



..... for an equitably accessible world

'End of year' Greetings from all of us at Visionary Design Development Pty Ltd. In this issue, we focus on Disability and Marginalisation, as well as sharing project, VDD Studio and other news updates with you. We look forward to receiving your reports on Calendar (or other interesting) events. And, as always, we look forward to continuing working together with you for an equitable accessible world.

**PROJECT UPDATES**

**Communicating Architecture, Setting Parameters**

How does one 'communicate' architecture? Or more specifically, how are the parameters of accessible architecture communicated? How is a Brief developed? How is 'quality' defined? Can consistency and innovation be simultaneously achieved?

These questions have arisen from investigating the quality framework in place for a large, property-holding organisation. And, in respect of legislation, what is 'compliance'? Given that legislation, regulations and codes are subject to interpretation, what is relevant and/or mandatory? The BCA (Building Code of Australia, Vols 1 & 2 of National Construction Code Series, NCC) is 'performance' based, not prescriptive. It is not mandatory to 'comply' with Deemed-to-Satisfy Provisions (DtSPs) and/or any Australian Standards referenced therein. To achieve the objectives of the BCA<sup>1</sup> it is, however, necessary to satisfy the Performance Requirements of the relevant BCA clause(s). DtSPs are (merely) a handy 'shortcut' to satisfying such Requirements. Many documents state that work 'must comply with DDA' (Disability Discrimination Act). This is, in fact, not possible. There are no specific provisions within the DDA with which to comply; what is required is satisfaction of the Performance Requirements of the Disability (Access to Premises – Buildings) Standards 2010 (Premises Standards).

Visionary Design Development is committed to accessibility. We refuse to be apologists for the built environment, much of which is not covered by the Premises Standards. Feel free to get in touch to discuss your accessibility needs.

<sup>1</sup> This is the actual legal obligation.

If you would like to discuss collaboration possibilities across the areas of accessibility, research or architecture for any of your projects, please contact our office.

**MVCC Accessible Carparking**

Continuing our work on accessible carparking, Visionary Design Development Pty Ltd has recently finalised a major review of on-street and off-street accessible parking for Moonee Valley City Council, full Report available here. Our Technical Report sits alongside the comprehensive stakeholder engagement report 'Gathering the evidence. Improving our understanding of accessible parking challenges' prepared by Carmel Boyce (MVCC). We thank Carmel for the opportunity to contribute to such a valuable project.

**Alterations and Additions**

Various Alterations and Additions projects are continuing, with several moving into construction early in the new year – more details coming soon.

**Social Housing**

We are pleased to announce that four 2 bedroom, social housing dwellings on two different sites, in the south-eastern suburbs are now complete and tenanted. Each corner-block site contains 2 x 2 bedroom, single storey, detached houses with carport. Working within constraints of cost-effectiveness, orientation and lands levels, we have achieved: affordable to build, passive designed energy efficient, accessible housing. We thank Rex Hutchinson and Jacman Builders for their excellent workmanship and valued assistance in making the construction process as smooth as possible, and Ari Indra (DHHS) for his client-side project management efforts. We look forward to continuing collaborations with the Dept of Health & Human Services, Housing Organisations and Local Government.



Social Housing completed



## MARGINALISATION, DISABILITY AND THE BUILT ENVIRONMENT

The Equalities National Council and Scope have found that 44% of the 1million (approx) Black and Ethnic Minority (BEM) people in the United Kingdom live in poverty. Working BEM people with disabilities have significantly lower salaries than the rest of the population, 30% less for men, and as much as 50% less amongst women. Additionally, less than 40% of BEM people with disabilities of working age have a job, Pakistanis and Bangladeshis being the most affected. Beyond age 40, people from Pakistan and Bangladesh also have the highest incidence of disability.

[Link: Disabled in the UK, helpless and marginalised](#)

As reported in Disability care and support: draft report [vol 1 & 2] (Productivity Commission 2011) health outcomes for Indigenous Australians, a marginalised group within Australian society, continue to be appalling:

- 8.4% of all children born in Western Australia between 1980 and 1999 with cerebral palsy were Aboriginal.
- Indigenous children (under 15) are 3.4 times more likely to be deaf. Over 70 per cent of Indigenous children in remote communities suffer from chronic otitis media that can cause permanent hearing loss and inhibit language and literacy development.
- In non-remote areas, Indigenous people are twice as likely to be obese as non Indigenous people.
- Indigenous Australians are almost 12 times as likely to be hospitalised for care involving dialysis.
- Indigenous Australians are nearly four times as likely to have an intellectual disability.
- 28.2 per cent of Indigenous Australians self-reported their health as fair/poor, as compared with 14.5 per cent of non-Indigenous Australians.

