

Universal Design News

A quarterly newsletter update from UniversalDesign.com

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This issue of *Universal Design Newsletter* features projects and products that have been awarded for excellence in the field of Universal Design during the past year. For ease of consideration, we have grouped these award-winning designs into the following categories: Public Spaces, Residential Projects, Products for the Built Environment, and Lifestyle Products. For more information on these and other award winners, visit [UD Awards and Grants](#) on UD.com. We welcome comments about the awardees and any additional information about other award winners that we can display on **UniversalDesign.com**.

Universal Design
Awards & Grants Issue

Visit us online at:
www.UniversalDesign.com

Award-winning Public Spaces

Priory Church Primary School, Wales, UK

Architect: Petersen Williams

Contractor: John Weaver

Award: [Selwyn Goldsmith Award for Universal Design, 2012 Civic Trust Awards](#)

The design team consulted with local community and access groups as well as potential users to gain insight into their needs and hopes for the new school. The design of the building fosters a sense of community, with smaller classrooms surrounding the larger assembly areas located towards the center of the school. The classrooms are arranged chronologically by age of student from the entrance and are accessed from the wide curved circulation route that runs throughout the building. This makes wayfinding easy, even for the school's youngest children. The circulation route extends outside and wraps around the external courtyard, which is also used as a learning, play and assembly area. The single level design and placement of facilities ensure that all areas are accessible to everyone. Green

[See Award-winning Public Spaces, page 4](#)

Award-winning Residential Projects

LIFEhouse, Wisconsin

Architect/Designer: New American Homes, IDeA Center

Award: [National Association of Home Builders 2012 Best of 50+ Housing Award](#)

This universally designed home was designed and built by an architect/builder team who happen to be sisters. Susanne Tauke is the owner of New American Homes and its Newport Cove, Wisconsin development, and Beth Tauke is an Associate Professor of Architecture at SUNY Buffalo, where she



The LIFEhouse kitchen provides wide, open spaces for mobility device users.

[See Award-winning Residential Projects, page 6](#)



UD Award Winners

BY JOHN P. S. SALMEN, AIA

Because of the immediate, interactive access to the latest news and information about the field of Universal Design now available from **UniversalDesign.com**,

we have changed our quarterly publication, **Universal Design Newsletter**, from a newsletter to a chronicle of excellence in this period of rapid expansion of Universal Design. Each of the four quarterly issues now deals with a different topic. The January issue is focused on Housing; the April issue covers Sustainability, July highlights Education and Research, and October presents our selection of the best of the UD Award Winners from the last year.

I think this, the October – UD Award Winners issue, might be my favorite: finding, reviewing and sharing the amazing variety of excellent Universal Designs that are being developed around the world is fun and exciting. But moreover, it's gratifying to see the way that people are finding that the process of "Universal Design-ing" can improve the outcome in such a wide variety of disciplines, from product design to urban design, from the design of Apps to the design of curricula to the design of type fonts. By considering and involving a broad spectrum of end users in the design process, the product improves.

We've chosen to divide the universe of awards into the following four areas: Public Spaces, Residential Projects, Products for the Built Environment, and Lifestyle Products. We encourage your feedback on our selections, our organization and any other projects that you think people should or would like to know about. Our goal is to highlight

them all! But the reality of a print document limits us to the size and number of awards that can be covered. So we have provided links in the electronic

"It's gratifying to see the way that people are finding that the process of 'Universal Design-ing' can improve the outcome in such a wide variety of disciplines... By considering and involving a broad spectrum of end users in the design process, the product improves."



versions of this publication to help you find more information about the projects, products, award programs and awarding entities. You can find out about other award winners that we couldn't fit into our newsletter as well as comment and suggest others on **UniversalDesign.com**, where you can also find out about upcoming award programs, such as the new international design award, the "[Bathroom Design for All](#)" [Product Award](#).

We hope you will join us in enjoying and applauding the best UD of 2012. ●

jsalmen@UDconsultants.com

Universal Design Newsletter

Universal Design, Accessibility and the Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA)

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E-Mail: jsalmen@UDconsultants.com.

Home Page: <http://www.UniversalDesign.com>.

