

HELLEN ROBINSON:

Kia ora koutou, hello. My name is Hellen Robinson and I'm the Programme lead for the Auckland Design Manual.

And I'm here to present the Universal Design Tool or as we're referring to it – the Trojan Horse of Universal Design for Auckland.

The purpose of this tool is to illustrate how to design and build great Universal Design solutions that work for our city.

Now, the inspiration and creation of this tool has been a team effort.

Our team at the Design Office and the Universal Design Forum members, nice to see many of you here, have all brought a sense of purpose to this tool. For me personally, I had a desire to do something about the depressing and dismal examples of Universal Design or Accessible design that were coming up on my screen every time I ran a google search.

I'm referring to examples such as these ones on the screen here – where the ramp looks dangerously tacked onto the side of the building or the image below of a drop curb or pram crossing that looks poorly maintained and rather bleak – yet comes with the title text 'Examples of Universal Design.'

I come from a design background and I know how important it is to get the initial brief right. Picking up on Phil's measure twice and cut once comment - the advice we give designers is to integrate a Universal Design approach at the very first conceptual design stages of their project. However, if you haven't got clear parameters or quality examples of what that looks like on hand it's a challenge to come up with the best solution for the space you're designing for.

The Universal Design Tool works to go some way towards filling in the blanks. We've predominantly focused on Mixed Use Developments in our examples because this typology allows us to focus on a wide range of spaces and functions - from restrooms, and retail to cafeterias and offices.

The tool is highly visual – it's all about showing what Universal Design can and does look like. It's also adaptive – so you can access it on your mobile or on desktop computers.

I should add, you will be able to access this tool via the Auckland Design Manual, where it sits on the Universal Design Hub.

This is also where you'll be able to access other useful tools, guides and checklists related to Universal Design in the coming year.

Before I show off the tool, I wanted to say something about the tool being built by Auckland for Auckland. It's about showcasing the best of home grown Universal Design and as the number of excellent examples grow, the tool will grow too.

So without further ado, this is how the desktop version's landing page will look. You'll see it's broken down into 4 main headings along the top. Outside and surrounds, Entrances and exits, Inside the building and checklists & guides.

The lovely building in the background here is a placeholder image, apologies; this is being designed in house right now. In the text box on the right, you'll see the about the tool section – which leads to a page that covers the background of the tool and how to use it.

If you were to click on the first heading option – Outside and Surrounds. You'd arrive here at the submenu page, which has a breakdown of the key functions or areas to be factored into your design process for the Outside and Surrounds of your project.

This includes: Pedestrian Access, Ramps, Vehicles & Bikes and Stairs. Under each of these submenu headings are the key design outcomes for example, under Pedestrian access here at the top, we find: Access, Ease of Use and Safety.

If you click on the access outcome – you'll land on a page like this. This is where the design outcomes or space standards sit and where the images that show what those outcomes look like live. On the left, we've got the design outcomes listed, on the right, we've got the corresponding image carousel that shows what that outcome looks like. In this case, this design outcome refers to the importance of the strategically positioning your main entrance so that it's well connected to pedestrian routes and Public Transport.

Where possible we do provide space standards and measurements. In this example, we have a great visual example from the Fort Street Precinct of a footpath wide enough to accommodate the two women pushing strollers and the space standard specifics a pavement width minimum of 2meters.

If we click on the arrow here – you are able to scroll through several examples of the same design outcome. So in this case, another visual example how to achieve a

wide and level footpath. Now let me quickly show you the other two main sections of the site – Entrances and Exits and Inside the Building.

On this page, you're looking at the Entrances and Exits menu, broken down into Main Entrances, Secondary Entrances, and Emergency Exits. And of course under each of these headings, their respective design outcomes.

Let's say we've clicked on Location and Identification under Main Entrances. The design outcomes on this page all relate to achieving a clearly defined main entrance

Here we're looking at an image of Te Uru gallery in Titirangi with its dynamic orange entrance – that is framed against the green tiles that clad the rest of the building. This entrance is both beautiful and incredibly easy to identify.

There is another really neat feature I'd love to show you within the tool. Every design outcome can be emailed – to your friends or to yourself – for future reference.

Another cool feature is that you can download any of our images. Think of the universal Design tool as your very own image database

So here's the final section – Inside the building. It's a larger section than you're seeing here – I've consolidated it for the purposes of this presentation.

In this example the submenu headings read: Reception or Foyer area, Horizontal circulation, lifts, stairs and escalators, and restroom facilities.

And a quick look into one of the design outcomes in this section – in this case the Reception and Foyer area – illustrating options for providing an appropriate range of seating options and sufficient clear area around the seating to allow for prams and wheelchairs.

The tool will be launched in Jan 2017, excuse the typo on the presentation!

We're also calling for nominations of great examples of universal design. If you've seen great examples around Auckland, or if you have worked on a project that you think we should know about, please email us at AKDesignManual@aucklandcouncil.govt.nz

I'd lastly like to say thanks, to the ADO team and thanks to the UD forums that have really got behind this project and whose valuable input has made this tool possible.

Thanks very much and thanks for listening. (APPLAUSE)