



Greetings from all of us at Visionary Design Development Pty Ltd. In this issue, we focus on Disability and Inclusive Infrastructure, 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.

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.

PROJECT UPDATES

ACCESSIBILITY: Access Consulting

Recently Visionary Design Development has been providing access consultancy advice in the education arena to architects involved in the design of independent early childhood centres and early years schooling. We have also been providing access consultancy advice in the hospitality arena.

ACCESSIBILITY: Access Auditing

Visionary Design Development has been working with an inner city Neighbourhood House to ascertain possible resolutions to accessibility issues. Preliminary costings have been provided and methods of prioritisation explored.

RESEARCH: Inclusive Sports and Recreation

As part of an access consultancy commission with a major LGA, Visionary Design Development is currently investigating inclusive sports and recreation infrastructure. Although we are specifically looking at tennis club infrastructure, our preliminary findings are widely applicable. Sports wheelchairs typically have splayed main wheels reaching an overall dimension of 1000-1200mm. Additionally, topline tennis wheelchairs often have an elongated central front wheel. Therefore, such chairs require more circulation clearance, particularly through doorways and openings, than typically provided under the 'Premises Standards'.

ARCHITECTURE: Alterations And Additions

Under Construction



Above: Demolition continuing. Removing concrete slabs on concrete slabs

Right: Setout complete. Footings and timber subfloor framing completed. Underfloor insulation and floor panelling completed. Wall framing started.

DISABILITY AND INCLUSIVE INFRASTRUCTURE

Inclusive infrastructure: why?

Overall, approximately one in five (20%) Australians is a person living with disability. However the incidence of disability increases with age to more than four in five (80%) beyond around 80 years of age. Similar rates are applicable to males and females. Australia's ageing population, medical technological advances, and current understandings of the Social Model of Disability mean that it is essential that our built environment is inclusive. Unfortunately, much publicly owned infrastructure encompassing a wide variety of built forms including, for example: schools, sports and recreation facilities, social housing, and neighbourhood centres, continues to be inaccessible for a wide range of potential users.

Macro-INclusion

A key component of social equity is inclusion at the neighbourhood level. Adapting the work of Turkish researcher Mualla Erkilic on designing for Inclusive Education (IE), one of the central tenets of inclusion is the elimination of 'macro-exclusion'. From an infrastructure perspective this means that consideration of Diversity; of Users, within Spaces, and when using Facilities is required (Erkilic 2012)¹.

Diverse Users, Diverse Spaces, Diverse Facilities

DIVERSE USERS

In providing inclusive infrastructure, understanding the causes and effects of 'macro-exclusion' is required. Or, in a more positive framing, macro-INclusion is required. Combining the work of Erkilic with the 'Capabilities Approach' thinking of Amartya Sen, users (of any age) with disability and/or long-term health condition(s) must be able to: 'get in' (circulation access), 'be' themselves (with the assistance of necessary support spaces) and 'do' the activities they wish (enabled by modified facilities). Macro-INclusion scenarios can therefore be grouped under three headings:

- 'Circulation provision' (for diverse users),
- (Diverse) 'Space provision', and
- (Diverse) 'Facility provision'.

Basic circulation provision (accessibility) features such as: continuous accessible paths of travel (ie differences in ground and/or floor levels accommodated by ramps rather than steps), accessible toilets, level access through doorways, door width and approach clearances, luminance contrast, wayfinding, and more, must be addressed.



While the concept of user diversity extending to all areas of disability – physical, cognitive, social-emotional and sensory - requires little explanation, the significance of facility and space diversity merits further illumination.

1. Erkilic M 2012, Inclusive Schools and Urban Space Diversity: Universal Design Strategies in Use, Middle East Technical University Journal of the Faculty of Architecture, (Ankara) 2012/1 (29:1) pgs 193-206

This is the first part of a series on Disability and Inclusive Infrastructure. Next edition; 'Diverse Spaces, Diverse Facilities'.



CALENDAR

May 2016

- 23-24 World Humanitarian Summit, a call to action by UN Secretary-General Ban Ki-moon to reduce human loss and suffering from crises, Istanbul, Turkey
- 30-31 2016 Accessibility Conference, University of Guelph, Ontario, Canada
- 31 Deadline for Abstract Submissions for International Conference on Architecture and Built Environment 2016 (ICABE 2016) focus on Sustainable Well-Being In Architecture And Environmental Sciences. Conference dates 5-6 October 2016 at International Islamic University Malaysia, Kuala Lumpur, Malaysia.

June 2016

- 7-8 20th Annual Diversity and Inclusion Conference, New York, USA
- 10-11 The Place of Memory and Memory of Place, International Conference organised by Interdisciplinary Research Foundation, Cracow, Poland
- 27 Disability Sport Conference 2016, Coventry University, United Kingdom
- 28-1/7 European Network for Housing Research 2016, Belfast, Northern Ireland

July 2016

- 8-10 2016 The Inclusive Education Summit, University of Canterbury, Christchurch, NZ
- 28-29 2016 Affordable Housing Conference, Sydney, Australia
- 28-29 ICBE 2016 : 18th International Conference on Built Environment, London, UK

VDD STUDIO ACTIVITIES

CONSTRUCTION DETAILING PROGRAM

Davis (Clarke) and Soledad (Maldonado) are currently participating in Visionary Design Development in-house Construction Detailing training program, designed and delivered by Managing Director, Mary Ann Jackson, Architect, Planner and Access Consultant. Topics covered to date include: foundations, footings, subfloor framing, floors, walls, and opening, windows and doors. Current area of investigation is 'Roof Detailing'. The comprehensive program will run throughout the year. If you or your staff are interested in joining, please contact Mary Ann.



Soledad (left), Davis and the Intricacies of Roof Detailing.

GOVERNMENT ANNOUNCEMENTS

Visionary Design Development is delighted that the Federal Government through its NDIS funding and the Victorian State Government through its very recent Family Violence services announcements recognise the importance of accessible housing.

TEAM NEWS

BANGLADESH

As reported in our previous newsletter, Saumya (Kaushik) has been continuing her passions in the international development field. Saumya travelled to Bangladesh in January to work hands-on with Building Trust International on Cyclone Housing Design. Saumya recently shared her experience with the Team and guests including Nick Shearman (now Project Architect at Gray Puksand) and Leeanne Marshall (Shelter Delegate, International Red Cross Fiji post TC Winston, Ecuador post earthquake). Well done, Saumya.



Saumya presenting Bangladesh experience

Fiona (Oates) continues with her Masters in Transformational Development. Courses within the program that Fiona is currently completing include Leadership and Organisational Development.

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. We can meet with you at a location of your choice, or feel free to come and visit us at our office

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