1)Detailed Record

Title:

Developing the theoretical content in Universal Design.

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Scandinavian Journal of Disability Research. Sep2013, Vol. 15 Issue 3, p203-215. 13p. 1 Diagram, 1 Chart.

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Article

Subject Terms:

*HOUSING
*MATHEMATICAL models
*PEOPLE with disabilities
*BARRIER-free design
*THEORY

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NAICS/Industry Codes:

624229 Other Community Housing Services

Abstract:

Universal Design (UD) implies to plan and manufacture goods, **buildings**, outdoor spaces and facilities to be useable by all people to the fullest possible extent. UD has evolved from a focus on disabling barriers in the environments. As a strategy, UD has not yet clarified its relation to disability. The democratic potential for UD lies in recognizing all people as equal; this requires both theoretical and empirical studies. In this article, I focus on theoretical work related

to UD, approaching UD as a value-laden concept and argue that there is a need to develop UD with a stronger focus on the dimensions related to the concept of human. A relational model for disability is proposed as a fruitful model for theoretically developing UD on a micro, meso and macro level. This model focuses on the inter-action in situations where disability emerges, and can therefore attend to the complexity inherent in disability and UD. [ABSTRACT FROM AUTHOR]

2)Record

Title:

Universalism, universal **design** and equitable access to the built environment.

Images

Authors:

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Document Type:

Article

Subject Terms:

*HUMAN rights
*INTERIOR decoration
***PEOPLE** with **disabilities**
***BARRIER**-**free design**

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architectural **design**
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541410 Interior **Design** Services

Abstract:

Purpose: The concept of universal **design** (UD) has acquired global significance and become orthodoxy of what is presented as the very best of **design** practice. This is despite limited evaluation of the theoretical content of the concept. This article seeks to redress this shortfall in knowledge by providing a critique of the theoretical and conceptual components that underpin the principles of universal **design**. Method: Commentary. Results: The content of UD appears to be reductive and functionalist, with an appeal to discourses of technical flexibility, or the notion that the problems confronting disabled **people** by poorly designed built environments may be redressed by recourse to technical and management solutions. UD is characterized by its advocacy of the marketization of access as

the primary means to ensure the accessibility of products, including the built environment. This has the potential to reduce the 'right to access' to a right to be exercised through a market presence or transaction. There is also lack of clarity about what advocates of UD understand universalism to be, as illustrated by evidence of some ambivalence towards specialist or particular **design** solutions. Conclusions: UD provides a useful, yet partial, understanding of the interrelationships between **disability** and **design** that may limit how far inequalities of access to the built environment can be overcome. [ABSTRACT FROM AUTHOR]

Select websites:

http://webaim.org/articles/laws/usa/rehab

http://www.wrightslaw.com/info/section504.ada.peer.htm

https://facilities.wustl.edu/resources/Pages/Accessibility_Danforth2.aspx