

Safer, Better Homes Through UNIVERSAL DESIGN

“Universal Design” (UD) unites health, design and building professionals to create safer and more accommodating homes. Until UD, homes were designed for an “average” adult, leaving the tall, petite, elderly, injured, disabled and those with chronic health conditions to struggle in inconvenient and unsafe homes.

UNIVERSAL DESIGN PROVIDES UNIVERSAL BENEFITS

Enhanced SAFETY... Reduced injuries extend the “Active Lifestyle”.

40” wide walkways & 36” wide entry doors with **no-steps** and showers with **flat thresholds** reduce trips and falls. Grab bars in every shower and tub provide for increased stability.

Enhanced COMFORT...Ergonomic UD reduces strain on Back & Joints

Wheel-friendly homes allow use of wheeled luggage, baby strollers, grocery carts, walkers, wheelchairs or dollies to travel freely from driveway to anywhere in the home. Conveniently located storage, appliances, light switches, electrical outlets, and thermostats reduce the need to stretch, bend, or use step-stools.

Enhanced CONVENIENCE ...Work Efficient UD reduces time spent on chores

Meal preparations, bathing and other Activities of Daily Living may be performed while seated.

Household cleaning, maintenance and laundry tasks require less time and effort providing the opportunity to participate in other creative and productive activities.

Enhanced SOCIABILITY...Inclusive UD homes welcome ALL Guests

Accommodations of differences in strength, height, mobility, flexibility, stamina, vision, hearing and balance enhance personal activity levels, community participation, and welcome family and friends of all ages & abilities. 34"wide clearance at doors & 42"wide hallways allow for use of mobility aids.

Trans-Generational Homes for Family Members of Every Age

Safety and independence are facilitated for children as well as grandparents.

UD supports the "**Freedom of Choice to Age in Place**"

The cost of UD in new construction is less than the cost of a month in a residential care facility.

UD supports in-home recovery and caregiving following illness or injury.

Building Industry and Community Benefits...

Builders benefit because UD homes expand the marketability of their homes. Communities benefit as injuries are reduced and living satisfaction is increased. Universal Design is an Important and Timely Step Forward. Please show your support.

I support **Universal Design** for 20% of all new housing and 100% of new "**senior housing**" developments.

Print Name _____ Signature: _____

Date: _____

Address: _____

City: _____ ZIP: _____

Please mail your signed endorsement to:

NAME: _____

ADDRESS: _____

TEN CONSIDERATIONS FOR SOCIALLY INCLUSIVE AND HUMAN CENTERED DESIGN FOR ALL

A Common Sense Approach to Designing for our aging
population

By James V. Vitale, AIA, CSI, LEED AP

- 1. Accessible Residence arrival points**
 - a. sidewalk** – user friendly, width and surface
 - b. driveway** – slope and surface material

- 2. Accessible Parking/loading**
 - a. parking space area** – must be level and slip resistant
 - b. parking space** – must allow for door swing clearance

- 3. Accessible transfer to onsite POT**
 - a. enter at curb** – parkway of firm and stable material
 - b. enter residence though garage or carport**

- 4. Accessible Transitions across onsite POT**
 - a. sidewalk** - user friendly, width and surface
 - b. sloped sidewalk to front stoop** – benefits all users

- 5. Access to Residence Front Door**
 - a. weather cover** – ease of entrance when it is raining
 - b. door hardware** – can you open door without putting packages down?

c. peephole – wide angle viewing

6. Access within residence

a. doorway widths – easier maneuvering

b. hallway widths – easier maneuvering

c. second floors – if necessary by design, then provide access

d. bathrooms – circulation, step-in bathtubs, faucet controls

e. kitchens – circulation, accessible cabinets & sinks

7. Accessible elements considerations

a. mail delivery – accessible box and POT

b. telephone amplification – hearing diminishes with age

c. telephone/computer keyboard size – sight and arthritis assisted

8. Accessible surfaces – carpet pile height, slip resistant flooring

9. Self Service Availability – is it useable without pinching, twisting or grasping? I.e.: light switch, window blinds, lamps, kitchen appliances

10. Alarm Notification – Systems to accommodate future horns and strobes