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## UN Finalizes Treaty to Protect the Rights of People with Disabilities

The draft of a United Nations (UN) treaty to protect the rights of people with disabilities was finalized on Aug. 25, at UN Headquarters in New York City.

In a statement released by the UN, Secretary-General Kofi Annan hailed the agreement as “as a historic achievement for the 650 million people with disabilities around the world” that have lacked adequate protection until now. He expressed hope that this “long overdue [treaty] will mark the beginning of a new era in which [persons with



The treaty, the product of five years of negotiations at the UN, was finalized after an intense two-week session.

disabilities] will have the same rights and opportunities as everyone else.” He urged all member states to ratify the treaty and ensure its rapid implementation.

While the treaty does not create new rights, it specifically prohibits discrimination against persons with disabilities in all areas of life, including access to information, public facilities, transportation, services and rehabilitation, together with the right to

See Treaty, page 11

## Housing Developer Pays Damages to 12 People with Disabilities

In June, a housing developer in Reno, NV paid 12 present and past residents with disabilities of two apartment complexes \$113,250 as compensation for the inaccessibility they encountered while living in the complexes. The payments, ranging from \$2,500 to \$23,500, are part of a consent order related to the lawsuit, *Silver State Fair Housing Council and United States of America v. ERGS, Inc. et. al.* The consent order established a \$150,000 settlement fund.

In addition to the payment of damages to aggrieved persons, the consent order requires accessibility improvements to the apartment units and to the common areas of the complexes at an estimated cost of \$1.67 million. The agreement also provides \$27,500 in damages for the Silver State Fair Housing Council, which initially filed the lawsuit, awarded \$250,000 to reimburse attorney fees and litigation expenses and required the payment of a \$30,000 civil penalty. 

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## “Is Universal Design About Disability?”

Recently I took part in a meeting of Universal Design (UD) professionals gathered to consider “The Future of Universal Design.” I remarked that UD practitioners sometimes “talk out of both sides of their mouths” when it comes to disability. At that remark, some heads nodded and smiles of recognition appeared.

“Ableism,” until recently unnamed, though omnipresent is now defined in dictionaries as “discrimination or prejudice against people with disabilities.” No doubt a dual message developed in UD because practitioners know that ableism (by any other word) abounds in the world and can hinder reception of the message that UD truly is, or strives to be, design for all. Yet at this time enabling people with disabilities is, in practice, a primary focus of UD.

It seems to me that, rather than being coy or silent about this disability focus, UD practitioners should assert loudly and consistently that UD is very much about disability, and also very much about much more.

*Eleanor Smith is the Founder of Concrete Change, a project of the Statewide Independent Living Council of Georgia.*

There are two reasons to speak up. First, that assertion does away with the strange double-talk. It acknowledges, unapologetically and properly so, that much of the conversation and activity UD practitioners engage in is in fact about making products and environments more enabling for people with a variety of physical or mental impairments.

A focus on disability recognizes the disproportionate impact of design on various people. The inconvenience of non-disabled people trying to open a round doorknob while carrying packages is not comparable to the frustration of and physical danger to a person with severe arthritis who is unable to exit a room because he/she can't grasp the doorknob. Acknowledging disparity of impact through one's choices about what to research and what to develop does not eclipse the fact that lever door openers are better design for everyone.

Second, vehement denials that UD is about disability, along with strong statements that “nobody wants to be old or disabled,” and language that obscures the changeable nature of stigma - both acknowledge and add to the stigma. Such statements collude with ableism, whether that be a bland, cheerful lack of comprehension of how oppression occurs and how it is undone, or a strain of belief that people with disabilities are “less-than” and that disability is shameful.

I am not suggesting including the word “disability” in the one-sentence definition of UD,

See Guest Editorial, page 6

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*Universal Design Newsletter* is published quarterly by Universal Designers & Consultants, Inc., 6 Grant Ave., Takoma Park, MD 20912-4324; 301.270.2470 (v/tty); 301.270.8199 (fax). E-Mail: publisher@UniversalDesign.com. Home Page: www.UniversalDesign.com.

**Publisher & Managing Editor:** John P.S. Salmen, AIA; **Editor:** Denise M. Hofstedt; **Consulting Editors:** James DiLuigi, AIA, CSI, and Elaine Ostroff.

*Universal Design Newsletter* is published by Universal Designers & Consultants, Inc., which is frequently engaged by plaintiffs and defendants for consulting and expert witness services in ADA litigation, design review and facility evaluations.