Publisher: John P.S. Salmen, AIA; **Editor:** Susan Roca; **Writers:** Jennifer Eckel, Daria Rogers
Consulting Editor: Elaine Ostroff, Hon. AIA

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Provision of New FDA Safety and Innovation Act Calls for Accessible Drug Labels

Signed into law in July, the [Food and Drug Administration \(FDA\) Safety and Innovation Act](#) includes measures to promote drug safety and to improve FDA procedures for reviewing new medicines and medical devices.

A provision of the act, [Section 904](#), calls for the Access Board to convene a stakeholder work group to develop best practices for making information on prescription drug container labels accessible to people who are blind or visually impaired. The working group will explore various alternatives including braille, large print labels and various auditory technologies such as “talking bottles” and radio frequency identification tags. The group will include representatives from advocacy groups and from pharmaceutical industry stakeholders. Within one year, the group will develop best practices for how pharmacies can provide independent access to the information on prescription drug container labels. The law also calls upon The National Council on Disability to conduct an educational campaign to inform the public of the best practices. At a later date, the Government Accounting Office will review the extent to which pharmacies are following the best practices and to what extent barriers to information on prescription drug labels remain. More information can be obtained from Marsha Mazz at the Access Board: mazz@access-board.gov.

Two New National Resource Centers Formed to Support Accessibility in the Workplace

On August 2, 2012, the U.S. Department of Labor's Office of Disability Employment Policy announced that funds have been secured to establish two new national resource centers that will focus on improving the employment outcomes for people with disabilities. The [Accessible Technology Action Center \(ATAC\)](#) will facilitate and promote the use of accessible technology in the hiring, employment, retention and career advancement of individuals with disabilities. The ATAC will raise awareness of accessible workplace technologies, and promote the knowledge, technical skills, tools and leadership strategies needed to address accessibility issues.

Additionally, the National Center on [Leadership for the Employment and Advancement of People with Disabilities \(LEAD\)](#) will conduct research initiatives, identify new and emerging solutions, and craft practices and policies to support improved employment outcomes for people with disabilities. LEAD center will also provide technical assistance and training to workforce-related entities.

Access Board Re-Opens Comment Period on Bus Access Ramps

In response to concerns about newer vehicle ramp designs and usability, the Access Board published a [notice](#) to reopen the comment period to solicit input on proposed updates to the ADA Accessibility Guidelines for Transportation Vehicles.

This unusual process stems from the Access Board being recently made aware of a bus ramp design which meets proposed slope guidelines, but has a number of limitations. These impediments include a design that negatively impacts maneuvering space at the top of the ramp, and limit access to fare collection devices. This information and correspondence already received by the Access Board are located in the [rulemaking docket](#).

The Access Board will also hold a public meeting in Seattle in October to coincide with the annual meeting of the [American Public Transportation Association](#). Written comments will be accepted until October 31 and can be submitted through the [regulations.gov website](#).

Judge Rules that eBay not Covered by the ADA

Court rulings on whether or not the ADA applies to Internet services that are not tied to brick-and-mortar facilities continue to be inconsistent. In August, U.S. District Court Judge Edward Davila in San Jose, CA ruled that [the ADA doesn't apply to exclusively online companies such as eBay](#). This ruling dismissed the majority of a potential class-action lawsuit filed against the Internet auction service by Melissa Earll.

Earll, who is profoundly deaf, alleges that she was unable to successfully register as an eBay seller due to the company's policy of requiring sellers to verify their identities via telephone. Perspective sellers are asked to provide eBay with their phone number when applying. An automated system then calls the user and provides a series of numbers that must be pressed to complete the verification process. Since the system is automated, it is incompatible with relay services. Earll alleges that she was unsuccessful in convincing the company to accept an alternative form of verification.

Judge Davila's ruling regarding the eBay lawsuit runs counter to the ruling in a similar case involving another popular internet service, Netflix, earlier this year. In the Netflix case, U.S. District Court Judge Michael Ponsor in Massachusetts ruled that Netflix's online streaming movie service was a “public accommodation” and was hence covered by the ADA. Netflix has asked Judge Ponsor to send the case to the 1st Circuit Court of Appeals for review. ●

Comments on proposed updates to the ADA Accessibility Guidelines for Transportation Vehicles can be submitted through the [regulations.gov website](#) until October 31, 2012.

