The Motivation

Inspiring examples of Universal or Accessible Design are hard to find online

We wanted to make using a Universal Design approach a positive experience for designers – not an obligation

For designers, the excitement comes from knowing the parameters you’re working to and coming up with the best solutions

The tool aspires to provide clearer parameters and show what a great design response could look like
ABOUT THE TOOL

The Universal Design Tool walks you through a Universal Design approach to Mixed Use developments.

The tool provides practical design solutions illustrated with diagrams, real life examples and checklists.

The tool was created as a resource for designers, developers and project managers.

The tool is adaptive and can be accessed on both your desktop and mobile devices.

The tool’s design guidance is based on the work developed by the Centre for Excellence in Universal Design in Ireland and the work of Richard Cullingworth.
Home-grown Universal Design

We use Auckland examples as much as possible
It’s all about collating a library of local solutions that work for our city
As our city grows, the tool will grow too
Access

The main entrance should be close to pedestrian routes and public transport access.

Where level changes are unavoidable, users are provided with choice so that they can use the route that is easiest for them.

Paths and access routes are wide enough (at least 2000mm) to accommodate expected growth in user numbers.

Signage is close to the main entrance. It displays key information about access to public transport routes. Colour contrasted, upper and lower case letters are used.
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Wide level footpath with large pavers. Two people are pictured pushing prams. Tactile delineator to the right of the prams separates pedestrians from the shared space.
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Wide level footpath with slip resistant surface. This width supports a high volume of pedestrian traffic. Canopy assists in keeping footpath and pedestrians dry.
Location & Identification

Building works with site topography and layout so that the main entrance location is obvious, convenient, and oriented towards the direction that users will be coming from.

Main entrance is an accessible entrance, as level as possible, located on an accessible route

- It is easy to identify the entrance from the surroundings.

The entrance is easy to identify from the surroundings because of the strong colour contrast around the door frame. The entrance has been well designed to naturally and intuitively direct people towards the door.

The approach to the doorway is clear and level - there are no obstructions, and the path is easily identifiable.
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It is easy to identify the entrance from the surroundings.

A wide set of sliding doors is provided. The approach to the doorway is clear and level - there are no obstructions, and the path is easily identifiable. Signage shows the direction that the doors open, and the opening hours and the International Symbol of Accessibility (ISA) is displayed.
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Providing For All Users

Provide for all users by acknowledging culture in the design through artwork, language and signage.

A variety of seating options are provided, so that users can rest and wait comfortably. Make sure there is a clear space (1600 x 900mm) alongside seating for users who have prams, assistance dogs, wheelchairs.

A variety of seating options are available gives users a choice of which seating suits them. Seating available at different heights, some seats have arm and back rests.
The tool will be launched Jan 2016
See the Auckland Design Manual for more information

Nominate local examples!
These will be showcased on the tool
Send your recommendations to:
AKDesignManual@aucklandcouncil.govt.nz
Thank you,

We couldn’t have done it without you!

UD forum contributions - Be. Accessible, Lifemark, CCS Disability Action, New Zealand Institute of Architects, Auckland Transport, Barrier Free NZ, Blind Foundation, National Foundation for the Deaf, Hearing New Zealand, Disabled Person’s Assembly, People First NZ, Care Group, Age Concern, IHC, Alzheimers New Zealand, Plunket, Attitude Live, Brain-Injury Association