The 28-page document provides advice and tips on everything from how to arrange furniture in a meeting room to ideas on the format of material to be presented to describing assistive devices.



Man who is blind examines a raised line exhibit floor plan.

Source: US Department of Justice

“Maintaining Accessibility in Museums” describes the requirements of the Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA) for museums. In six pages, it provides ideas on accessible entrances, routes, programs and shops. For more information, visit: [www.ada.gov/business.htm](http://www.ada.gov/business.htm)

## Strength Coach Discusses Visitability

Motivational Speaker Greg Smith succinctly describes visitability and how easy it is to incorporate it into a home. He talks about what a difference it would have made to him to be able to visit his friends when he was growing up and how now he often can’t visit his own neighbors.

A visitable home is one with one zero-step entrance, at least a half bath on the main level and all doors that provide at least 32 inches of clear passage space. The video is on YouTube at: <http://video.google.com/videoplay?docid=649210385731177295>

*The 28-page document provides advice and tips on everything from how to arrange furniture in a meeting room to ideas on the format of material to be presented to describing assistive devices.*



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

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

**Sept. 7-9, 2009: US Architectural & Transportation Barriers Compliance Board Meeting**, Washington, DC. Contact: [www.access-board.gov/about/meetings.htm](http://www.access-board.gov/about/meetings.htm)

**Sept. 22-25, 2009: Second International Conference Education for All**, Warsaw, Poland. The three conference tracts will be -- Universal design -- more than just architecture, Beyond the borders of traditional disability, and Inclusive education -- can it become a fact? Contact: [www.disability.uw.edu.pl/](http://www.disability.uw.edu.pl/)

**Sept. 30-Oct. 1, 2009: Second ENAT International Congress on Tourism for All**, Vienna, Austria. Contact: [www.accessibletourism.org/?i=enat.en.events.595](http://www.accessibletourism.org/?i=enat.en.events.595)

**Oct. 10-11, 2009: International Forum on "Ageing-in- Place" and Age Friendly Cities**, Akita, Japan. Contact: [www.ifa-fiv.org/](http://www.ifa-fiv.org/)

**Oct. 28-30, 2009: MX Design Conference, 2009, Mexico City, Mexico**. Key concepts that are the focus of the conference include: Cultural Diversity, Social Activism, Professional Ethics, Social Re-

sponsibility, Sustainable Design, Ecodesign, Universal design, Slow Design, Social Design, Design for All, and Accessibility. Contact: [www.dis.uia.mx/conference/2009/indexE.html](http://www.dis.uia.mx/conference/2009/indexE.html)

**Nov. 9-12, 2009: RI Regional Conference: "Strategies for Implementation: Good Practices for Accessibility and Inclusion"**, Dubai, UAR. More information available at: [www.riglobal.org/](http://www.riglobal.org/)

**Nov. 18-20, 2009: Build Boston, Seaport World Trade Center, Boston, MA**. Sponsored by the Boston Society of Architects. The convention will include an Institute for Human Centered Design Symposium - Socially Sustainable Design. Contact: [www.buildboston.com](http://www.buildboston.com)

**Jan. 19-22, 2010: International Builders Show, Las Vegas, NV**. This mega trade show is expected to feature universal design sessions for home builders, developers, dealers, and distributors. Contact: [www.BuildersShow.com](http://www.BuildersShow.com).

**June 2010: The 12th International Conference on Mobility and Transport for Elderly and Disabled Persons (TRANSED 2010), Hong Kong**. The theme will be "Sustainable Transport and Travel for All." The conference is hosted by the Hong Kong Society for Rehabilitation. Contact: [www.globalride-sf.org/newsletters/0806.pdf](http://www.globalride-sf.org/newsletters/0806.pdf).

## Universal Design Newsletter

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