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2022 Summer Edition Newsletter: House and Home

This newsletter updates and reviews past posts on the CUDA website on house and home.

[Analysis of kitchen design to include universal design](#)

Australian developers claim apartment living is the top choice for downsizing to a home with level entry. However, level entry into the home is only one universal design feature. When it's time to upgrade the kitchen, this is also the time to include universal design features. While apartments usually provide a level entry, the internal design of the dwelling ...

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[Small bathrooms and universal design](#)

Home design magazines now feature larger bathrooms with larger fittings, such as freestanding bathtubs. The room has gone from being a purely functional space to one of relaxation and wellbeing. Consequently, the design of small bathrooms is somewhat ignored. Designing for Small Bathrooms by Sivertsen and Berg, of Oslo and Akershus University of Applied Sciences, Norway, seeks to address this. ...

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[Universal design as a driver of housing quality](#)

Although there have been fundamental changes in the building code and regulations in

Norway, it seems that none of this has guaranteed improvements in quality on the usability of homes. Perhaps there are some lessons for Australia when it comes to implementing the new building code for housing in 2022. Despite going further than most other countries in the direction ...

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[Designing homes for inclusion and independence](#)

The aim of the NDIS is to create independence and inclusion. And that includes providing suitable homes in mainstream settings. So no more segregated group homes, but more homes in regular neighbourhoods. The Summer Foundation's guide for designing homes for inclusion and independence is a great reference for designers and builders. They are keen to build sector capacity and share knowledge ...

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[Latest bathroom trends include universal design](#)

Renovations are an important part of the home building industry. There's a push for older people in the United States to consider designs for staying put as they age. And it appears this is working - but usually well after the renovations are needed. The latest bathroom trends are moving to larger bathrooms and a desire for comfort and function.

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[Housing multigenerational households in Australia](#)

The top five reasons for multigenerational living are financial, care arrangements and support, adult children yet to leave, starting or continuing education, and older (grand)parents moving in. The reasons behind the trend towards multigenerational living are not quite as simple as the list implies. Cultural factors are also part of the story. Home ownership of a detached dwelling is critical to ...

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[Going for Gold but Silver will do for now](#)

At last! The national Building Ministers' Meeting agreed to change the building code to mandate accessible features in all new homes. This represents a major social change in Australia. While evidence showed that Gold level of Livable Housing Design Guidelines was the most cost effective, Silver will do for now. However, there is still work to do. The building ministers were ...

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[Autism friendly home environment](#)

Families living with autism have lots of stories to tell. Some of these stories were captured by researchers. The aim was to find supportive home design features to make homes more autism-friendly. A study by Wasan Nagib and Allison Williams uses family stories to explore the challenges they face. The authors of "Towards an autism friendly home environment" conclude with ...

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[Universal design in housing: is cost the real issue?](#)

After twenty years of citizen advocacy for access features in new housing, the Australian Building Codes Board took action two years ago. They commissioned a cost benefit analysis which informed the Building Ministers' decision to say yes, let's do it. However, the housing industry still refuses to agree with the Building Ministers and continues to lobby for no changes. They've ...

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[Free online courses](#)

Our free online courses are quick and easy to do. [Introduction to Universal Design](#) is suitable for anyone who has an interest in universal design and inclusive practice. Many people are familiar with the basics, but not everyone understands universal design in the same way. [Home Coming? Framing housing policy for the future](#) is good

for anyone developing a policy on universal design in housing.

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