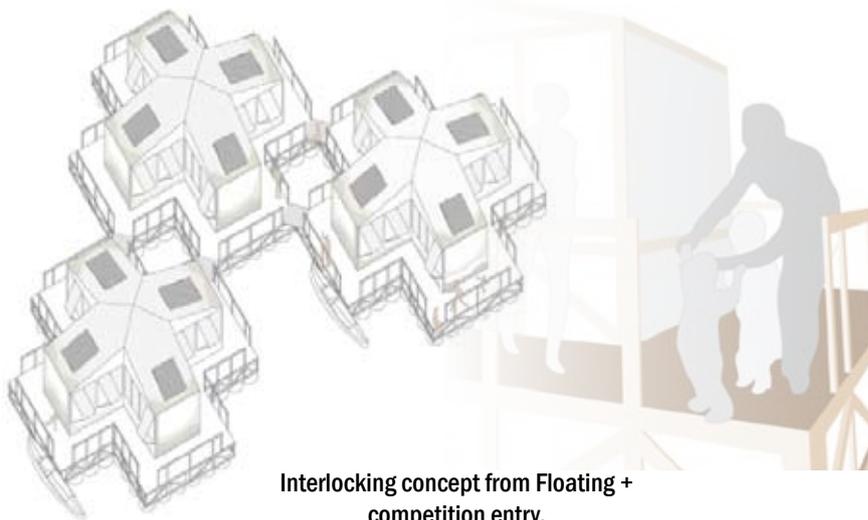
[Link: Disability within the Indigenous Community](#)

Also here in Australia, the National Ethnic Disability Alliance (NEDA) says that the federal government is not responding appropriately to people with disabilities detained within mandatory immigration centres. Since mandatory detention was introduced in 1992, Australia has been repeatedly found in breach of international obligations by the UNHCR. Unfortunately the Disability Discrimination Act 1992 (DDA) due to its Section 52 exemptions does not cover refugees with disabilities. Therefore, asylum seekers with disabilities are denied access to basic human rights legislation. Additional barriers to equity and participation such as improper disability assessments; inadequate access to medications and specialists and/or allied health professionals; inaccessible facilities and programs; lack of access to diverse language and communication supports; and the non-existent support for carers, sees people living with disabilities in immigration detention (and their families/carers) further discriminated against and marginalised.

*The Plight of People Living with Disabilities within Australian Immigration Detention: Demonised, Detained, and Disowned. National Ethnic Disability Alliance (NEDA) © 2015*

The marginalisation of ethnic, religious, and linguistic minorities has a significantly detrimental impact on poverty reduction, democratic governance, environmental sustainability, and conflict prevention. Within such minorities people with disabilities are often further marginalised. An inaccessible built environment is unnecessarily further marginalising still. Join us in our campaign to eradicate Avoidable Inaccessibility, in both mainstream and marginalised settings.

## VDD STUDIO ACTIVITIES



Interlocking concept from Floating + competition entry.

Our latest VDD Studio competition submission, with Davis (Clarke) at the helm, continues our work in 'Designing for the Public Good'; a VDD Studio Research lab topic. Situated in Cambodia our submission, entitled 'Floating +', explores providing modular, sustainable, accessible medical, research and educational infrastructure as central hub and community focal point. Modular components can be utilised separately, or interlocked to create larger networks. Supported on anchored drums the project is designed to function in symbiosis with the Tonle Sap environment. The full submission can be viewed here.

VDD Studio activities in 2016 will again involve a mix of competition submissions and responses to calls for public consultation.



**TEAM NEWS**

Mary Ann (Jackson), Visionary Design Development's Managing Director, guest lectured for Deakin University recently. Assisting Dr Fiona Andrews, Lecturer, School of Health and Social Development, Mary Ann presented four modules during the Intensive postgraduate course, People, Health and Planning. Modules included: Planning: An Overview, Planning for Affordable Housing, Planning for Accessibility, and Global Perspectives. A big thank you to Helen Keellings, Useful Space, for ably assisting with presentation content and graphics.

Highlighting the political aspect of planning, consider this; Melbourne 2030 introduced by Labor government in 2002 updated to Melbourne @ 5 million in 2008, Plan Melbourne introduced by Liberal government in 2013 but now under 'Refresh' by Labor government, re-elected in November 2014. It is imperative that we all remain vigilant in ensuring that marginalised groups are not overlooked in the deafening political 'noise'.

After many years of dedicated and exemplary service (starting from high school work experience) we bid farewell to Nick (Shearman). Our heartfelt thanks to Nick for his sterling efforts and we wish him well in the next stage of his career.



**Helen Keellings**



**Soledad Maldonado**

Soledad (Maldonado) as well as her VDD Studio activities is capably supporting Visionary Design Development on both architectural projects and accessibility research projects, as well as dividing her time between South America and Melbourne.

Davis (Clarke), moving into third year at Monash, continues in his volunteer role with VDD Studio.



**Davis Clarke**



**Fiona Oates**

We welcome Fiona Oates to the Team. Fiona, currently completing a Masters in Transformational Development, is a very experienced architect and development practitioner having worked in Britain, Tanzania, Asia Pacific and Melbourne. We look forward to great things ahead.



**Bruce Tamagno**

Big thank you too, to Bruce Tamagno, our Education and Research Adviser for valued assistance.

Saumya (Kaushik) is enjoying learning the ropes as a working architecture graduate. Continuing her passions in the international development field, she is off to Bangladesh in January to work hands-on with [Building Trust International on Cyclone Housing Design](#). We are very much looking forward to hearing all about it on her return.



**Saumya Kaushik**

**THROUGHOUT THIS YEAR ...AND BEYOND**

Visionary Design Development Pty Ltd looks forward to collaborating with you to make the world a more equitably accessible place. Come and visit us in our office, or at a location of your choice.

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