



PROJECTS UPDATE

Accessible architecture at domestic scale

Kitchen, in black and white ...

Recently completed. Accessibility features include: multiple drawers, pull-out corner fittings, well-placed lighting, preparation/ eating areas at different heights, easy to use cooktop, easy to clean surfaces and generous manoeuvring space.

A big thankyou to the Tonies for letting us play in their kitchen!



Kitchen in Black & White - Photography by Fabiola Pantea

Accessibility

ADVOCACY: Visionary Design Development recently collaborated with MS Australia in laying the groundwork for the updating of their Universal Housing Position Statement (updated version yet to be published). We thank MS Australia for this opportunity and note that we can assist other organisations with similar activities.

EDUCATION: Director of Research Ralph Green and/or Managing Director Mary Ann Jackson have presented several guest lectures/ seminars on Accessibility in the Built Environment in the past few months. These include: RMIT - Master of International Urban and Environmental Management program, The University of Melbourne - Master of Architecture 5th yr thesis program and the Chilean Students Conference. At the invitation of Dr Chris Hale, Mary Ann will also be presenting at the forthcoming PIA professional development one day intensive 'Integrated Urbanism 2014' in the People-friendly Urban Design session.



Mary Ann presents guest lecture at the Chilean Students Conference

Improved accessibility also benefits OH&S, maintenance, delivery and distribution. Please contact Mary Ann, Nick or Ralph to discuss how our accessibility expertise may enhance your next project.

Late Spring Greetings from all of us at Visionary Design Development Pty Ltd. In this issue, we focus on putting it altogether: Why Transdisciplinarity matters, as well as sharing project, VDD Studio and other news updates with you. We would love to catch up with you at Calendar events and look forward to continuing working together with you for an equitable accessible world.

WHY TRANSDISCIPLINARITY MATTERS

If we consider the challenges facing designers in the built environment – sustainability, energy, water, increasing urbanisation, affordable housing, transport, social exclusion and many others – it is clear that any approach limited to any particular discipline is inadequate. These are clearly meta-disciplinary problems that require emergence from academic silos, cooperation and coordination of efforts between built environment professionals and other experts to interact in an open discussion and dialogue, giving equal weight to each perspective and relating them to each other. This is difficult because of the overwhelming amount of information involved, and because of incommensurability of specialized languages in each field of expertise. To excel under these conditions, researchers and practitioners need not only in-depth knowledge and know-how of the disciplines involved, but skills in moderation, mediation, association and transfer.

A crucial characteristic of transdisciplinary practice is the inclusion of stakeholders in defining objectives and strategies in order to better incorporate the diffusion of learnings produced throughout the research process. Collaboration between stakeholders is deemed essential – not merely at an academic or disciplinary level, but through active collaboration with people affected by the research – such as those with disabilities. In this way, transdisciplinary collaboration is uniquely capable of engaging with different ways of knowing the world and therefore critical to the generation of new knowledge across the accessibility, research and architecture fields.

Visionary Design Development acknowledges the importance of collaborative, transdisciplinary practice in working towards achieving a more equitably accessible world. Please contact Ralph or Mary Ann to discuss collaboration opportunities.

FEATURED PROJECT - ACCESSIBLE CARPARKING

Bringing together: Traffic Engineering, Accessibility and Urban Design

Visionary Design Development is currently finalising its Report on accessible carparking in the City of Port Phillip council area. A comprehensive literature review has been completed. Existing Conditions data of 150 accessible carparking locations (200 bays in total) has been collected by Visionary Design Development's 'site crew' (Denisse Luna, Maria Strandberg and Ali Jalalian) and analysed utilising a custom-designed database built by Helen Keellings of Usefulnesspace. An extensive community consultation process, including: Disabled Parking Permit Holders questionnaire, Focus Group and Trader Groups' input, has also been undertaken. Findings from these activities have been processed within a Prioritisation Matrix to determine the order of accessible parking location rectification, thereby assisting with the striking of annual capital works and urban design budgets.

Please contact Mary Ann or Ralph to discuss the assessment of accessible parking in your council area.