**Mail subscription rates:** One year \$75 (U.S.). Second-class postage paid at Takoma Park, Md. Postmaster send address changes to *Universal Design Newsletter*, 6 Grant Ave., Takoma Park, MD 20912-4324, publisher@universaldesign.com.

For information on advertising rates or obtaining alternative accessible formats, please call or write the *Universal Design Newsletter* Publisher.

## UDN: A Valuable Resource

Dear Editor:

As an instructor and international trainer in the application of Universal Design and Environmental and Functional Assessment and on our internet network of emerging access consultants called AOTSS ACN, I have recommended that all of my students subscribe to *Universal Design Newsletter*. This resource provides intelligent and technical information on current events, research, UD design ideas, and accessibility guideline compliance issues. The product information, calendar of events and links to other

resources and relevant websites for technical assistance have been invaluable to me as an accessibility consultant and medical professional.

Thanks again for sharing your vast knowledge, and for highlighting articles authored by other experts. I think *Universal Design Newsletter* is one of the best resources focusing on UD and its practical application in both business and residential settings.

**Shoshana Shamberg, OTR/L, MS, Abilities OT Services and Seminars, Inc. (AOTSS), Baltimore MD, [www.aotss.com](http://www.aotss.com)**

## Letter to the Editor





**Michigan Inclusive Home Design Act to Take Effect in January**

At least half of Michigan’s single family homes, duplexes and triplexes using funds from the state housing development authority must have accessible features, according to a new state law set to go into effect in January 2007. The law covers housing units not covered by the federal Fair Housing Act Amendments.

The state’s Inclusive Home Design Act requires zero-step entrances, wide doors, reachable electrical switches and receptacles, and maneuvering space in bathrooms, according to the visitability advocacy group Concrete Change.

“Although this law will affect only about 20 homes a year..., its passage represents a red letter day,” according to Concrete Change. “It is a practical, as well as a philosophical, breakthrough. Experience has shown that once the first actual homes go up providing brick-and-mortar examples, more homes follow.”

**Maryland County to Allow Setback Exemption**

This summer, the County Council of Montgomery County, MD unanimously approved a zoning text amendment that will exempt one-family house homeowners from standard setback and lot coverage requirements to allow the construction of accessibility features for people with disabilities.

“Disabled residents should not have to jump through hoops to get inside their homes,” said Councilmember Nancy Floreen. “This small step will allow more rapid and less expensive home modifications for folks who need help the most.”

“It is important for people in our community with mobility disabilities to be able to remove barriers without having to go through an expensive regulatory process,” said Council Vice President Marilyn Praisner. “This bill will allow them to build accessibility into their homes.”

**New York City Hotel Compliance**

It’s been more than a year since the US Attorney for the Southern District of New York announced that his office would review 48 hotels in the New York City Theater District to determine if they were in compliance with the Ameri-

cans with Disabilities Act (ADA). When announcing the review in May 2005, US Attorney David Kelly noted that the initiative was not in response to a specific complaint against any of the hotels, but as a part of the government’s statutory responsibility to review compliance with federal law. As part of its compliance review, the US Attorney sent each hotel a survey form. The hotels were given 30 days to complete and return the form. It was reported that each hotel was visited by an attorney from US Attorney’s Office. Although it has been more than a year since the initiative was announced, there have been no public announcements from the US Attorneys Office regarding the results of this action.

**FTA Supports Use of Segways**

In most cases, transit authorities and Amtrak, should allow Segways on transportation vehicles when they are used as mobility devices by people with disabilities, according to the Federal Transit Administration (FTA).

In a Disability Law Guidance statement, the FTA noted that Segways, two-wheeled gyroscopically stabilized personal transportation devices, are similar, in a legal sense, to canes and walkers. It notes that an individual with a disability who uses a Segway as a mobility device must be permitted to use a transit vehicle’s lift; and that the devices, when used by someone with mobility-related disability, should be allowed on a recreational trail that normally prohibits the use of motorized vehicles.

According to the statement, “Transportation providers may establish their own general policies regarding Segways and other devices, just as they do with respect to pet or bicycles. However, when a device is being used as a mobility device by a person with a mobility-related disability, then the transportation provider must permit the person and his or her device onto the vehicle.”

**Pizza Hut Franchisee Settles with DOJ**

The largest franchisee of Pizza Hut restaurants in the US agreed to make its 800 restaurants in 25 states more accessible to people with disabili-

*“...However, when a device is being used as a mobility device by a person with a mobility-related disability, then the transportation provider must permit the person and his or her device onto the vehicle.”*

Federal Transportation Administration

# Courtroom Access Demonstrated at Lab Trial

## *Project Examines How Technology Can Improve Access*

A judge with low vision, an attorney who uses a wheelchair, a witness who has no vision, a non-English speaking witness and a witness and jurors who are hearing impaired were all part of court system laboratory trial held in April at the College of William and Mary in Williamsburg, Va.

