

Summer Edition Newsletter



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This 2025 Summer Edition features Cognitive Diversity and Design

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](#).

[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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[Designing homes with dementia in mind](#)

In most cases, designing homes with dementia in mind does not mean a special type of design. It's not news that people prefer to live at home as they get older. So, universal design for dementia-friendly dwellings helps people live at home for as long as possible. Once basic accessibility features are considered, as they should be in all homes, it's ...

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Neurodivergent lens on public transport

Lucinda Miller asks the same questions any follower of universal design and inclusive practice asks. "Who are our built environments planned for?" Disability access standards are framed around people with physical and sensory disabilities. But what about people with invisible disabilities? Miller puts a neurodivergent lens on public transport and challenges the way policies are 'decorated' with the language of ...

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Architecture and dementia

Architecture can be a powerful tool for supporting people living with dementia. That is, if it is designed with this group in mind. A special issue of Architectural Science Review consists of articles about people living with dementia. The articles have a medical flavour, especially those focused on residential care design. The lead article is Architectural design gives hope for dementia. ...

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Universal design & neurodiversity in the workplace

Business and academic research on inclusive workplace cultures typically focus on race and/or gender. Disability and neurodiversity are often overlooked or excluded from this research and resulting policies and practices. A universal design approach is the way to take a holistic look at the issues and solutions for neurodiversity in the workplace. Indeed, these are good workplace practices for everyone. ...

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Dementia and empowering environments

A new open access book is a must for anyone interested in design with and for people with dementia. "Creating Empowering Environments for People with Dementia" is exactly what the book is about. It addresses inclusive design both inside and outside the home, including agricultural settings. The book features the voices and opinions of

people living with dementia. The chapters ...

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Neurodiversity and built environments: A guide

A significant number of people find certain aspects of the built environment uncomfortable, distressing or a barrier due to neurological differences. To address this, the British Standards Institute has a guide for designing built environments to include people who are neurodivergent. The whole population is neurodiverse, individuals might be neurotypical or neurodivergent. The guide covers external spaces for public and ...

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Designing with autism in mind

Architects play a critical role in creating environments that are aesthetically pleasing and also sensory-friendly. But how can architects design and organise elements such as acoustics, lighting, colour and space planning to make this possible? A magazine article on designing with autism in mind has some answers. Architects can design clear circulation paths, minimise clutter and visual distractions. Distinct zones ...

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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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