Award-winning Public Spaces, from page 1

design elements incorporated in the scheme include a biomass fueled boiler, grey water harvesting and photovoltaic units.



The Priory School entrance.

The Scandic Hotel Chain has its own 110 point accessibility standards, but in designing their Oslo Airport location they went one step further by consulting with the Norwegian Asthma and Allergy Association and the Norwegian Association of Disabled.

Scandic Oslo Airport Hotel, Norway

Architect: Narud Stokke Wiig Sivilarkitekter AS

Interior Designer: Arkitektarna Krook & Tjäder AB

Award: [The Innovation Award for Universal Design 2011, Norwegian Design Council](#)

The Scandic Hotel Chain has its own 110 point accessibility standards, but in designing their Oslo Airport location they went one step further by consulting with the Norwegian Asthma and Allergy Association and the Norwegian Association of Disabled. As a result, all 243 rooms are well ventilated and include materials that were selected for their hypoallergenic and low off-gassing qualities. There is a no-smoking entrance, and clearly labeled gluten-free and lactose-free offerings in the breakfast buffet. The guestrooms' lighting, height-adjustable beds and heating can all be controlled via the TV remote. Vibrating alarm clocks/fire alarms are also available. There are 25 fully accessible rooms, mostly located on the first floor close to the parking lot, restaurant, and conference areas. All doorways are at least 31 1/2 in. (80 cm) wide to accommodate large luggage and people using mobility devices. Accessible toilets in public areas of the hotel have foldable arm rests, emergency buttons, and handles on the doors so wheelchair users can easily close the door behind themselves. Reception has a multi-height counter, two walking stick holders, and clearly labeled hearing loops. The lobby includes power sockets for convenient charging of electric wheelchairs. The

breakfast buffet is located at an accessible reach range and braille and spoken announcements are included in the elevator. Contrast markings are provided on all steps and contrasting colors are used in the rooms, bathrooms and corridors. Wayfinding is made easy through the use of large room numbers, and at the entrance a 98 ft (30 meter) strip of lights is set into the floor leading from the street straight to reception.



The Scandic Oslo lobby.



Hole in The Wall Gang Camp, Connecticut

The Treehouse Guys, LLC

Designer: James Roth and John Connell (honorable mention for his work on the first prototypes)

Builder: Chris Haake

Award: [Paralyzed Veterans of America's Barrier-Free America Award 2011](#)

CHINA

Hong Kong to Improve Accessibility to Pedestrian Subways

Hong Kong Chief Executive Leung Chun-ying announced a plan to improve access to Hong Kong's footbridges and pedestrian subways through a multi-million dollar plan to install elevators. Currently underway in 10 locations, the project is expected to spend HK\$100M in its first year, eventually reaching



Pedestrian subway in Hong Kong.

HK\$1B in three years. Two hundred twenty sites have been identified for the improvements.

"This is a huge social investment, but I believe elderly people or people with disabilities will support our plan," Leung said. For more information on the plan, click [here](#).

INDIA

Universal Design Awards

The National Center for Promotion of Employment for Disabled People (NCPEDP), an organization in New Delhi, India, has announced the winners of the 2012 NCPEDP-Mphasis Universal Design awards.

This non-profit organization works to connect government, industry, international agencies and the volunteer sector to empower people with disabilities. With their partners, Mphasis (a Hewlett-Packard Company), AccessAbility and Barrier Break Technologies, NCPEDP made awards to persons with disabilities, working professionals and companies/organizations that have made an impact in accessibility and Universal Design.

The awardees were recognized for their contributions in the design and development of assistive technologies, teaching methodologies, barrier removal in both the physical and learning environments and empowering experiences in travel. A full description of the organization and the list of 2012 awardees can be found [here](#).

UNITED KINGDOM

London's Olympics Improve Accessibility at Heathrow

BAA Ltd., one of the world's largest airport operators, invested more than US\$20M in preparation for the London 2012 Olympics including physical improvements to the sixty-six year old Heathrow airport. New lifts and ramps to facilitate access to airplanes, and staff training to accommodate a higher than average volume of passengers with mobility aids and communication disabilities are just a few of the ways that access was improved for all visitors. The airport prepared to welcome 2,100 athletes during the Paralympic games in August. Airport officials



Heathrow Airport in London.

said the Paralympics posed a "different operational challenge," one of complexity rather than volume.