The laboratory trial was held as part of the Courtroom 21 Project, an on going international demonstration and experimental effort which seeks to determine how technology can improve all components of the legal system. The focus of this year's experiment was to test technologies that could be used to assist people with disabilities in participating in the American court system.

"The trial successfully demonstrated how many types of technology could be used effectively in the courtroom but also showed how much more work is necessary in this area to allow persons with disabilities equal access in the courtroom," according to the trial summary.

### **The Case**

The lab trial simulated case was a civil suit brought under the Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA) against a fast food chain for discriminating against a person who uses a wheelchair and was accompanied by a service animal, who was trying to take his daughter, who is blind, to dinner.

### **The Technologies**

The judge used a variety of technologies while on the bench, including two monitors to view magnified digital evidence and magnified real-time video of witnesses. The digital evidence was loaded into the courtroom computer system by the attorneys as they presented it. It was published to the judge who could then use a program on the computer to enlarge the evidence so that he could view it. In addition, a flipper

camera on a base with wheels was used to magnify paper documents and evidence. This small camera is rolled over the document as the user reads and displays the magnified text on an attached monitor. Real-time video was captured on a Magna Student camera attached to a swinging arm and then relayed to a second computer screen. The swing-arm camera was useful for the judge who was able to change its position to better see witnesses during their testimony and attorneys during their opening and closing remarks. According to the trial summary, the judge found the technologies sufficiently easy to use. His major concern was with the two



Participants were provided screens for viewing relevant material.

screen system which did not allow for evidence and witness-viewing on the same screen. A split-screen approach would be a reasonable fix for this issue.

The judge, as well as the attorneys, the witness with a vision impairment, and others in the audience, were supplied with individual headsets to hear commentary from an explicator during the trial. An explicator is a person in the courtroom whose job is to verbally explain what is visually being seen. The explicator during the lab trial detailed the movements of the various persons in the courtroom as well as read docu-

*"The trial successfully demonstrated how many types of technology could be used effectively in the courtroom but also showed how much more work is necessary in this area to allow persons with disabilities equal access in the courtroom."*

Lab Trial Report

## Accessible Courtroom *from page 4*

ments and described photo evidence. The attorneys were provided with headsets in the event that they wanted to object to any of the descriptions given by the explicator. Feedback from the judge was positive on the description of the movements in the courtroom, according to the summary. Because of the additional technology at the bench allowing him to read documents himself, he found various explications unnecessary. Had the judge been unable to see, the explicator's reading of evidence and other materials would have been useful.

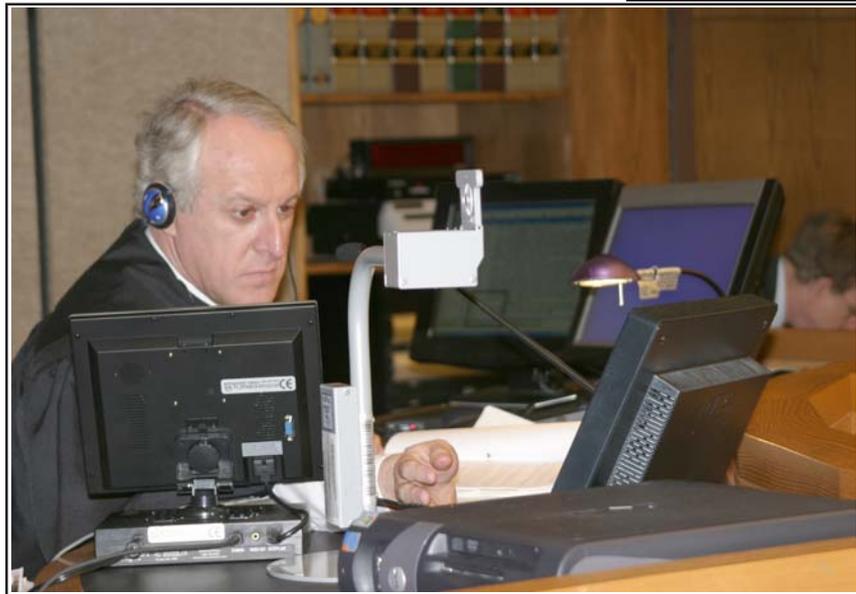
In addition to the explicator, the blind witness was able to "read" evidence by using software that read aloud documents scanned in on a computer.

