UNSW AUSTRALIA

Home Modification Information Clearinghouse

Never Stand Still | Built Environment

Newsletter

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From the Editor

Welcome to the third instalment of the HMinfo Newsletter for 2018.

I would like to share with all our readers and registered users my experiences from my recent trip to China. I was invited by the East China Normal University in Shanghai, to spend a week with the Human Geography Team and its planning students to discuss how to better capture the needs of older people within the built environment. It was a great opportunity to share knowledge and scientific evidence on the important issues that result from the ageing population and the new conditions that arise, both for the individuals (older people and their carers) and for the governments.

The latest HMinfo publication is called: Summary Bulletin: Ramps. Ramps are the most common solution for joining different levels in buildings. This Summary Bulletin uses information from the National Construction Code, a number of Australian Standards, handbooks, guidelines and other valid scientific and technical sources to provide a summary of the facts and issues related to the main design and construction parameters of ramps. It also attempts to identify the major hazards that this intervention type presents to the users, by focusing on: Gradient and Length; Width; Ramp Geometry; Materials; Ramp Surface (Slip resistance, Tipping and tripping); Turns/switchbacks; Landings; Handrails; Camber/Crossfall; Maintenance; Environmental, aesthetic and/or social parameters. The aim of the document is to provide information to the end users and the industry about the result of their choices for each of the main ramp aspects on the safety and general acceptance of the ramp.

In the next period, the updated version of the HMinfo research "Lighting your way into home modifications" from 2006 will be published. The new edition of this study will be reviewing scientific and practical evidence on how to effectively light corridors, for people with reduced vision.

Also, in the next few weeks a new version of our website will be available for smartphones. The new design is fresh and appropriate for viewing in the smaller screens of mobile phones and tablets. We continuously try to improve our website, our resources and services and we hope you will continue to support us with your feedback.

HMinfo Research

Ramps

Accessibility problems have a serious impact on the quality of life of people with reduced mobility or those dependent on mobility aids. One of the most crucial problems is the difficulty to make even small vertical level changes, such as traveling up and down stairs in their home. Ramps are the most common solution for joining different levels.

This publication, uses information from the National Construction Code, a number of Australian Standards, handbooks, guidelines and other valid scientific and technical sources to provide a summary of the facts and issues related to the main design and construction parameters of ramps.

HMinfo Summary Bulletin: Ramps is available on the HMinfo website, at
https://www.homemods.info/resources/hminfo-research-publications/summary/summary-bulletin-ramps

Home Modification Resources

Book review - Breaking Down Barriers. Usability, Accessibility and Inclusive Design

Breaking Down Barriers, by editors Langdon, P., Lazar, J., Heylighen, A., Dong, H. is a book Including the proceedings of the Cambridge Workshop on Universal Access and Assistive Technology (CWUAAT) '14, published by Springer.

CWUAAT has five main themes based on barriers identified in the developing field of design for inclusion:

    I.   Breaking Down Barriers between Disciplines
    II.   Breaking Down Barriers between Users, Designers and Developers
    III.   Removing Barriers to Usability, Accessibility and Inclusive Design
    IV.   Breaking Down Barriers between People with Impairments and Those without
    V.   Breaking Down Barriers between Research and Policy-making

These themes are studied and discussed by scientists from countries around the world in 24 chapters/papers.

Prof. C. Bridge, director of EBEP, has been participating in the Cambridge Workshops for years and has contributed with a chapter in the book. The chapter called "Participatory design resulting in a Do-it-yourself Home Modification Smartphone App" outlines the participatory design process used to create the smartphone app "DIYmodify", which has been developed by EBEP and is available for download from the HMinfo website.

Breaking Down Barriers can be purchased from the Springer website. Each chapter can also be purchased separately.

Article review - Inclusive Microsoft Design: Guidelines as simple starting points for meaningful change

The Microsoft design team has created a useful set of guidelines and an enjoyable and easy to use toolkit as an introduction to the principles of inclusive design. Inclusive design is a term used for the design that includes and is appropriate for as many people as possible.

The Guidelines analyse the three main principles of Inclusive Design which, according to the Microsoft design team, are:

1. Recognize exclusion
2. Learn from diversity and
3. Solve for one, extend to many

Designers often use their own experiences or the recommendations of standards to create products. Even though standards ought to be followed, they are based on what is appropriate and comfortable to the majority and not all people. As a result, the design leads to exclusion of people with *situational impairments, activity limitations and restrictions on participation.* Inclusive design considers not only peoples abilities but also their capabilities to adapt to different situations and environments. To get an insight of how people adapt to different situations, designers need *to spend time understanding people's experiences from their perspective.* Inclusive design should be perceived as an opportunity to transform the limitations of designing for people with disabilities to designing for a broader audience that could benefit from it.