UK mobility charity [Whizz-Kidz](#) audited the terminal facilities and suggested improvements including the addition of special lifts and indoor transportation vehicles. Other new additions include an on-site wheelchair repair service and new accessible toilet rooms. ●

BAA Ltd., one of the world's largest airport operators, invested more than US\$20M in preparation for the London 2012 Olympics including physical improvements to the sixty-six year old Heathrow airport.

Award-winning Public Spaces, from page 4

James Roth, cofounder of The Treehouse Guys, received the Barrier-Free America Award for the 34 universally accessible treehouses that he has built since 2000. The treehouses are located in private camps and public parks in 18 states across the USA and in rural Poland. The treehouses' universally accessible ramps make climbing to the top easy and enjoyable for all visitors. The gradual ascent also provides great views and rest stops along the way. Mark Lichter, AIA, Paralyzed Veterans' Director

of Architecture, has been quoted as saying, "An accessible treehouse sends an important message to other architects when it comes to accessibility—to think big, and think 'out of the box' when it comes to designing accessible buildings and structures." ●

Award-winning Residential Projects, from page 1

directs university education activities for the Center for Inclusive Design and Environmental Access (IDeA Center). The IDeA Center's experts (architects, engineers and medical personnel) took one of Newport Cove's standard house plans and adjusted it in order to make a universally designed house that still matched the rest of the neighboring houses. Beth Tauke and her colleagues at the IDeA Center were able to work on the LIFEhouse through a grant awarded by the National Institute on Disability and Rehabilitation Research (NIDRR), U.S. Department of Education.

The home is designed to be truly universal in its appeal to family members of all ages and abilities but especially useful to those in the 50+ age group. With features such as an open floor plan for the main living spaces, wide and level entrances, an elevator to the finished lower level, hard wood and porcelain tile flooring and ample bathrooms, the home works well for anyone using mobility aids.

Daylight and multiple sources of light are available in each room, and placement of lighting and security controls, contrasting carpeting on stairs and under-mounted lighting on the handrail provide extra safety. Kitchen appliances and functional areas were designed to be easy to reach and include safety features such as an induction cook top with automatic safety turn off.



LIFEhouse provides two ways to enter: one no-step entry, and one entry with stairs.

So successful was the design of the LIFEhouse that a collective group of donors including the Chicago NFL Retired Players Association, the Chicago chapter of HomeAid, the foundation of the NAHB, the Newport Cove Community and an anonymous individual have secured funds and started construction on a second home, LIFEhouse for a Hero, to be donated to an injured service member.

<http://newportcoveonline.com/houses/lifehouse/>



The Mission Possible accessible bedroom.

Illinois Institute of Art (Chicago) Student Chapter of ASID

Award: [American Society of Interior Designers \(ASID\) Student Chapter Award for Community Service and 2012 Outstanding Chapter](#)

The Illinois Institute of Art (Chicago) Student Chapter of ASID won the ASID's annual awards for its team project: Mission Possible, Designing for Veterans. Their ambitious project focused on the redesign of a bedroom and bathroom for a veteran who lost both legs in Iraq.

The 18-month project encompassed all aspects of project planning and management, design, construction and installation. Additionally the group recruited volunteers, raised awareness in the community of the need for usable housing for returning veterans with disabilities and created an organization that will continue Mission Possible. Donors include: Hafele of Americas, Kravet, Benjamin Moore, Ragsdale Inc., Shaw Flooring/Luna, Delta, Corian, Keith Clayton Furniture Inc., and Sleep Number/Select Comfort Beds. Haworth and Bernhardt Design supported the mission with a silent auction to help raise funds. Kevin Sheridan of Sheridan Contract secured donations from companies across the mid-west.

With so many donors to thank, several of the students formed a 501(c)3 organization allowing the donations to be free of taxes. The new nonprofit interior design organization called Designing for Veterans will allow the mission to continue adapting housing for more disabled veterans. The real reward for these students may be that their ambitious project identified a critical need in the community and will have a lasting legacy.

<http://www.designingforveterans.org/VeteranProjects.html> ●

The Illinois Institute of Art (Chicago) Student Chapter of ASID won the ASID's annual awards for its team project: Mission Possible, Designing for Veterans. Their ambitious project focused on the redesign of a bedroom and bathroom for a veteran who lost both legs in Iraq.

