



WARMEST NEW YEAR GREETINGS from everyone at Visionary Design Development. We would like to take the opportunity via this newsletter to update our clients, colleagues and associates on the last half of 2011, and take a peek at what's in store for 2012.

COMPLETED



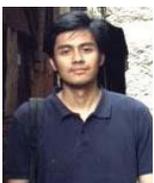
Cantala Street Townhouses

A fabulous spatial feel and excellent accessibility outcome. Universal design considerations included ageing in place and vision impairment (macular degeneration).



On Exhibition

VDD's work has been on 'realtime' exhibition lately, in Melbourne at the ArchiTeam 2011 Awards, 24 Nov - 4 Dec 2011, Steps Gallery, Carlton and in Darwin, NT, in the Weddell Tropical Housing competition exhibition, 29 Nov - 16 Dec 2011, Chancellery Building, Charles Darwin University.



Introducing Kamil Muhammad

We welcome Kamil to VDD. Kamil has an Interior Design background, and is currently completing his Master of Architecture at University of Melbourne. He brings substantial experience in community engagement and activism to VDD's transdisciplinary consultancy. Daniel Fellhandler and Karol Molina continue to represent us in South America. Karol is currently undertaking an internship with the United Nations in Santiago.

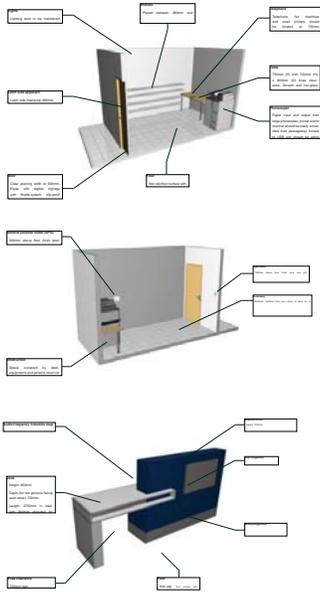
Why Accessibility Matters

Almost one in five Australians nominated themselves as having a disability in the 2009 Australian Bureau of Statistics' Survey of Disability, Ageing and Carers. Half of Australia's over 60s report a disability. Globally, the 2011 World Health Organisation's World Report on Disability estimates there are around 1 billion people with disabilities worldwide. Therefore, mobility issues are not rare and, in fact, are a common part of daily community life - a majority not a minority issue. Inaccessible environments result in: loss of human capital, lessened economic production and reduction in human rights. These shortcomings disproportionately affect persons with disabilities.



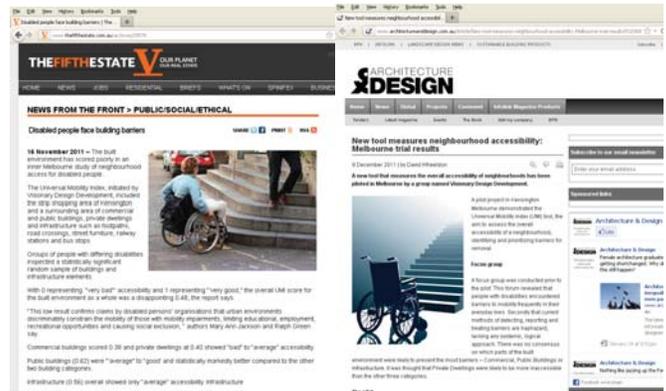
VDD's entry included in 'the best entries for the School4Burma competition'

School4Burma competition - a 'portable' school for Burmese refugees on the Thai border. In an international competition that attracted over 800 registration requests, VDD's entry was selected to be part of the online exhibition of 'the best entries for the School4Burma competition' [demonstrating] 'high level of thought, ingenuity and clarity in their presentation and design'. Well done, Nick and the Team. Our next competition entry, in OpenGaps' Internal Social Space competition, will further explore themes developed in Nick's Youth Crisis Centre university project (for which he received a high distinction, well done Nick).



UMI in the Spotlight

The Kensington Accessibility Study/Universal Mobility Index (UMI) pilot has been extensively covered in online media including: the Fifth Estate, Architecture & Design, ArchitectureAU and Home Mods. Director of Research, Ralph, presented in Hobart at 12th International Cities, Town Centres and Communities conference, refer ICTC 2011 Conference Book of Abstracts. Upcoming conferences include the 10th International Healthy Buildings 2012 conference in July in Brisbane, and 5th International Urban Design Conference, *Opportunistic Urban Design* in September in Melbourne. The UMI concept is gaining momentum with the interest and support of three levels of government and non-government stakeholders.



Make your environment more accessible

Does your workplace/workforce understand accessibility? Increased theoretical and practical understanding of accessibility in the built environment enhances environmental, social and economic sustainability. VDD's Short Courses, tailored to the needs of your organisation, include Models of Disability, Principles of Universal Design, Wayfinding for the Vision Impaired and Fieldwork assessing accessibility in your environment. Access to Premises Standard - know the implications for your business. Enquiries contact Mary Ann, Ralph, or any of the VDD Team.



CALENDAR

February

8-10 FLOW 2 Conference - focuses on interiors and landscapes that arise from the emergence of increasingly fluid and virtual spatial environments. See <http://msd.unimelb.edu.au/events/conferences/flow2012/>
11-26 Sustainable Living Festival. Celebrating Sustainability throughout the month of February. See <http://festival.slf.org.au/>

March

1 Words@Bldg50 presented by Architects for Peace. Presentation and forum on architecture, urban design and social justice. See <http://urbantalks.blogspot.com>

April

10-12 Experience - 2012 National Architecture Conference. Brisbane. See <http://www.architecture.com.au/experience/>

IN THE WORKS

In Design

West Brunswick residential project. Challenges include: accessibility for elderly visitors, heritage overlay requirements, sustainability goals and existing conditions. An interesting design conundrum.

In Construction

Social Housing. Five dwellings in total, two project sites.
Commercial project. Staff canteen and facilities, pharmaceutical laboratories and production, Sanofi Aventis Brisbane.

THROUGHOUT THIS YEAR and beyond, Visionary Design Development Pty Ltd looks forward to working with you in architecture, sustainability, accessibility, planning, community development and research. Come and visit us in our new office, address details below.



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