

## CUDA's Newsletter of latest posts

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### Gender neutral toilets: are they inclusive?

Gender neutral toilet facilities are the subject of discussion in academic research, legislation and architectural briefs. Urban planners say any toilet away from home should be informed by the proportion of needs in society. Enter the gender neutral category of amenity as the solution that can best resist bias and discrimination. But maybe it doesn't. Nicole Kalms and Laura McVey ...

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### Digital Standard: too many criteria?

The first Digital Service Standard was created by the UK's Government in the early 2010s. The aim was to improve the relationship between people and government with easier access to digital services. The original 26 criteria were reduced to 18 to make them more manageable and then to 14. The criteria were mandatory. If any service did not meet them, ...

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### Grabrail design: function and form

Grabrails in the home are considered one of the most stigmatising functional support devices, particularly by older people. Several design attempts have tried colour, wavy shapes, or "hiding" them as bathroom shelving and toilet roll holders. Grabrails, regardless the design, are still resisted until there is a major health event or a fall. But what if grabrail design doubled as ...

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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. An interesting architectural Masters thesis.

The second item in this post is another architectural thesis on designing for the neurodivergent community with a focus on each of the senses. Interesting illustrations too.

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## Are shopping malls ageist?

Older supermarket shoppers need a positive attitude from employees, functional shopping trolleys, and appropriate placement of products on shelves. Retail stores are public space and they should look good and be functional. Therefore a universal design approach can prevent shopping malls from being ageist. Key design elements are: seamless entry, easy to use shopping trolleys, finding and reaching products, reading product contents and prices.

Three other items in this post on the topic of age-inclusive shopping mall design. This is an important element of age-friendly cities and communities as older people find enjoyment and meaning in their everyday shopping tasks.

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## Readability and colour choices

Colour contrasts can be deceiving because we are subject to optical illusions. The video below shows how two different shades of grey are actually the same. That's why you can't rely on judging contrast by eye. Fortunately there are colour checkers to help with colour choices especially for websites. And why do you need colour contrast checkers? Because more than 8% of the population has colour vision deficiency ...

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## Universally designed playground has more use

Applying universal design principles to playgrounds means that more people will use them. That's what a study of three playgrounds in the United States found. Two were standard playgrounds meeting ADA standards, and one was universally designed. Result? Not only did the universally designed playground receive higher use, there was also more physical activity overall.

Plus a second article on caregiver perceptions of inclusive playgrounds. Researchers found that caregivers believed inclusive playspaces are good for physical and social interaction for children with and without disability.

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## Introduction to Universal Design - free online course

CUDA's online course is free and a certificate of completion will be sent once all sections of the course are completed. That includes the final questionnaire. It covers different definitions, diversity, stereotypes and the application of universal design.

**[Sign up here and get started](#)** in the free Introduction to Universal Design course. It will take less than an hour.

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## Conferences and calls for papers

This page has the latest information on upcoming conferences and calls for papers. New to the list: Diversity and Inclusion 2024 Summit, 15 November 2024 in Melbourne. NTRO International Conference, The Transport Revolution: Solutions led by innovation, 7-9 May 2025, Melbourne. Call for abstracts open until 31 August 2024. 6 topics but not much on inclusion. 9th National Brain Injury Conference, 24-26 September 2024, Adelaide. Also 3 pre-conference workshops ...

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# Model Universal Design Position Statement

CUDA has devised a model document to help organisations develop their own universal design policy or statement. The CUDA Universal Design Position Statement covers all the basics in a straightforward way. At the end of the document, organisations can insert links to their own policy documents that relate to the position statement. There's a one page plain language version too.

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## Livable Housing Design Course

This short online course is tailor-made for professionals in the housing and home modifications sectors who want to know how to apply the Livable Housing Design Standard in the National Construction Code. It covers the technical details of the different ways to achieve a level entry, circulation spaces, bathroom details, and more. Good for anyone doing home modifications.

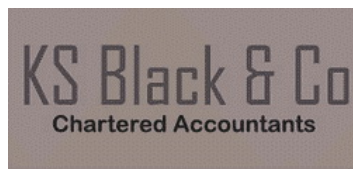
Use the coupon code **LHD20** to get a \$20 discount at the checkout page.

Check out [more information about the course](#) and sign up.

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