You can access the Microsoft Guidelines on Inclusive design and the toolkit here.

Paper review - Promoting identity: Design strategies for an active ageing

This paper by Heitor G. Lantarón addresses *how architectural elements can promote and support personal enhancement and identity, promoting a better active ageing at home.* The study is based on the analyses of three case studies - three Danish examples of housing for the elderly- through a qualitative method based on theories from the social as well as the architecture sciences.

The findings from the study of the three homes show that the existence of spaces that enhance communication and socialisation is important. Private and public spaces can creatively co-exist and complement each other to make social interaction easier. Another interesting finding was that people use decorative or functional objects in outdoor spaces (spaces that other people can see and have access to) as symbols and expressions of their personality. The layout of the interior in relation to exterior spaces plays an important role in the homes for the elderly. Public spaces that were transformed to semi-private by the residents proved to be very active and popular.

The paper *Promoting identity: Design strategies for an active ageing* is included in the proceedings of ARCH17, the 3rd International Conference on Architecture, Research, Care and Health, which took place in Copenhagen, in April 2017.

Events

Conference - Universal Design Conference, Brisbane 2018

Centre for Universal Design Australia and COTA Queensland are delighted to bring you the 3rd Australian Universal Design Conference. After the success of both the inaugural conference in 2014 and a second conference in 2016, we have once again set our sights across the wide world of universal design. This year the theme is, "Home and Away: Creating Inclusion Everywhere" with a focus on housing and tourism. The theme extends to services, ICT, media, as well as design of the built environment and open space. This conference comes with a promise to broaden delegates' thinking about the many ways UD can be utilised and applied.

Keynote speakers will cover topics such as the economics of inclusion, future transport, inclusive tourism, and house and home. These topics are accentuated by peer reviewed papers presented by advocates of universal design from across Australia and globally. To find out more information about this conference, please access their [website](#).

Conference - Outside Box

Disability housing and the disability workforce are two of the biggest concerns facing the disability sector. That's why National Disability Services is hosting Outside the Box - a national two-day conference.

Day One will unpack all things accommodation, including: how the tension between choice and 'reasonable and necessary' in the NDIS is playing out; aligning housing supply with demand; managing competing interests and innovation in housing and support.

On Day Two, we turn our attention to the disability workforce - planning and preparing for the changes needed to build the workforce the NDIS requires.

This event will interest CEOs, senior managers and HR professionals from disability service providers as well as property developers with an interest in Specialist Disability Accommodation. Save the date to join with colleagues from across Australia as we tackle these topics together.

To find out more information about this conference, please access their [website](#).

Summit - 2018 ACSA National Summit

The ACSA National Summit will bring thought leaders and industry pioneers together to hold cutting-edge discussions themed 'WHAT'S NEXT' for the Aged and Community Care sector.

The Summit is designed to redefine the experience of ageing in our communities, questioning everything regarding delivery of services, seniors housing, consumer care, community integration, business transformation, opportunities in innovative technology and much more. It will deliver a comprehensive 3 day program to engage, inform and inspire delegates. A diverse range of topics will be covered by our expert speakers, across a mix of sessions, workshops and social functions.

The Summit program was developed in consultation with the 2018 National Summit Committee, and has been designed to delve into the learnings and latest research of pioneers in the industry. It will draw on the success stories of other leading not-for-profit aged care providers in Australia, the U.S and UK, providing you with practical take-home resources to implement in your own organisations. View the Summit program [here](#).

Publications by HMinfo Team

Reports, journal articles and conference papers

Bridge C. (2018) Participatory Design Resulting in a 'Do-It-Yourself Home Modification' Smartphone App. In: Langdon P., Lazar J., Heylighen A., Dong H. (eds) Breaking Down Barriers. CWUAAT 2018. Springer, Cham [DOI 10.1007/978-3-319-75028-6_9]

Vasilakopoulou, K., Bridge, C. (2018). Summary Bulletin: Ramps. Sydney: Home Modification Information Clearinghouse, UNSW Sydney. (June) [online] [DOI 10.4227/169/5b32fc9d151a4]

Staff Updates

We are happy to welcome Vincent D'cruz, who joined the EBEP team in May. Vincent is the new Research Program Administrator and oversees the administration support for Home Modification Information Clearinghouse and special research projects such as Livable Neighbourhoods, Livable Housing and DIY Home Modifications. Vincent has ten years working experience in the tertiary education sector in the areas of research support, finance, human resources, operations, projects and workplace health safety. Vincent has attained a MBA (General) from the University of Birmingham and a B Sc (Hons) in Building and Estate Management from the National University of Singapore.

HMinfo Team

Professor Catherine Bridge - Director
Hamish MacLennan - Adjunct Associate Professor
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