

Summer Edition Newsletter



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This 2025 Summer Edition features the Built Environment

CUDA's summer newsletters are topic specific containing past posts from the website. Note that some pages have multiple posts, so scroll down to check for them. For more on this topic, or any other, use the search button on left hand menu of [the website](#).

Inclusive building design: a guide

Talking about inclusive built environments is easy, but how do you do it well? With different stakeholders involved in the design and delivery of a project, how do you get them to join up their thinking to approach projects with the same inclusive mindset? An inclusive building design guide focused on the processes is the way to do it. The ...

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Access Audit Handbook

The Royal Institute of British Architects has updated their Access Audit Handbook in conjunction with the Centre for Accessible Environments. Access auditing is an evolving concept and means different things to different people. Some take it as being compliant with a standard while others consider aspects beyond compliance. The Access Audit Handbook is priced at £40.00 from either the Centre ...

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Great Public Spaces Toolkit

The NSW Government's Great Public Spaces Toolkit has all the elements for anyone interested in public space. It's a collection of free resources to support local government, state agencies, industry and the community. It's a really simple, well laid out tool. The Great Public Spaces Toolkit includes: A four page Fact Sheet about the Evaluation Tool which has four key ...

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Guide to gender neutral bathrooms

Gender neutral bathrooms are also good for other groups of people who are often neglected in the assignment of sanitary facilities. Prevailing social attitudes are probably the biggest barrier to gender inclusive public bathrooms for people who identify as transgender. A guide to gender neutral bathrooms is a great help. The Creating Bathroom Access & Gender Inclusive Society bathroom guide ...

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Gendered spaces in urban design

Gender refers to the social, cultural and economic attributes and roles associated with being male, female or non-binary. These attributes can significantly influence how individuals experience and navigate spaces. This is how we end up with "gendered spaces". Understanding these nuances is essential for creating inclusive and equitable environments. The traditional division of labour can influence spatial patterns. For example ...

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Footpath clues: where are they?

Research by Guide Dogs NSW/ACT reveals there are new footpath and urban design challenges faced by people with low vision or blindness. The research is part of a longitudinal study to understand what environmental and footpath clues are needed and used. Tactile indicators are only part of the story even when they are present and properly placed. A total of ...

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Smart cities: the road to inclusion?

The term "Smart Cities" conjures up ideas of good urban planning linking with Internet and communications technology. But it is also about governance and stakeholder involvement. So, how can it be smart if it is not also accessible and inclusive for everyone? Will it solve all the accessibility and inclusion problems? Women, children and people with disability face ...

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Singapore's Universal Design Index

Singapore embraced universal design principles in their building code in 2006. The government recognised the importance of designing buildings and homes for everyone. Similarly to other nations, Singapore's population is ageing and some thoughtful planning was needed. Singapore's universal design index is an assessment tool with star ratings for user-friendliness. For building designers aiming to go beyond Australia's minimum standards, ...

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Inclusive and accessible street guides

Which street guide is the best? Well, that depends on which perspective you are coming from. Urban designers, transport planners, pedestrians and drivers all have a stake in streets. Here are four inclusive and accessible street guides from previous posts for reference. If you plan cities for cars and traffic, you get cars and traffic. If you plan for people ...

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Norway: A guide for universal design is not enough

Guides give guidance, but you need to know the point of universal design. Knowing the point is a key success factor in taking a universal design approach. This is what the Chief Architect of St Olav's Hospital in Norway said about the way the hospital precinct was designed. That's why a guide for universal design is not enough - you ...

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[Introduction to Universal Design: free online course](#)

Introduction to Universal Design online course is in visual, audio and text formats and there are quick quizzes at the end of each module. This course is good for newcomers to the concepts and a refresher for others. There's a certificate at the end.

Get started on the Introduction to Universal Design course! It will take less than an hour.

[Sign up - it's Free!](#)

[Livable Housing Design course](#)

This short course is tailor-made for professionals in the housing and home mods sectors seeking an understanding of the NCC requirements for Livable Housing Design Standard. It delves into the technical details of both the new standard and the enhanced standard. The enhanced standard, similar to the Gold level of Livable Housing Design Guidelines, is good for anyone doing home modifications, or thinking about it. **Only \$35.00** inc GST.

CUDA presents this course under licence from the Australian Building Codes Board.

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