A deaf witness testified using a two-way remote American Sign Language (ASL) Interpreter. As counsel questioned the witness, the witness focused on a small screen in front of him showing him the remote interpreter. As the witness signed in response, the remote interpreter interpreted orally. Although this system worked, the deaf witness and the interpreter had many suggestions for improvements. For example, in ASL it is important for a participant who is deaf and the interpreter to be able to see each others eyes. Therefore, consideration must be given to how close the screen shot is of each of the parties involved in ASL and how large a viewing screen is available.

An Interpretype machine was supplied at all podiums and the bench. Designed to communicate via text with people who cannot hear, the Interpretype was used to demonstrate how it can translate questions and answers between an attorney and witness who speak different languages. A Spanish speaking witness used state-of-the-art certified courtroom interpretation. A court interpreter was able to view the witness from her office where she was receiving the webcast of the trial that was sent out by the Courtroom Connect – Court TV Professional webcast. She communicated by a two-way telephone system tied into the courtroom audio system. Remote interpreters have long complained of their inability to take body language

and facial expressions into account. This one-way video solution solves that problem.

For the witness, jurors, and audience members with hearing impairments, a real-time transcript was supplied on computer monitors for their viewing. The deaf participants had no is-



The judge could view witnesses and evidence on a monitor.

sues keeping up with the text when the court reporter was typing and the text scrolled slowly. However, the participants had difficulty in reading the block passages that appeared when the voice writer was used by the court reporter. The deaf participants who used American Sign Language found the use of the ASL interpreter the easiest to follow.

A Segway personal mover was used by defense counsel during closing arguments to demonstrate the increased range of motion it would allow an attorney with mobility impairments. A Guerilla reader was also used at the close of trial for the jury instructions. The document with the instructions was scanned into the reader and it then read the instructions aloud to the courtroom.

The lab trial took place in William and Mary's McGlothlin Courtroom, one of the world's most technologically advanced trial and appellate courtrooms. 

## Guest Editorial, *from page 2*

which, while being as specific as possible, must also be broad. Nor do I think that alluding to disability would be, necessarily, a good strategy when persuading a manufacturer to develop a UD product. Although alluding to aging has become a good strategy in some cases, where it would not have been 20 years ago. What I am calling for is more conscious words and tone when speaking or writing about UD and disability and more awareness when listening to the speech or reading the writings of others.

Ableism is deeply embedded in our culture, the more so because it is still so widely unrecognized as an “-ism.” At the same time, positive shifts are occurring. That is why disability activist Harriet McBryde Johnson, as well as the stars of “Murderball,” can state to the dubious and amazed media that it’s incorrect to assume they would rather be nondisabled. And that is why people with disabilities will pin to their bulletin boards the postcard showing a stylized rooster wearing combat boots, sitting in an old-style wooden wheelchair, with the words, “Dis-

ability Cool” along the margin.

Disability pride does not mean that a person with a disability will necessarily gravitate to a cold-looking metal grab bar because it signifies “disabled,” while rejecting a polyurethane bar that matches the bathroom colors. Most people with disabilities like beauty and integration as much as the next person. But disability pride does raise questions about what is perceived as beautiful, like the slogan “Black is beautiful” did in the 60’s, and still does. As poet Laura Hershey wrote, “You get proud by practicing.”

Most UD practitioners have probably encountered the person who says, “UD is really just about disability isn’t it, even though no one will say so.” Not so. Most people get it immediately when told that UD is about design for non-disabled children, non-disabled adults of various sizes, non-disabled people who don’t speak the dominant language, and is really, truly about good design for everyone. They will get it that much faster when proponents say “UD is very much about disability, and much more.” ■

“UD is very much  
about disability,  
and much more.”

Eleanor Smith,  
Founder  
Concrete Change

### NEA Seeks Proposals for Universal Design Leadership Project

The National Endowment for the Arts is soliciting proposals for a project to create greater public awareness of and demand for universally designed environments, by educating designers, consumers, educators, developers, city planners, and others on this important design process. The successful proposal must outline a project that will involve collaboration with the targeted audiences, using innovative strategies in order to meet the broad social need, while bringing universal design into the mainstream.