Award-winning Projects for the Built Environment

OpenSpace Shower Screen

Designer: EOOS Design

Manufacturer: Duravit

Award: [red dot award](#): product design 2012, red dot award: best of the best 2012, [Universal Design Award 2012](#)

The [OpenSpace Shower Screen](#) creates a flexible space that transforms into a zero-threshold shower enclosure simply by opening the doors. When folded closed, the large glass doors fit neatly against the wall, surrounded by an attractive chrome frame. One of the doors can even be made of mirror glass to act as a full length mirror when the unit is closed. The shower fixtures and bathing supplies can also be hidden behind the mirror door, providing a sleek, uncluttered look. The doors are effortlessly opened to reveal the shower fixtures and create the shower enclosure. Due to a specially designed raising and lowering mechanism, the doors automatically lower as they are opened to keep water contained within the shower enclosure.



OpenSpace Shower Screen zero-threshold shower enclosure.

Chair-A-Table

Designer/Manufacturer: Martin Innovations

Award: [2011 da Vinci Award for Environmental Adaptation/Daily Living or Work Aids](#)

The [Chair-A-Table](#) is an exam table that can comfortably and safely accommodate all patients. The adjustable chair can be raised or lowered for patients of various heights, older patients who find it easier to stand from a raised height and wheelchair users who wish to transfer directly to the chair. This power exam table is also able to support up to 1000 pounds, safely supporting larger patients. The Chair-A-Table includes an integrated wheelchair that can be docked at the exam table, allowing patients to be placed on the exam table without needing to be lifted by a sling hoist or medical personnel. This feature can also

prove useful for ambulatory patients who temporarily require a wheelchair following a procedure.



The Chair-A-Table exam table can be raised or lowered to accommodate patients of all ages and mobility levels.

sleepToo

Designer/Manufacturer: Wieland

Awards: [International Design Excellence Award \(IDEA\) 2012 Gold](#), Industrial Designers Society of America

The [sleepToo](#) is a compact multi-purpose furniture system designed for hospital rooms. Available in several sizes and configurations, the sleepToo can come as a couch or as two arm chairs separated by an integrated table. The adjustable table can be fixed at three different heights to accommodate a variety of activities. The front of the chairs can be outfitted with either extendable footrests or pullout drawers. The furniture is designed to be durable, and is upholstered in an easy-to-clean fabric that can withstand the demands of a hospital setting. The push of a button engages the pneumatic assisted sleep surface to pop up so that it can easily be folded over to create a mattress. All of this fits into a compact foot print that saves valuable space while still providing patients and their families with a functional and comforting space. ●



The sleepToo multi-purpose furniture system.

Available in several sizes and configurations, the sleepToo can come as a couch or as two arm chairs separated by an integrated table.

Award-winning Lifestyle Products

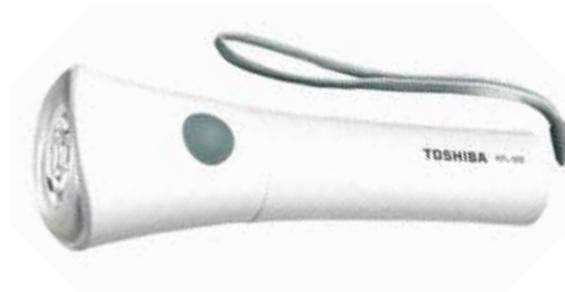
Toshiba LED Flashlight KFL

Design: Toshiba Corporation, Shoichi Hibi

Manufacturer: Toshiba Home Appliances Corporation

Awards: [iF International Forum Design GmbH Product Design 2012](#), [red dot award: product design 2012](#), [Universal Design Award 2012](#)

Toshiba's KFL flashlight has a body that is oval rather than circular, so the flashlight won't roll away when placed on its side. The flared lens design allows light to escape from the sides when the flashlight is placed face down, reminding users to turn off the light. The flashlight's rubber switch is easily detectable, even in the dark.



Toshiba's KFL flashlight has an oval body to prevent it from rolling away.



Becco clothes pegs do not require any pinching or squeezing.

