



GREETINGS from all of us at Visionary Design Development Pty Ltd. In this issue, we focus on Accessibility as well as sharing project, VDD Studio and other news updates with you. We would love to catch up with you at Calendar events (page 2) and look forward to your involvement in VDD Studio projects!

FEATURED PROJECT

Visionary Design Development Pty Ltd's Restorative Community (Nick Shearman, Lead Project Designer) project continues to accrue accolades internationally. We are very proud to announce that Restorative Community, one of the projects selected from over 200 entries from 35 countries, is on display in the *Architecture of Necessity* exhibition, Virserums Art Museum, Sweden. All selected entries have been published in the Exhibition Book. We are extremely grateful for the assistance provided by Marjan Sangari, who enabled us to develop the architectural concept further.



With the aim of taking this project forward, we have established a VDD Studio Team; members include Marija Groen (fmr CEO HR&SS), Alvaro Maz (Creative Suburbs), Salome Romero, and several Latin American built environment professionals currently gaining international experience. We are initiating engagement with Government (federal, state and local), housing organisations, disabled peoples organisations, funding bodies, not-for-profits, development agencies, individuals and other interested parties. If you want to find out more or contribute to the [Project](#), please feel free to contact Mary Ann Jackson or Nick Shearman at Visionary Design Development, 03 9329 7887

Continued from January 2012

Proponents of democratic governance often point to utilitarian concepts of the greatest good for the largest number of people as a key advantage compared to more authoritarian political systems. An important concept within democracy is that of the "Tyranny of the Majority" in which a democratic majority forces its will on the minority. A contemporary example of such tyranny can be observed in the evolution of asylum seeker policies by both sides of Australian politics.

Society itself becomes the tyrant by seeking to inflict its will and values on minorities: racial, religious, political, those who lack political power (lower socio-economic groups), and people with disabilities. In the case of the latter, the inaccessibility of the built environment is an example where the majority de-values the needs of people within a wide spectrum of physical and sensory abilities. To counter the tyranny of the majority, society accepts that some regulations opposed by the majority become non-negotiable. A common method is through Human Rights Agreements. Australia is a signatory to all United Nations human rights agreements concerning disability and therefore bound by international law to provide an **accessible built environment**.

Why Accessibility Matters

Emergency Shelter Update



World Laughing Day 5 May, photo credit: Michelle Emma James

Following a very successful crowdfunding campaign, our CAT, designed and built with the assistance of over 60 volunteers and supporters was a crowdpleaser at the Emergency Shelter Exhibition at Fed Sq in early May 2013. Well done to Nicole Mechkaroff for curating a fabulous program of events



MeowHaus at The Venny, photo credit: Michelle Emma James

VDD and Here Studio are very proud that the CAT, officially named MeowHaus courtesy of ArchiTeam Cooperative Limited, now resides at The Venny, adventure playground in Kensington. Pack the kids and check it out!!

The Shelter has also featured in the de/Develop pop-up exhibition at Fracture Gallery in Fed Sq as part of the recent National architecture conference, and we look forward to a forthcoming article in the architectural press, more information coming soon.

SHORTLISTED Melbourne Design Awards 2013



Accessibility Assessment / Research



Mary Ann has recently returned from some most enjoyable days in one of Planning's HotSpots, Portland Oregon (US). Mary Ann, an invited speaker at the 50th International Making Cities Livable conference presented on Visionary Design Development Pty Ltd's Accessibility Assessment Tools, the Universal Mobility Index (UMI) and the Advanced Access Auditing Methodology (AAAM).



Closer to home, Mary Ann is now a Livable Housing Australia (LHA) Registered Assessor. Livable Housing Australia is 'Championing safer, more comfortable and easier to access home for everybody, everyday, at all stages of life.' There are three performance levels, Silver, Gold and Platinum; LHA are advocating that by 2020 all new homes

achieve a (minimum) Silver rating. All types of housing ranging from single, detached houses to multi-unit developments can be assessed using the system. Please contact Mary Ann to discuss how your project can benefit everybody, everyday, at all stages of life.

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.



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CALENDAR (Click on the title for more information)

August

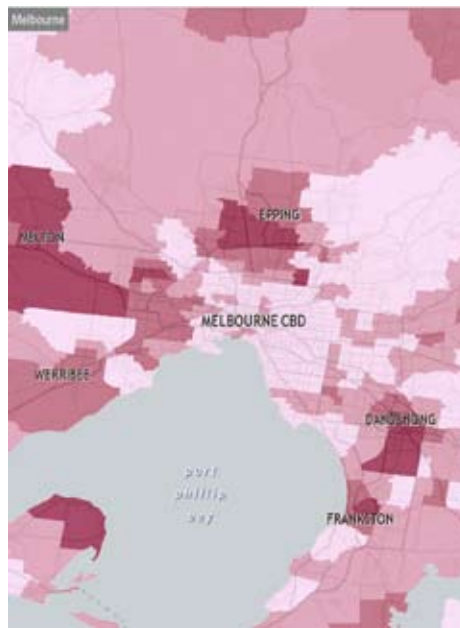
- 7-8** Australia's Disability Employment Conference, Adelaide
- 12-18** Brain Injury Awareness Week
- Var** Nationally Recognised Accessibility Training Courses, Melbourne.

September

- 5** Architects for Peace Words 2013 series. Spatial Justice: Accessibility, Melbourne
- 19-22** 12th European AAATE conference (Assistive Technology), Portugal
- 23** UN Enable, General Assembly meeting, Disability and Development.

October

- 2** World Cerebral Palsy Day
- 4** National Walk to Work Day, Australia
- 16-18** 'Equality for Deaf People' conference, Sydney



Report, DisabilityCare and Property, Urbis June 2013.

DisabilityCare and Property. We are pleased to contribute to this excellent Report prepared by Urbis. Some extracts from the Report "Both parties need to understand each other. Built environment professionals, designers, property professionals etc. should be working together, and directly with, people with disabilities." "There is a whole cohort who could live by themselves if their housing was suitable."..... Please read the full Report for further insight, statistics and views from Clare Grealv, Director Public Policy Urbis; Saniib Roy, CEO Yooralla and Bruce Bonyhady, Chairman Philanthropy, Australia and key architect of NDIS.

Disabled Persons Requiring Assistance (Under 65 yo, as a % of all under 65 yo)

- Less than 2%
- 2.01% - 3.00%
- 3.01% - 4.00%
- Over 4%

Other News

- From 1 May 2014 the BCA will require Class 1a dwellings in the Australian Capital Territory (ACT) to be built in accordance with Universal Design Guidelines.
- The City of Melbourne is currently working on its Housing Strategy. 'Future Living' recognises that 'housing has to be suitable for our residents as their needs change over their lifetime'.

Team News

- We congratulate Nick Shearman, Visionary Design Development Pty Ltd Project Services Manager, on completing his Master of Architecture,
- We wish Muhammad Kamil well in his future endeavours,
- We welcome Thyago Miranda to his intensive training program, and
- We thank VDD Studio members for their on-going input and enthusiasm.