The proposal selected will form the basis for a Cooperative Agreement that the Endowment will enter into with the selected organization to carry out the project. The deadline proposals is **Nov. 2, 2006**. For more information visit: [www.arts.gov/grants/apply/RFP/UniversalDesign.html](http://www.arts.gov/grants/apply/RFP/UniversalDesign.html)



National Endowment for the Arts

A Great Nation Deserves Great Art



## Resource Center on Supportive Housing & Home Modification

The National Resource Center on Supportive Housing and Home Modification has a comprehensive website, [www.homemods.org](http://www.homemods.org), designed to assist architects, builders, government agencies and individuals with accessibility issues. At [www.homemods.org](http://www.homemods.org), visitors find a host of information pertaining to home modification and supportive housing, including convention schedules, publications, safety checklists and assessment instruments, a national directory of product and service re-

sources, monthly news updates and a newsletter from the National Home Modification Coalition. The FAQ section is divided into separate categories, such as architects/contractors, government grants/funding, assessment tools, general modification, universal design and assistive technology, making it easy to find answers to commonly asked questions. The site also features helpful links, a bulletin board, online courses and information about the Resource Center and its mission.

### ADA/ABA-AG and 2006 IBC Compared

Comparing accessibility standards just got easier with a free reference tool from the International Code Council (ICC). The new document compares three accessibility resources: the 2004 Americans with Disabilities Act/Architectural Barriers Act Guidelines for Buildings and Facilities (ADA/ABA-AG); the 1990 Americans with Disabilities Act Accessibility Guidelines (ADAAG); and the 2006 IBC, which references the ICC/ANSI A117.1 Accessible and Usable Buildings and Facilities-2003.

“This is a great tool for the accessibility community and the construction industry,” said ICC Senior Staff Architect and resident accessibility expert Kim Paarlberg. “The 2006 IBC/ADAAG Comparison saves time and reduces confusion, because section by section, the accessibility requirements are put together for you.”

Earlier this year, a similar matrix was made available by the U.S. Access Board referencing the 2003 IBC with 2004 Supplement. The ICC comparison, updated to the 2006 IBC, will serve a wider audience as more jurisdictions adopt the 2006 International Codes and federal agencies implement the new ADA/ABA-AG. Places of public accommodation have to meet federal accessibility guidelines required under the Americans with Disabilities Act. The 2006 IBC/ADAAG Comparison has all of the information in one resource, helping users to see how the codes and standards relate.

The 2006 IBC/ADAAG Comparison is available free for download at [www.iccsafe.org/2006comparison-request.html](http://www.iccsafe.org/2006comparison-request.html).

### PVA Offers Resource that Provides Accessible Home Design Solutions

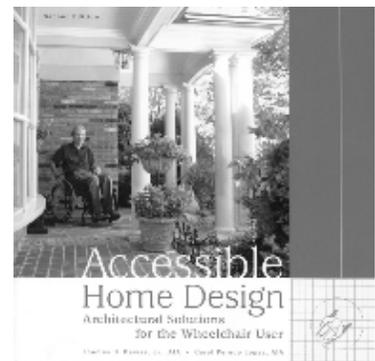
For those whose mobility is impaired, the most mundane features of a residence can represent insurmountable obstacles. The recently published *Accessible Home Design: Architectural Solutions for the Wheelchair User* (Second Edition), offers innovative, yet practical, solutions for achieving independence.

Through their work with the PVA, authors Thomas D. Davies, Jr., AIA and Carol Peredo Lopez, AIA, collaborated on home modifications with hundreds of wheelchair users. They have developed design solutions for a variety of accessibility needs.

The book which serves as a resource for homeowners with disabilities and their families, contains technical information on home design and construction for both builders and architects. Among the topics covered by the chapters are “Adding Elevators or Lifts,” “Choosing the Right Doors,” and “Outdoor Rooms and Paths.” To order, call 888-860-7244 or visit [www.pva.org](http://www.pva.org). 

*“The 2006 IBC/ADAAG Comparison saves time and reduces confusion, because section by section, the accessibility requirements are put together for you.”*

Kim Paarlberg,  
ICC Senior Staff  
Architect



*Accessible Home Design*

# What You Need to Know About the New ADA/ABA-AG Standards, But Were Afraid to Ask

## *Anticipated Changes that Affect Lodging and Other Facilities*

By John P. S. Salmen, AIA

The US Department of Justice has proposed adopting the Americans with Disabilities Act/Architectural Barriers Act Accessibility Guidelines (ADA/ABA-AG) in 2007 as the new ADA Standards for Accessible Design. While nothing is set in stone, the following issues will likely have a significant effect on lodging and other types of facilities.

