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CUDA 2021 Summer Edition Newsletter: Housing

Here is the fourth in our series of Summer Specials. This week the topic couldn't be more important. See following post for more information.

The proposal to change the National Construction Code to make all new homes more accessible is coming to the crunch point. State and territory building ministers are preparing their responses. But there is still time to [sign the petition](#) - people power is really important now. See following post for more information..



Universal Design in Housing: A 20 year campaign

Advocates for universal design features in all new homes are nervous. State and territory building ministers will be making a decision on whether to make access features mandatory. Industry is advocating for no change to the building code. Some states claim they are already addressing the problem of accessible housing through piecemeal planning policies. Others think it's something the NDIS ...

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Apartment Design Guides: Victoria, NSW & SA

Here are three apartment design guides: Victoria, New South Wales and South Australia. Reference to accessibility is the last item in the list of design considerations in this 2017 apartment guide from Victoria. However, it is a good reference with technical advice. Victoria requires 50% of apartments to have as a minimum: A clear door opening of at least 850mm ...

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Universal Design in Housing: Politics vs Practice

What is so difficult about including universal design features in all new housing? Is it cost? Is it technical difficulty? The answer to both of those is, no. Perhaps this is more about a regulation ideology. The Housing Industry Association (HIA) has a policy statement that says as much. But do they have a case to continue that position for ...

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Be safe at home with UD

Safety, slips, trips and falls are the topic of a Lifemark article, Better Design, Safer Homes,. It points out how many people fall and injure themselves at home. They also cut and burn themselves badly enough to need hospital treatment. How could such injuries be avoided so that people are safe at home? The article on has tips for stairs, ...

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Latest bathroom trends include UD

Renovations are an important part of the home building industry. There is a push for older people in the US to consider designs that will allow them to stay put as they age. But are builders on board with this? It's no good waiting until a client actually needs the features because by then, they will often not have the wherewithal ...

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A Useable Kitchen

A useable kitchen is a must and it is often the details of the design that make the difference. Once the overall working space has been thought through, the fittings become the focus. Lifemark in New Zealand has partnered with Blum kitchen products and fittings that help make any kitchen more functional regardless of level of capability to open, grasp, ...

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Specialist guide for wheelchair housing

The latest Habinteg Wheelchair Housing Design Guide has input from several specialists at Centre for Accessible Environments and the Royal College of Occupational Therapists. It is good to see a separate guide for wheelchair users. Not all wheelchair users need the same features as their abilities vary greatly from part time users of a manual chair to those who are ...

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Livable Housing Design Guidelines v4

Livable Housing Australia has released an updated version of their Guidelines. The latest version does not contain any real changes, rather it tidies up a few inconsistencies and resolves a few queries. With a move to performance criteria in the National Construction Code, it is good to see this highlighted in the document. Livable Housing Australia states, "We champion the ...

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Housing Policy e-learning course

Home Coming? Framing Housing Policy for the Future is a free online course. It's designed to assist policy makers, urban planners, housing professionals and home builders. Home designers and homeowners will find it useful too. The course explores the issues and impact of applying universal design features in all new and extensively renovated homes. It gives a statistical context, discusses ...

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