

Summer Edition Newsletter



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This 2023 Summer Edition features neurodiversity

CUDA's summer newsletters are topic specific containing past posts from the website. For more on this topic, or any other, use the search button on left hand menu of [the website](#).

[Humanity is neurodiverse](#)

Comparing people to potatoes is a good way to explain diversity in the workplace. Although potatoes come in thousands of different varieties, shops give us the same regular sample to choose from. The same applies to our workplaces - we choose the same sample of the population. And if an employee doesn't think or act like the majority, they are ...

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[The neuro inclusive city](#)

The problem with standards for accessible places and spaces is they don't keep up with current thinking. Consequently there are no standards for the neuro inclusive city. In Australia, standards focus on mobility, vision and hearing. Consequently they don't cover invisible disabilities or health conditions. That's why it's dangerous to think that meeting legislated standards is sufficient to create access ...

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[Autism and built environment](#)

City life can be noisy, busy and confusing at the best of times. People with neurodiverse conditions such as autism can find this level of stimulation distressing. The end result is it becomes easier to stay home as much as possible. This is counter to our need to be physically active and to get out and about. Children with autism ...

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[Neurodiversity in the workplace](#)

Neurodiversity is rarely considered in the workplace. People with attention deficit hyperactivity disorder, autism, anxiety or depression can feel stressed and uncomfortable. Consequently they are less productive. Employers could be missing out by not considering neurodiversity in the workplace. As many as one in eight people are neurodiverse according to an article in The Fifth Estate. COVID led to sterile environments. ...

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[Down syndrome and building design](#)

People with Down syndrome sometimes experience space in public and home environments in a different way to others. A study in Belgium of people with Down syndrome and building design revealed some interesting results. For example, the separation of spaces is not always clear if there is no architectural delineation. Participants showed a preference for brightness, large windows, and illuminated ...

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[Designing technology for neurodiverse users](#)

Neurodiverse people already know they need to be involved the design of emerging technologies from the very beginning and throughout the process. But this isn't always recognised by designers. A new paper supports their claims and concludes that neurodiverse users should be engaged as active participants "front and center in the research and design process". The ten researchers involved in ...

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[Designing with autism in mind](#)

Well designed buildings support people with physical impairment, but what about people with sensory issues or cognitive conditions? Shelly Dival argues that designing with autism in mind supports people with autism in education, work and home environments. Dival's Churchill Fellowship report outlines building features requiring further research, including design theories, methods and outcomes. Her findings are also featured in an ...

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[Books for everyone with universal design](#)

Reading is a skill that some people find difficult or onerous, so they miss out on reading for pleasure. But making books more accessible is more than just applying Easy Language. It also requires thoughtful layout, font and use of images. The Books for Everyone Framework describes the book making process from writing to publication. Matching readers to the "right ...

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[Hidden Talent: Autism at Work](#)

You're missing out by not hiring staff with autism. This is one of the points made in a FastCo article, about the ways to support staff with autism. It's possible you already work with them now, but neither of you know. Common behaviours are social ineptness, lack of eye contact and blunt remarks. Sound familiar? The article gives a brief ...

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[Autism and cultural diversity](#)

People with autism are speaking out, and we are learning more about neurodiversity through practice and research. Consequently, it's time to look at who is doing the

practice and research. Is the family's cultural background taken into account? If so, do researchers and practitioners know how to adapt? A journal article from the UK sheds a little light on the ...

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