*The new standards cover everything (fixed or not) even if not described.*

**1. Everything is Covered.** In the existing ADA Standards, things that are not described are not covered, and many non-fixed items, such as dining tables are exempted. The new standards cover everything (fixed or not) even if not described.

**2. Limited Construction Tolerances.** Minimums, maximums and ranges are now defined, creating problems with standard construction details, i.e., toilet centerline.

**3. Parking Space Numbers and Signage.** Increased number of van accessible parking spaces and modified signage/stripping details.

**4. Numbers of Accessible Guest Rooms.** Rounding up, increase in numbers required during alterations. Increase in number of hearing impaired rooms. Portable kits not allowed.

**5. 48" High Maximum Reach Range.** No 54" H side reach allowed with side approach.

**6. Partially Obstructed T-Turn.** One leg of T-Turn can provide only knee and toe clearance.



5' Clear Width at All Toilets

**7. 5' Clear Width at All Toilets.** Every accessible toilet needs side access.

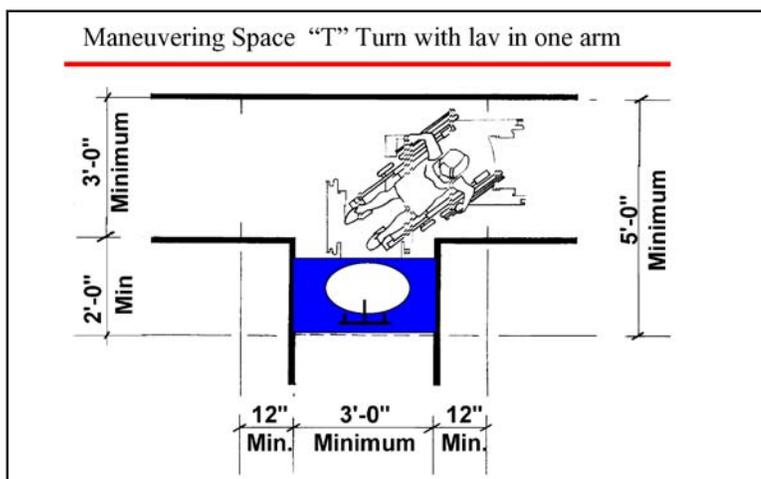


Vanity Equity

**8. Vanity Equity.** Accessible guestrooms must have bath vanities of the same size as comparable type standard rooms.

**9. Recreation Access Criteria.** New criteria for changing benches, swimming pools, playgrounds, golf courses, etc.

**10. ADA/ABA-AG Defines Barriers.** The DOJ proposes to make the new criteria apply to existing buildings to the extent it is readily achievable. 



Partially Obstructed T-Turn

**All Terrain Wheelchair**

Trekinetic's K-2 All Terrain Wheelchair offers a revolutionary departure from conventional manual wheelchairs, according to the manufacturer.

It is front wheel driven with a singular rear trailing castor for stability and negotiating un-



All Terrain Wheelchair

even (off road) terrain. The seat is made of carbon fiber, for comfort and support.

The braking system is operated, by two hand levers which can also lock the chair when stationary. It features an attachable automatic umbrella, which is stored on the back of the chair when not in use. Before transferring to the chair, the user can easily select the wheel camber: Zero degrees results in 28" width; 24 degrees results in 34" width. Access to the chair is from the front and the footrest retracts to ease entry. A transfer plate for drivers, is available. The wheels are quick release and the components fold into or against the body of the chair. The chair can be placed in a car against a seat and secured by the seatbelt. The folded chair assembly, without wheels, weighs around 9 KG/20 lbs.

**Flushometer**

The new Side Mount Operator Over The Handle (SMOOTH) retrofit product from the Sloan Valve Company easily converts most manual flushometers to accessible and water saving sensor operation. The product installs in minutes using only a screwdriver by sliding over the handle of a manual flushometer and securing the



SMOOTH flushometer

clamp. SMOOTH works on either left- or right-handle installations on both water closets and urinals.

**Bedside Lamp Control Switch**

A three-way light control switch, by TransLightInc.com, allows the user to control the bedside lamp from a wall switch, wired remote control and a wireless remote control. Ideal for residential and lodging settings, the switch is designed so that even if the wall switch is in the off position, the remote control is still able to turn the light on. The switch plugs into both sockets of standard duplex electrical outlet. No new wiring is required.