Becco Clothes Peg

Design: Björn Kwapp

Academy: Akademie Gestaltung im Handwerk Münster

Award: [Universal Design Award 2012](#)

Toshiba's KFL flashlight has a body that is oval rather than circular, so the flashlight won't roll away when placed on its side.

Unlike traditional clothes pegs, the Becco clothes peg does not require any pinching or squeezing in order to be used. The Becco boasts a large circular opening that can fit over a finger or thumb, providing users with options for how to hold it. The Becco's curved shape allows it to be used on textiles of different thicknesses, all without leaving unsightly marks on your clothes.



Oxo's Tot feeding line allows a toddler to become more independent while eating.

Oxo Tot Line

Design: Smart Design Team

Manufacturer: OXO

Awards: Feeding Line ([IDEA Awards Bronze 2012](#), [iF Awards 2012](#)); Sprout High Chair ([iF Awards 2012](#), [Spark! Design Award Silver](#)); Seedling Youth Booster Seat ([IDEA Awards Gold 2012](#))

OXO has expanded its knowledge of Universal Design to the OXO Tot Line including Feeding/Eating products, the Sprout High Chair and the Seedling Youth Booster Chair. The Feeding and Eating group of products includes items like sippy cups, plates and bowls, utensils and snack cups. The self-feeding fork and spoon have large curved handles that are comfortably held in little fingers and the plate has a non-slip base and a removable ring that helps younger kids keep food contained. The Sprout High Chair grows along with your child, and can seat children ranging from six months to five years old. The high chair attachments can be removed for older children who are ready to pull up to the family dining table. User testing showed some kids struggle with balance in a standard booster seat, so OXO added a supportive backrest to their Seedling Youth Booster Seat. The booster seat folds up for storage and portability, and is easily carried by an integrated handle. ●

Milgard SmartTouch Patio Door Handle

In answer to the challenge that unlocking and opening traditional patio doors presents to people with hand dexterity issues, Milgard offers a handle that can be unlocked and opened in a single, fluid motion with only one hand. The SmartTouch® handle integrates the locking control with the handle. Users need only to slightly lift the handle and pull it toward them to unlock the door and slide the door open as usual.



One-touch operation makes this door handle accessible and usable for all ages.

Milgard Manufacturing, Inc.
1-800 645-4273

<http://www.milgard.com/milgard-advantages/smarttouch-door-handle.asp>

Nest Thermostat

1-885-469-6378

<http://www.nest.com/>

Poolpod Products LTD

+011-44-14 1237 2127

<http://www.poolpodproducts.com/>

Nest Thermostat

Designed by teams that worked on Apple's iPod, the Nest is a sleekly-designed, energy-saving, learning thermostat. Users simply set the temperature by rotating the unit's rim, and a large, color LCD screen displays the selected temperature - red for heating and blue for cooling - as well as how long it will take to reach the selected temperature. After being manually adjusted for about a week, the Nest thermostat learns user habits and continues to automatically follow that set pattern. A green leaf logo is displayed when energy efficient temperatures are selected, encouraging users to make greener choices. Energy is also conserved with motion sensors that cause the auto-away mode to kick in after two hours of inactivity. Plus, Wi-Fi connectivity allows users to remotely set the Nest thermostat from a computer or smartphone, and monitor their energy consumption. The Nest is compatible with the following systems: forced air, radiant, heat pump, oil, gas and electric; one or two stage conventional heating; one stage conventional cooling; one stage heat pumps with auxiliary heat or two stage heat pumps without auxiliary heat; 24 volt systems; and zoned systems (multiple thermostats) both with and without dampers.



The Nest thermostat has a clean design, an easy-to-use interface and a host of functions.

Poolpod

The Poolpod's pivoting arms allow this submersible platform lift to move from the pool deck into the water in one smooth motion. The pool lift is well-suited to older adults, caregivers with young children and anyone who finds it difficult to navigate traditional pool ladders or steps. From a standing position or seated position in the special submersible wheelchair, users can independently operate the lift and adjust the depth to which the lift descends by waving a proximity wristband near the controls. Lift controls are located in three different places, enabling access from within the pool, outside of the pool, and while inside the lift. Designed in the UK, it is unclear if the Poolpod complies with latest accessibility criteria found in the 2010 ADA Standards, but its Universal Design features present innovations that could lessen the stigma associated with pool lifts while providing benefits to a wider range of users. ●



Poolpod enables people with limited mobility to have independent access to swimming pools.

