



SEASONS GREETINGS from all of us at Visionary Design Development Pty Ltd. In this issue, we focus on Architecture 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! And, if we don't see or speak with you beforehand, we wish you a great end-of-year and a happy and prosperous New Year.

FEATURED PROJECT

Visionary Design Development Pty Ltd's competition winning Wet + Dry House (Muhammad Kamil, Lead Project Designer) project is now constructed in Phnom Penh. In conjunction with: Building Trust International, Habitat for Humanity Cambodia, Karuna Cambodia and other partners, Wet + Dry house, along with Courtyard House (Jess Lumley and Alexander Koller, UK) and Open Embrace (Keith Greenwald and Lisa Ekle, USA), have been completed. Visionary Design Development Pty Ltd is very honoured to have been able to contribute to this extremely worthwhile endeavour.



Photo credit: All Wet + Dry House photographs supplied by Building Trust

We look forward to the construction of more Wet + Dry houses in the new year. If you want to find out more or contribute to future Wet + Dry houses, please feel free to contact Mary Ann Jackson or Nick Shearman at Visionary Design Development, 03 9329 7887.

Why Architecture Matters

Continued from January 2013

Good architecture brings people together in new ways, stimulates sensorial experience and promotes health and well-being. Good architecture transcends its functional brief by, for example: enhancing occupants' daily activities, sustaining the local eco-system and leaving a positive legacy for future generations. Therefore, it is not merely the aesthetics of the built form that makes architecture matter. What matters is whether the built form's interaction with its own and surrounding environment enables people to live better lives.

Everyone will experience a period of reduced sensory, physical and/or intellectual ability in their lifetime. Yet too often, the many and diverse actors involved in shaping the built environment: governments, organisations, built environment professionals and others, fail to create the accessible environments required by many. Redressing this inequitable situation is an imperative. Architecture designed in accordance with Universal Design principles such that accessibility 'features' become invisible is the ideal solution. There are also other, less well-known, benefits to Universal Design. For example, safer environments improve OH&S outcomes and improved accessibility engenders logistics efficiencies and maintenance costs reductions resulting in buildings that retain value beyond initial costs.

Universally designed, accessible architecture makes good architecture. Good architecture matters because it enriches society, inspires community and uplifts the human condition.

Architecture Projects Update

New Social Housing (Suburban Location)



West Elevation, three bedroom, double storey townhouse, northern suburb.

We are currently working with the Department of Human Services (Victorian Government) on several social housing dwelling. On multiple sites in the northern and southeastern suburbs, these range from two bedroom single storey detached houses to three bedroom, double storey townhouses with accessible ground floor bedroom and facilities.

Alterations (Innercity context)



Cross section, Living room.

We have moved through feasibility and schematic design stages and are currently working on Design Development in preparation for Planning Permit submission. The project involves refurbishing a narrow, but very long, property to combine communal family living and student accommodation, in accordance with Universal Design principles and sustainability goals.



For an equitably accessible world

## Universal Design Advocacy



Earlier this year Mary Ann was approached by Lisa Rapley to contribute to the September 2013 edition of BPN magazine. "Designers must think about accessibility from both sides of the counter. Disability and disadvantage are linked – poor design reduces opportunity for employment, which entrenches disadvantage."



At around the same time, Mary Ann was also approached by Editor, Sarah Robertson, to contribute an article on Universal Design to the Summer 2013/14 edition of Sanctuary Magazine. Universal Design refers to the design of products and environments that

are usable by all people, to the greatest extent possible.



Also in September, Ralph and Mary Ann delivered what is becoming an annual lecture and workshop to RMIT Master of International Urban and Environmental Management students

covering: Disability, Society and the Built Environment theory (Models of Disability etc), Human Movement and Barriers, and Universal Design Principles. We thank Dr Beau Beza, Program Director, and Frank Hanson, Adjunct Professor/ Architectus, for their continued support.

## CALENDAR (Click on the title for more information)

### December

- 29/11 - 08** Business of Design Week 2013, Hong Kong
- 1-6** Walsh Street Design Studio 4, Melbourne
- 7** Talk by Dr. Seth Gopin: Rise of the Skyscraper: New York and Singapore, Singapore

### January

- 2-10** Wandering above a sea of fog (Workshop), Chile
- 16** Submission date for 2013 Fentress Global Challenge: Upcycled Architecture. Must register before 19 Dec 2013
- 15-18** FORMEX at Stockholmsmassan, Stockholm Sweden. Bi-annual showcase of Nordic product and furniture design.

### February

- 12-13** Urbaccess. CNIT La Defense, Paris. URBACCESS has the ambition to present the full range of solutions for cities that are accessible and inclusive for all citizens, all along the access journey.
- 24** Judging Universal Design Awards 2014. Registrations required by 20 Dec
- 25** Final registration date for Natural City Natural History Museum Berlin architectural competition. Submission date 9 Mar 2014.



Visionary Design Development Pty Ltd's Universal Design advocacy activities for the month of September 2013 also included presenting at RMIT 'Opportunities in Urban Design: finding common ground between Mexico and Melbourne'. Mary Ann presented on the topic of 'Creating Accessible Cities'. We thank Victor Pertou, President ANZMEX, for facilitating our invitation and Beau Beza, RMIT, for chairing the session.

### Seven Principles of Universal Design

1. Equitable use
2. Flexibility in use
3. Simple and intuitive
4. Perceptible information
5. Tolerance for error
6. Low physical effort
7. Size and space for approach and use

Please contact Mary Ann or any of the Visionary Design Development team to discuss how your project can benefit everybody, everyday, at all stages of life.

### Other News

- Forthcoming conference on Universal Design. COTA NSW is responsible for the inaugural Australian Universal Design Conference to be held on 20-21 August 2014 at Sydney Town Hall. The call for papers is now open. Closing date for submissions is 6 February 2014. See more here.

### Team News

- We thank: Claudia Sepulveda, Narval Ansaldo, Alex Concha and Camila Loader for their enthusiasm for VDD Studio architectural competition work,
- We thank Gori Golhar for her excellent efforts during her Box Hill Institute intern program, and
- We welcome our first Brasil Science without Borders intern, Nathalie Wood.

**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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