**Concrete Tile**

A precast polymer concrete tile, with truncated dome pattern that produces a detectable surface, has been created by Transpo Industries. This detectable surface provides a tactile cue of approaching hazards

The STEP-SAFE tiles offer strong resistance to the effects of wear, weather and other environmental conditions, according to the manufacturer. Designed to meet the requirements of the Americans with Disabilities Act/ Architectural Barriers Act Accessibility Guidelines, STEP-SAFE® skid-resistant tiles are available in 300mm squares (12" x 12" x .5" installed), and a variety of colors. The tiles can be installed in freshly poured concrete or with exterior grade tile mortar.



Concrete tile with truncated dome

**Trekinetic**  
Wheelchair  
Email: [Trekinetic@aol.com](mailto:Trekinetic@aol.com)  
[www.trekinetic.com](http://www.trekinetic.com)

**Sloan Valve Company**  
Flushometer  
10500 Seymour Ave.  
Franklin Park, IL 60131  
Phone: 847.671.4300,  
800.982.5839  
Fax: 847.671.6944/  
800.447.8329  
[www.sloanvalve.com](http://www.sloanvalve.com)

**TranslightInc.Com**  
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[MrDavidov@aol.com](mailto:MrDavidov@aol.com)  
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858.756.2150 (fax)  
[www.translightinc.com](http://www.translightinc.com)

**Transpo-Industries, Inc.**  
Precast polymer concrete tile  
20 Jones Street  
New Rochelle, NY 10801  
Phone: 914.636.1000  
Fax: 914.636.1282  
E-Mail: [info@transpo.com](mailto:info@transpo.com)  
[www.transpo.com](http://www.transpo.com)

## Everything but the Kitchen Sink

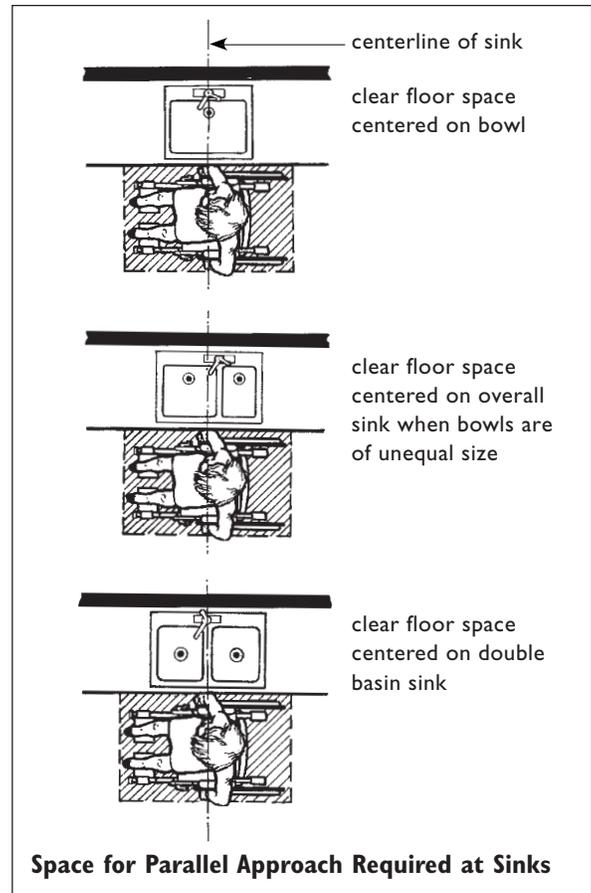
Welcome to *Universal Design Newsletter* "Aha! Moments." Accessibility experts know that no one knows it all. Those in the field occasionally come across technical accessibility criteria anomalies that evoke an "Aha! Moment." This column seeks to identify those surprising criteria and present opinions 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 -- send them to us.

*...the kitchen sink in every private residence is required to have better access than any kitchen sink in a public area.*

The Fair Housing Act demands compliance with a set of unusual (and sometimes bizarre) accessibility criteria on all privately developed housing projects with four or more residential units. The staff of Universal Designers & Consultants Inc. have found it valuable to utilize the on-line and telephone technical assistance service **FairHousingFirst.com** funded by the US Department of Housing and Urban Development (HUD).

We recently experienced an Aha! Moment when FairHousingFirst.com confirmed to us that the unusual requirement found in the *Fair Housing Act Design Manual* for clear floor spaces that are **centered** on the kitchen and bathroom sinks in all covered residential units did not extend to the kitchen or bath sinks found in the party rooms, restrooms and lounges of the common areas of such developments. In opposition of the typically

Send your Aha Moments to: [dmhofstedt@universaldesign.com](mailto:dmhofstedt@universaldesign.com)



Illustrations from the Fair Housing Act Accessibility Design Manual by Barrier Free Environments and HUD

higher level of accessibility required in public spaces, the kitchen sink in every private residence is required to have better access than any kitchen sink in a public area. 

