



PROJECTS UPDATE

RESTORATIVE COMMUNITY

Our Restorative Community concept continues to inform the work of our inaugural VDD Studio Research Lab which focusses on the design and delivery of socially accessible communities. The current iteration, still addressing the wider neighbourhood and utilising redundant building stock and unused land, sees the concept translated to an inner-city location.

We thank Saumya Kaushik, VDD Studio member, for her sterling effort in pulling this latest submission together.



Play, meet, grow; Communal Space in the Restorative Community

WET + DRY HOUSE

Cambodia continues to attract international media coverage. The Wet + Dry House is also serving as a catalyst for our second VDD Studio Research Lab focussing on accessible, sustainable (detached) housing for socially and economically disadvantaged households. This Research Lab's current activity targets waste collector families.



Wet + Dry House: Built to encourage social interaction

ACCESS CONSULTING

Visionary Design Development continues to work with private sector entities on diverse projects, including: Driver Education Training facility, Cherry Orchard complex, Church amenities, Engineering workshop etc. We have also been approached to provide input to various projects in the Pacific Region.

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.

WHY COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT MATTERS

(continued from April 2013)

Community development is a utopian modernist term that refers to a broad range of actions which attempt to empower civil society actors to promote increased quality of life inclusively for everyone. A particular emphasis is placed on equity for those suffering socio-economic disadvantage. This conflicts ideologically with individualistic neo-liberal philosophy as proselytised by Frederick Hayek and Milton Friedman. These commentators question why we should be concerned with equity of opportunity condemning the work of many social actors in community development as depleting the degree of freedom of the individual.

So why should we be concerned about equity? Recent research by Richard Wilkinson and Kate Pickett, *The Spirit Level: Why Greater Equality Makes Societies Stronger*, (Bloomsbury Press, 2009), draws some extraordinary conclusions. The two authors, through statistical analysis across a dozen developed countries and fifty American States, show that inequality is a causal

Happy *Winter in Melbourne* Greetings from all of us at Visionary Design Development Pty Ltd. In this issue, we focus on Community Development 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 equitably accessible world.

factor for a vast range of societal ills. While it has been long recognised that the poor have shorter lives and suffer more from almost every social problem, Wilkinson and Pickett illuminate how almost every modern social problem, violence, lack of community life, teen pregnancy, mental illness, etc, is more likely to occur in a less-equal society. The most pertinent

finding for the neo-liberal warriors is that the middle class and the rich as well increasingly suffer as inequality rises. In short, unequal societies are bad for everyone.

Visionary Design Development acknowledges the disadvantage suffered by people with disabilities and works toward a more equitably accessible world. Please contact Ralph or Mary Ann to discuss community development collaborations.

CALENDAR

June

24-28 National Community Development Association, 45th Annual Conference, Ohio (USA)

July

- 5-6 Aboriginal Health Conference 2014, LIME Network, Perth (Aust)
- 9-12 Joint World Conference on Social Work, Education and Social Development promoting social and economic equality, Melbourne (Aust)
- 14-18 13th session Open Working Group on Sustainable Development Goals, UN HQ, New York (USA)

August

- 2-10 Volunteer opportunity building low cost housing in El Salvador through Habitat for Humanity Global Village program, El Salvador (Central America)
- 6-8 2014 Asian Symposium on Healthcare Without Borders, enhancing quality healthcare through collaboration, Hiroshima (Japan). Note: Call for papers closes 25 June 2014.
- 11-13 Water Links Forum 2014, Asian Development Bank, Manila, Philippines

September

23-26 CIVITAS Forum 2014 Advancing Public Transport, Casablanca, Morocco



COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT:

INTEGRAL COMPONENTS

● HEALTH CARE - ACCESSIBLE COMMUNITY CARE.

Our latest Building Trust International competition entry proposed a 'mobile' eye clinic, 'Veda Eyecare Prototype'. Our decision to focus on eyecare was informed by the following:

"Although health indicators in Cambodia have improved over the past decade, public health remains among the worst in Asia. Delivery of basic services in rural areas is difficult because of a lack of infrastructure and human resource capacity, and expensive because of low population density. Eyehealth sectors in Cambodia face many of the same challenges experienced by the broader health systems. Eye health human resources remain insufficient to meet demand with a shortage of ophthalmologists, cataract surgeons, optometrists, ophthalmic nurses and refractionists particularly in rural areas.

It is estimated that in Cambodia (pop.14 million) that 1.4 million people have impaired distance vision. Of these approx 40% or over half a million are vision impaired due to uncorrected refractive error. Additionally most of the population over 50 years of age (about 1.5 million) will require reading spectacles for near vision. In total as many as 2 million would benefit immediately from eye examinations and a pair of spectacles costing as little as \$5."

Accessible Community Care will be developed further in VDD Studio's third Research Lab. **Read the full submission here»**



Proposed relocatable Eye Clinic in Cambodia

● GOOD ACCESS IS INVISIBLE

Visionary Design Development is pleased to announce our contribution to the Autumn 2014 edition of respected architecture journal, Architect Victoria.

"Human ability should not be viewed as an abled/disabled dichotomy, but rather as a continuum that varies throughout a person's life. Society's collective failure to deliver an accessible built environment stems from our assumptions of an extremely narrow range of variation in human ability.

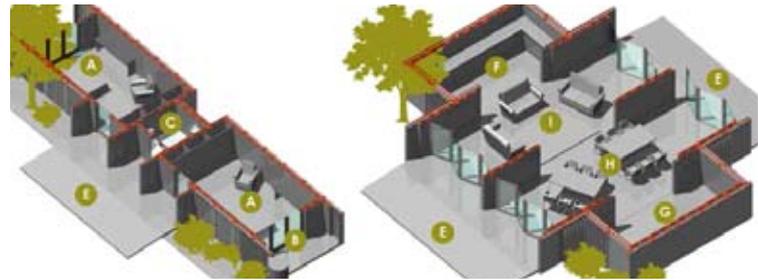
However these assumptions are at odds with that of any 'typical' population. Designing a building, or any space, such that its accessibility 'features' are invisible is the ultimate solution. Designing in accordance with principles known as Universal Design not only assists in this regard, but also enhances sustainability." **Read full article here»**



Looks No Different! Good access is invisible.

● AFFORDABLE HOUSING

Earlier this year, as part of our advocacy efforts for the development of socially accessible communities Visionary Design Development, along with valuable input from VDD Studio member Saumya Kaushik, made a submission to the Senate Economics References Committee inquiry into affordable housing.



Containers Typology: Affordable living units and communal spaces

In part, our submission reads:

"Social accessibility is an emerging notion in contemporary discourse on urban development and social justice. We understand a socially accessible community to be one where a range of resources, for example, appropriate housing, public transport, jobs, services and social networks, necessary to maintain a reasonable quality of life, are available to be accessed and enjoyed by all members of society - including people with disabilities, people from low socio-economic backgrounds, those under-qualified or unemployed - not merely those with a certain level of wealth. Social accessibility is a useful term on which to frame an approach to socially just urban development, deliberately departing from other terminologies, such as 'liveability' and 'urban regeneration' that can be both limited and misleading in their application. In particular, measures of liveability and strategies for regeneration do not typically consider those who do not have access to the 'liveable' city or 'regenerated' neighbourhood (Butterworth)." **View full submission here»**

THROUGHOUT THIS YEAR

...AND BEYOND

Visionary Design Development Pty Ltd looks forward to collaborating with you in accessibility, architecture, research, community development and sustainability. Come and visit us in our office, or at a location of your choice.

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..... for an equitably accessible world