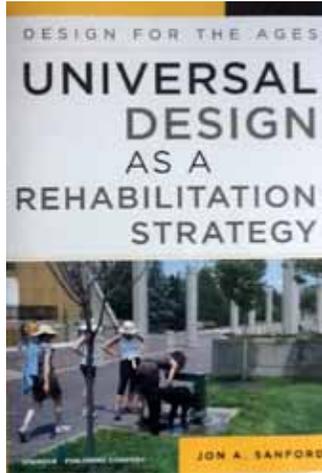
BOOK REVIEW

Living Well: Universal Design As a Solution and Strategy

“Universal Design as Rehabilitation Strategy: Design for the Ages,” by Jon A. Sanford, M. Arch

BY JENNIFER ECKEL, CAPS

Sanford offers a vision of how Universal Design can create healthier space for everyone.



Available at Springer Publishing Company and Amazon.

In this new book the author makes the case for Universal Design as both solution and strategy for living well. While historically, rehabilitation strategies have focused on medical interventions to address functional limitations, Sanford makes the case for using every opportunity to create solutions usable by anyone. For its primary audience of students in the field of rehabilitation, this textbook offers a historical perspective of design and architecture and describes how design itself can create a

disabling environment. Sanford offers a vision of how implementing Universal Design can create a healthier environment for all. For those readers not in the field of rehabilitation (builders and designers, for example) the photos alone are an education in both good and bad design and illustrate innovative solutions to improve human functioning. Larger images could improve the learning experience for someone not involved in a classroom experience, but each image is sufficiently well-captioned to describe relevant details.

The book is divided into three parts: Form, Function and Functionality; Design for the Ages: Universal Design as a Rehabilitation Strategy for Aging in Place and Aging in the Workplace; and Breaking Down Barriers: Adoption of Universal Design as a Rehabilitation Intervention. Each part includes extensive references that point students of Universal Design toward a library of resources. ●

Jon A. Sanford, M.Arch., is the Director of the Center for Assistive Technology and Environmental Access (CATEA) and an Associate Professor of Industrial Design in the College of Architecture at Georgia Tech where he teaches courses on Universal Design and design for healthy aging.

NEW GUIDANCE

HUD Issues Guidance to PHAs on Assisted Housing

The US Department of Housing and Urban Development (HUD) supports their role in furthering *Olmstead* implementation with its recently issued guidance to public housing agencies (PHAs). *Olmstead* refers to the Supreme Court ruling in *Olmstead v. L.C.*, 527 U.S. 581 (1999), a ruling that requires states to eliminate unnecessary segregation of persons with disabilities and to ensure that persons with disabilities receive services in the most integrated setting appropriate to their needs. The new guidance describes actions PHAs may take to meet the needs of persons with disabilities who are transitioning to community-based housing from institutional settings and how to assist persons with disabilities who are at serious risk of institutionalization to gain access to PHA-assisted housing.

Recommended actions include training, public outreach, collaboration with aging and disability resource centers (ADRCs) and the development of accessible housing lists. HUD explains that these actions may be taken whether or not the PHA’s state or local public entity is subject to outstanding

Olmstead-related litigation, enforcement activities or undertaking affirmative *Olmstead* planning and implementation efforts.



The guidance suggests that PHAs enhance lists of known accessible housing units to include partially accessible units that could be modified. It also encourages private sector property owners to make accessibility

modifications to units they own and to participate in Housing Choice Voucher Programs.

Additional resources are listed, including a guide to the Medicaid program for housing professionals. To read the guidance on Assisted Housing, see NOTICE PIH-2012-31 (HA) on [HUD’s website](#). ●



Aha! Moments

Are Moveable Dining Tables Regulated?

The ever astute, Larry M. Schneider, AIA recently sent us an insightful observation. The 2010 ADA Standards must agree with their parent, the ADA Title III Regulations (28 CFR Part 36), which states:

§ 36.406 Standards for new construction and alterations

(b) *Scope of coverage.* The 1991 Standards and the 2010 Standards apply to fixed or built-in elements of buildings, structures, site improvements, and pedestrian routes or vehicular ways located on a site. Unless specifically stated otherwise, advisory notes, appendix notes, and figures contained in the 1991 Standards and 2010 Standards explain or illustrate the requirements of the rule; they do not establish enforceable requirements.

