

Access.Architectural, LLC



Happy Anniversary!

One year ago **Access.Architectural** became an LLC. Without any pomp or circumstance, we got down to business.

In those early days, we were filled with optimism even though we were starting in the grips of the deepest recession in memory. That's because we believed in our mission of helping architects, businesses, and homeowners, with **Accessibility Compliance** — no matter what the economy threw at us, we knew that *It's more than just ADA Compliance, It's the right thing to do.*

We know that it wouldn't have been possible without our clients and friends who support our mission. In the past year, numerous architectural firms, home owners, and the City of Tempe have put their trust in our new firm to help them with Accessibility needs. We thank them from the bottom of our hearts for not only the opportunity to work with them, but also because we've learned so much from them in the process.

We've offered our clients accessibility workshops, design meetings from hospital beds, lakeside accessibility evaluations, and we've published a few original news articles on Universal Accessible Design.

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Tips for a more Accessible Home

Whether you plan to remodel or not, here are a few things to help make your home more accessible.

HERE ARE SOME IDEAS

- Use off-set expandable hinges to widen doors
- Raise the toilet seat to "comfort height"
- Add grab bars at convenient locations
- Create an Open Layout That Allows You to Enter, Move, and Turn Around Easier



Through our recently re-designed web site (accessarchitectural.com), and social media like Twitter ([@accessarch](https://twitter.com/accessarch)), and Facebook ([accessarchitectural](https://www.facebook.com/accessarchitectural)), we have given away free Accessibility Training Seminars.

Looking back over the year, we are grateful that we've been able to accomplish so much. We didn't do it by ourselves. At our side has always been a broad community of peers and clients, friends and followers. Throughout the adventure of our inaugural year, you've always been there for us, cheering us on, and supporting us when we stumbled. Your time and attention is precious, and we are both grateful and humbled that you choose to spend some of it with us.

So thank you for joining us on this journey, and we hope you'll continue with us on this adventure.



Accessible Tempe Town Lake

We are tremendously optimistic about our firm's many new opportunities. These are exciting times at **Access.Architectural!** We've built a solid practice in accessibility compliance and design by delivering creative design within a reasonable construction budget, specializing in home modifications, new construction, public facilities, and interiors. We are pleased to be able to expand our practice into the civic market with our recent partnership.

Recently, the City of Tempe, Arizona, contracted **Access.Architectural** to design and prepare construction documents for a non-complying element at Tempe Town Lake. The failure of the lake dam last year caused the new lake level to remain approximately 1 foot lower than before. Due to this drop in elevation the ramps from shore to floating docks no longer comply with ADA ramp slope requirements. Our efforts with the City of Tempe will bring back equal access to all at Tempe Town Lake.



The term "Universal Design" has been around for over twenty years, however, it was not until much more recently that this design concept has become mainstream. At **Access.Architectural**, we strive to use the tenets of Universal Design in all projects that we design or build.

Generally, universal design was a response to the lack of adequate barrier free architecture, and limited access for all, especially the physically disabled. Today, universal design, synonymous with movements like "Lifespan Design" and "Aging in Place", has found a deep, useful niche in our society. Builders, Architects, and business owners have seen

the need to make their product, and projects accessible to all types of users. After all, it is estimated that nearly 50 million people in the United States have at least one disability that affects their everyday life.

In the 1990's Congress enacted the Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA), an amazing piece of progressive legislation that has impacted the lives of so many, especially the disabled. These codes and rules have now been applied for over three decades.

However, does this mean that as an architect you should build your designs to the letter of this law? No, on the contrary, I would encourage you to design far beyond code.

Universal Design: Concepts; what you can do.

A look at Universal Design Principles for Residential Design.

The idea of universal design is to develop a product that is useful to others, with inclusion for all. So next time you design a kitchen, consider using front mounted controls on the cook top, and even consider a wheelchair accessible knee clearance space below the counter for food preparations.

It's important to note that advocates maintain that universal design is a set of specifications and limitations of legislated mandates for accessible and barrier-free facilities.

"Nearly 50 million people in the United States have at least one disability"

Think of it this way. Codes and standards tell you what you must do. Universal design concepts open up the world of opportunity to what you can do.



Soon to be completed, Tempe strives to make Town Lake Accessible for All

Think Universal.



Design for All.

Mouse on over to our new web site: www.AccessArchitectural.com