

Greetings from all at Visionary Design Development. In this newsletter we continue our series on the Seven Principles of Universal Design as well as Project Updates, Team News and Calendar.

PROJECT UPDATES

Current LGA projects include:

- Investigating accessibility at/around a major inner-suburban railway station
- Inclusive Tennis

Current Access Consulting projects include:

- Design and documentation of Ambulant Toilets
- Circulation and accessibility advice for Emergency Control Facility + Community Centre
- Performance Solution(s) for industry-specific hazardous/ technical skills training facility

TEAM NEWS

VDD Studio is currently working on a submission to the 'Draft Wayfinding Standard'. We strongly encourage all organisations and individuals interested in improving Wayfinding in Australia to also make submission, by 2 August 2017. [Details can be found here.](#)

Congratulations to Saumya (Kaushik) who has commenced preparations for the Architect's Registration exam, and Mary Ann (Jackson) who has embarked on her Ph.D., further investigating ways of Assessing the Accessibility of the Existing Built Environment, via the previously developed Universal Mobility Index (UMI). The UMI assessment process captures the lived experience of people with disability, at the neighbourhood scale.

Mary Ann is now a UN Global Compact Cities Programme Urban Scholar. The Cities Programme is working to achieve fair, inclusive, sustainable and resilient cities and societies. [More information here.](#)

Fiona (Oates) is working on ways and means of improving the environmental performance and community value of under-utilised property holdings of NGO/NFP organisations.

CALENDAR

June 2017

- 23-25 Green Composite Materials, Hong Kong
- 27-29 Sustainable Development and Planning 2017
Bristol, UK

July 2017

- 3-6 Tourism, Ethics and Global Citizenship Apeldoorn, Netherlands
- 18-20 Water Pollution and Treatment, Rome
- 29 Ageing 2017 - A Conversation. Sydney

August 2017

- 6-8 Humanities & Human Rights Education. Hiroshima
- 9-11 Strengthening Peace through Education. Nagasaki
- 22-23 Driving Growth in Disability Housing. Sydney
- 24-25 Re-City 2017. "(Im)Possible Cities" Tampere, Finland



THE SEVEN PRINCIPLES OF UNIVERSAL DESIGN

Disability-Specific Design

As new laws served to promote social inclusion and prevent discrimination, pressure was placed on the design industry to meet the demands of creating accessible and usable products, services and environments.

As the social movements of the 20th Century were gathering momentum, the design industry responded with targeted efforts. Concepts such as barrier-free design, which aspired to remove barriers for disabled people from the built environment, appeared.

The more generalised concept of accessible design emerged in the 1970s and promoted the incorporation of accessible solutions into the general design of products, services and environments.

Assistive Technology

At the same time that the mainstream design industry was evolving, the parallel field of assistive technology strove to provide more specialised solutions for people with specific requirements. Add-on products, that could make a formerly inaccessible product accessible, were more commonly developed and became more readily available.

User-Centred Design and Human Factors

Of major influence to the development of Universal Design were design approaches that considered the needs of users from the very beginning of the design process.

Principle 2: Flexibility in Use

The design accommodates a wide range of individual preferences and abilities.

GUIDELINES

- 2a. Provide choice in methods of use.
- 2b. Accommodate right- or left-handed access and use.
- 2c. Facilitate the user's accuracy and precision.
- 2d. Provide adaptability to the user's pace.

The concept of making a physical alteration to an object to suit a person's needs dates back to early man when materials such as animal bones were first used to create tools. Fields such as Human Factors, Ergonomics and other functional design approaches look at the physical anatomy and the behaviour of the person and use this information to create designs that fit. These design approaches have been of particular interest for health and safety reasons, for example the layout of controls for the operation of potentially dangerous machinery.

More recently the term user-centred design is used to describe design that identifies and addresses the needs, abilities and limitations of the user.

Merging design fields

Combining and drawing from developments in all of the above fields, the concept of Universal Design was introduced.

Further Information:

The Center for Universal Design
Institute for Human Centered Design
National Disability Association (USA)

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.