

Access. Insider

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Specializing in:

On-Site Residential and Commercial Accessibility Evaluations

Accessibility Presentations and Disability Sensitivity Training Seminars

Accessible Home Modifications with Licensed Contractors

Architectural Plans Review for Architects, Developers, and Interior Designers

Comprehensive Strategic Accessibility Planning

Experience With:

Home Owners

Architects and other Design Professionals

Civic Municipalities

Business Owners and Developers

Workers Compensation Projects



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Happy holidays from our family to yours!

No matter where you are in the world, or what you may celebrate, please enjoy this holiday season safe, happy, and healthy. Joyeuses Fêtes! Felices Fiestas! Trevlig Helg! Mutlu Bayramlar! Jie Ri Yu Kuai! Buone Feste! Hau'oli Lanui! Beannachtaí na Féile! Boas Festas! Tanoshii kurisumasu wo!

The New Year Rings in with a New ADA

Beginning on March 15, 2012, the 2010 Accessibility Guidelines (ADAAG) will be the required standard. There are several areas in the 2010 ADA Standard regulations that are not covered in the 1994 ADAAG, mainly residential and recreational.

For swimming pools there are different entry options offered, such as zero level entry, transfer steps, ramps or mechanical chair lifts. The number of entry points and options depends on the pool size and the type of pool. Large swimming pools may require two entry points, while lazy river pools may only need one entry point. Pools that are catchments for slides are exempted from providing accessible entry points: for that matter, water slides and diving boards are also exempted from accessibility.

Access.Architectural can help you with these New ADA standards, with on-site compliance reviews, transition planning, architectural barrier remediation, architectural plans reviews, educational seminars and presentations, as well as disability sensitivity training sessions.



Seven Principles of Universal Design

As a continuation of previous newsletters, we dive deeper into the explanation of each of the Seven Principles of Universal Design.

1. **Equitable Use:** The design should be useful to people with diverse abilities. The design should provide the same means of use for all individuals, without segregating any users.

2. **Flexibility in Use:** The design should accommodate a wide range of individual preferences and abilities. In addition, the design should provide adaptability to the user's ability.

3. **Simple, Intuitive Use:** Designs should be easy to understand, regardless of the individual's experience, knowledge, or language skills. Unnecessary complexity should be eliminated wherever possible.

4. **Perceptible Information:** It is important to incorporate different modes of communication (pictorial, verbal, tactile) to provide redundant presentation of essential information. The legibility of essential information should be maximized by providing adequate contrast between the information and its surroundings.

5. **Tolerance for Error:** To provide tolerance for error, designs should minimize the hazards and adverse consequences of accidental or unintended actions.

6. **Low Physical Effort:** It is important for the design to allow the individuals to maintain a neutral body position and be able to function with reasonable operating forces. The need for the user to undertake repetitive actions or exert a sustained physical effort should be minimized.

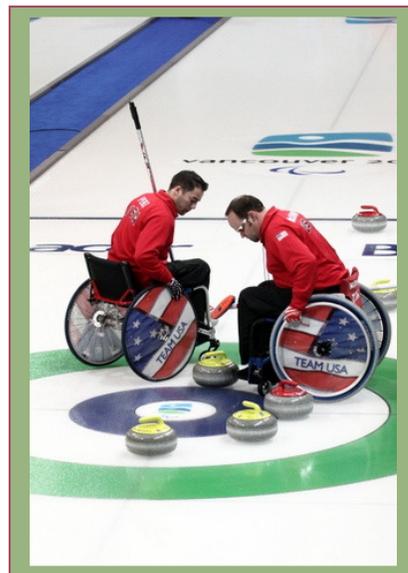
7. **Size and Space for Approach and Use:** Designs should provide appropriate size and space for approach, reach, manipulation, and use, regardless of the individual's body size, posture, or mobility. Both seated and standing users should be able to comfortably reach all components of the design, with a clear line of sight to any important elements.

Follow these principles along with accessibility guidelines, and achieve much more than just ADA requirements. [View previous newsletters on Universal Design, www.accessarchitectural.com/news.htm]

A Christmas joke:

What do you call a person who is afraid of Santa Claus?

Claustrophobic!



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Giving Back

The holidays ignite the philanthropic spirit in many of us, and even with the uncertain economy, Americans continue to give. If you are passionate about a particular charity, consider giving more than money. Encourage friends, family and co-workers to join you in volunteering for an event to benefit a local charity.

Access.Architectural has named **Arthritis Introspective** their Charitable Organization of the Year. Please consider making a donation to Arthritis Introspective www.arthritisintrospective.org and help improve the lives of those with any form of arthritis through wellness education and support systems.



On the World Wide Web at:

www.accessarchitectural.com