**?** **PROBLEM:** Short people and people who use wheelchairs sometimes can't reach the top floor buttons of elevator cab control panels in tall buildings.

**TIP:** In a proposal to the ICC/ANSI A117 Committee, Kim Paarlberg suggested changing the next edition of the Standard for Acces-

sible and Useable Buildings and Facilities to allow buttons on one panel to be in ascending order and on the other in descending order in cabs where two sets of controls are provided. (She reports she saw it done in a San Francisco hotel elevator.) 

**DESIGN TIP**

## Reg/Leg Watch, *from page 3*

ties. National Pizza Hut (NPC) signed a settlement agreement with the Department of Justice (DOJ) in March. Under the agreement, NPC is required to make the following changes to existing, altered or newly constructed restaurants:

- Parking areas will have two accessible parking spaces, including one van-accessible space. They will be on the shortest accessible route to an accessible entrance and marked with appropriate signage.

- An accessible entrance will connect to all accessible spaces within the site through an accessible route that is free of obstructions. The doors will not be too heavy and will have hardware that is easy to operate.

- Dining, food service, and customer service areas will include at least one accessible table or booth, an accessible counter surface or check-writing area where payment is made, and signs stating that service will be provided upon request to customers with disabilities.

- Public rest rooms will be accessible. Either accessible stalls in multistall restrooms or accessible unisex restrooms will be provided unless DOJ and NPC agree that it is not reasonable or feasible to do so.

At the 180 NPC-operated outlets that are

dedicated solely to delivery and carry-out, have no in-restaurant dining, and are owned by a party other than NPC, NPC will make its best efforts to work with landlords to ensure accessibility. NPC will also build all future facilities in compliance with the ADA Standards for Accessible Design.

To assist NPC in carrying out these obligations, DOJ conducted a full day ADA training during April in Memphis, TN for NPC representatives who will implement the agreement. 

## Treaty, *from page 1*

education, health and employment.

Michael Fox, President of Rehabilitation International (RI) noted, "This treaty, which represents the first human rights treaty of the 21<sup>st</sup> century, is a milestone for persons with disabilities...."

The document will be formally sent to the UN General Assembly for adoption during the current session. It will then be open for signing and ratification by all countries.

To view a copy of the treaty, visit [www.riglobal.org](http://www.riglobal.org). 

**The largest franchisee of Pizza Hut restaurants in the US agreed to make its 800 restaurants in 25 states accessible to people with disabilities.**

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**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](http://www.ud2006.net/en)

**Nov. 1-3, 2006: Architecture Exchange East, Richmond, VA.** Workshop on Universal Design -- the latest innovations and its benefits to families and communities. Contact: [www.ArchEx.net](http://www.ArchEx.net)

**Nov. 6, 2006: Universal Access in Travel & Tourism: Symposium and Exposition, Baltimore, MD.** This program is designed to bring together leaders in the disability community and the travel industry to share their experiences of success and identify challenges that remain. Contact: [www.opendoorsnfp.org](http://www.opendoorsnfp.org).

**Nov. 13-15, 2006: 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)

**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](http://wcdexpo.com)

**Jan. 16, 2007: Extending Horizons: Accessibility to Next Generation Networks, London.** Organized by COST 219ter, this conference will explore new communications technologies impact on the lives of older people and people with disabilities. Contact: [www.tiresias.org/cost219ter/extending\\_horizons\\_conference.html](http://www.tiresias.org/cost219ter/extending_horizons_conference.html)

**April 2-4, 2007: Include 2007: Involving the Consumer, Royal College of Art, London** The theme for this international conference on inclusive design is "working with people." Contact: [www.hhrc.rca.ac.uk/programmes/include/2007/index.html](http://www.hhrc.rca.ac.uk/programmes/include/2007/index.html)

**June 16-19, 2007: Festival of International Conferences on Caregiving, Disability, Aging and Technology, Toronto, Canada.** Topics will include leading ideas on assistive technology, smart homes, intelligent systems, communication, self-care, mobility, recreation and education and employment. Contact: [www.ficdat.ca/](http://www.ficdat.ca/)

**June 18-21, 2007: TRANSED 2007, Palais des congres de Montreal, Montreal Quebec, Canada.** The 11th International Conference on Mobility and Transport for Elderly and Disabled Persons will review advances in research, profile international breakthroughs and explore perspectives for technological innovations. Contact: [www.tc.gc.ca/transed2007](http://www.tc.gc.ca/transed2007)

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

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