This text seems to say that moveable tables in a restaurant are not covered by the 2010 Standards! ●

[Click here to comment.](#)



Before



After

QUESTION:

How can the exacting criteria for sidewalk accessibility modifications be most clearly explained to the construction crew, particularly when the crew includes non-native English speakers?

TIP:

In a recent city-wide renovation of sidewalks outside the offices of Universal Designers & Consultants, Inc., in Takoma Park, Maryland, the Public Works Director Daryl Braithwaite worked with designers who spray painted the specifications directly onto each segment of the walk to indicate where the crew must carefully monitor running slopes, cross slopes, clear width and any other site specifics. The resulting project was efficiently and correctly implemented. ●



Design
Tip

Universal Design Events and Courses

2012

October 9, 2012

- + [WAVE Web Accessibility Evaluation Tool from ADA National Network, 2:00 pm – 3:30 pm ET.](#)
 - » This webinar will provide an overview of how websites are evaluated for accessibility and how the WAVE tool, a powerful evaluation tool that provides feedback on the accessibility of web content, (<http://wave.webaim.org/>) can facilitate human evaluation.

October 8-9, 2012

- + [Pre-show Education courses, Remodeling Show \(NAHB\) – Baltimore, MD.](#)
 - » NAHB courses include Marketing & Communications for Aging & Accessibility (CAPS I), Design/Build Solutions for Aging & Accessibility (CAPS II) and Universal Design/Build.

October 16-18, 2012

- + [Universal Access in Airports – Seattle, WA.](#)
 - » This two-day conference offers an open exchange of ideas and best practice solutions on customer service and accessibility for mature air travelers and travelers with disabilities.

October 22-24, 2012

- + [ASSETS: The International ACM SIGACCESS Conference on Computers and Accessibility – Boulder, CO.](#)
 - » Topics include screen reader usage, designing for older adults, communication aids, accessibility at large, interactions without sight, understanding aging performance, visual impairment simulation and sign language.

November 12-16, 2012

- + [15th Annual Accessing Higher Ground – Accessible Media, Web and Technology Conference – Boulder, CO.](#)
 - » Topics include the creation of accessible web pages and library resources, and compliance with Section 508 of the ADA Standards.

November 14-16, 2012

- + [ArchitectureBoston Expo \(ABX\) – Boston, MA.](#)
 - » Formerly known as Build Boston. UD sessions include teaching and learning inclusive design, historic preservation, landscapes, website design and usability, and great cultural environments for all. Access related sessions include an ADA Update and multi-family development.

November 19, 2012

- + [Text Customization for Readability Online Symposium – 15:00-17:00 UTC.](#)
 - » This symposium brings together researchers, practitioners, and users with disabilities to explore the needs of people with low vision, dyslexia, and other conditions and situations that impact reading.

December 11, 2012

- + [Mobile Accessibility – The Status of Accessibility in Mobile Devices from ADA National Network 2:00 pm – 3:30 pm.](#)
 - » This free webinar is part of the Accessible Technology Webinar Series offered by the ADA National Network. Speakers from the Mobile Manufacturers' Forum will discuss the current status of mobile accessibility. Participants can receive .15 UIC-CES (University of Illinois continuing education units.)

2013

January 18-19, 2013

- + [Pre-Show Education, 2013 NAHB International Builders' Show - Las Vegas, NV.](#)
 - » NAHB designation courses include Marketing & Communications for Aging & Accessibility (CAPS I), Design/Build Solutions for Aging & Accessibility (CAPS II) and Universal Design/Build.

January 22-24, 2013

- + [NAHB International Builders' Show – Las Vegas, NV.](#)
 - » This conference is the largest light construction building industry tradeshow in the country, attended by builders (residential, multi-family, custom, industrial), remodelers, architects, contractors, dealers and distributors. Special events include a Universal Design Day with product tours and a Certified Aging-in-Place Specialist (CAPS) Day with product tours.

Calendar

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- + Do you know about an event not listed here? [Click here to let us know about it.](#)
 - + For the latest, up-to-date calendar of UD education and training, visit UniversalDesign.com
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