6 Location York St		South Melbourne 3205	
Parking Orientation: 68 Deg Multiple Bay Classification: Multiple		ADJACENT LAND USES Pub/Club/Beer Garden: N Retail: N Office: Y Public Building/Parade: Y Wharves: N	
PARKING SPACE DIMENSIONS Required Number of Bays: 3 Length (m): 6000 Width (m): 11000 Working Length: 6000		PARKING SPACE FEATURES Auto Ramp: 1 Signage: Y Lanes/Marking: N Traffic Movers: N Conspicuous: Y Wheelstops: N	
PARKING SPACE SURROUNDS Bike Lane (adjacent): N Kerb Height (cm): HIGH 150 Heavy Road Surface: N Near to Bus Lane (cm): 6140		ADDITIONAL NOTES If a bay is highlighted in orange in nearby location to test/prioritise length. Open if highlighted in orange in 'W' location automatically. CAT B requiring additional measures in adjacent bays. Is baywidth adequate: Y Is baylength width in adequate, with temp car bay: Y Potential: Y Feasibility: Y	
ROADSIDE CHARACTERISTICS SIDE 1 PARKING: N SIDE 2 PARKING: N VOICED ROAD: N		GROUP C Street Furniture (Bm, Seats etc): N Low Noise Barriers: N Street Tree Change: N Landscaping (Trees): N Streetlights/Bus or Channel: Y	
GROUP F Street Tree (Mature): Y Street Treeing: N Streetlights: N		GROUP H Bike Lane (adjacent): N Street Light (Masts): Y Streetlights: N Streetlights (LED/Controlled): N Streetlights (Controlled): N Streetlights (Controlled): N Streetlights (Controlled): N	

Accessible Carparking Report

TEAM NEWS

We salute Nick Shearman on the attainment of his registration as an Architect. Well done, Nick!!

We are pleased to report that our Wet + Dry House (Muhammad Kamil, Lead Project Designer) was one of the 2,514 entries (of 6,103 submissions in total) that met the stringent criteria for the global 4th Holcim Awards for Sustainable Construction.



VDD STUDIO ACTIVITIES

HOUSE FOR WASTE PICKER: Our Wet + Dry House concept continues to inform the work of our VDD Studio Research Lab 2 (Housing) focussing on the design and delivery of affordable, accessible, sustainable housing. The current iteration, still addressing the housing needs of marginalised groups in developing countries, takes into consideration the income generation and land tenure issues of those who gain their living from waste picking. It is designed to be cost-efficient to build, accessible and transportable.

Symbiotic Cities: Restorative Community (R-ECO Amoeba iteration) is featured in the Urban Transformations: Designing the Symbiotic City International Design Ideas Competition Blog now available for viewing at Symbioticcities.net.



Multi-residential Buildings

Affordable, Accessible, Modular (AAM) Living: As the population increases and grows older, the incidence of disability also increases. People with disabilities are more likely to be economically disadvantaged and socially excluded since few cities are constructed with universal mobility in mind. Therefore it is imperative to

cost-effectively build accessible housing fully intergrated into high quality public spaces thereby engendering a socially accessible environment for everyone. All AAM homes, one, two or three bedroom versions, are derived from one basic 5.9 x 9m module. <http://wp.architecture.com.au/act-awards/neat-competition/>



Creating Social Cohesion

Responses to calls for Public Consultation:

In recent months VDD Studio has provided input to the City of Melbourne's Housing Strategy (read full submission here) and the NCC's Emergency Egress RIS.

We thank current and former VDD Studio members: Saumya Kaushik Transportable House for Waste Picker, Claudia Sepulveda

Symbiotic Cities, Maria Strandberg Affordable, Accessible, Modular Living and Dennisse Luna Public Consultation for their hard work in putting together the various submissions.

If you would like to discuss collaboration and/or partnership possibilities for any of these VDD Studio projects, please contact our office.

OTHER NEWS

Visionary Design Development would like to take this opportunity to congratulate Architects for Peace on the launch of their Strategic Plan, Tuesday 11 November 2014. As a long-term sponsor and supporter, we look forward to Architects for Peace continuing to 'make a difference'.

We would also like to congratulate ArchiTeam Cooperative Limited for the increasing success of its now annual ArchiTeam Awards and Exhibition. This year's Exhibition is currently on at the No Vacancy gallery in Melbourne's CBD.

Association of Consultants in Access Australia (ACAA) ACAA Conference 2015: Universal Design - a better way, 7-9 October 2015, Melbourne (Aust). Spread the word!!

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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..... for an equitably accessible world

CALENDAR

November 2014

- 24-27 The Australian Sociological Association (TASA), Challenging Identities, Institutions and Communities, University of South Australia (Aust)
- 25-26 Transport Accessibility and Connectivity, Sydney (Aust)

December 2014

- 3 NDS Breakfast, International Day of People with Disability, Perth, Western Australia (Aust)
- 3-5 Australian Tertiary Education Network on Disability (ATEND) Pathways 12: Navigating New Frontiers, Fremantle, Western Australia (Aust)

January 2015

- 15 Deadline for Call for Papers, ISUF 2015 – International Conference. City as organism: new visions for urban life. 22-26 September 2015. Faculty of Architecture, 'Sapienza' University of Rome, Rome, Italy
- 16-19 Visit Amsterdam in January! Disabled Access Day 2015
- 30-31 All-Ireland Architecture Research Group, 4th Annual Meeting, Dublin, Ireland

February 2015

- 12 2015 Australasian Aid Conference, Australian Disability + Development Consortium, Australian National University, Canberra (Aust)
- 18-20 Australasian Housing Researchers Conference 2015, Housing and Community Research Unit University of Tasmania, Hobart