



NW Universal Design Council
October 20, 2010 Meeting Notes

Agenda

- Welcome and introductions
- Michelle Molloy, www.penatesdesign.com will present on Low Vision Home Modifications - simple design solutions to increase safety in the home.
- Update re: the status of universal design elements as part of the State of Washington's Evergreen Standards.
- Finalize decisions re: meeting the expenses for our web site.

Attending

Host: Wolf Saar, Via Architecture	Tom Minty, John L Scott/Able Environments	Art Mussman, ADS Advisory Council
Rosemary Cunningham Planning Manager, Aging & Disability Services	Kathryn Howel, Careforce	Tom Tsurumaki
Jocelyn Freilinger	Jim & Diane Snell, ADS Advisory Council and guest	Michelle Molloy, Penates Design
Scott Starr, SMR Architects	Patty Koskovich, Koskovich Design Group	Emory Baldwin, FabCab & ZAI Inc.
Randi Friedig, home economist	Valeri Thiele, Principal, SAGE Architectural Alliance	

Updates

- The Housing Development Consortium is starting a new senior housing affinity group.
- AIA is sponsoring an educational forum "Future Shack" – the value of upgrading your home.
- The Kirkland Senior Council plans an aging in place presentation in conjunction with ARCH.

Program: Low Vision Home Modifications, Michelle Molloy, www.penatesdesign.com

Several key home modifications can improve ability of people with low vision to function in their homes.

- Low sheen finish on floor
- Table cloths block reflection
- Dark mesh shades with defined edges
- Halogen lamps not recommended
- Blue light increases contrast
- Adjustable floor lamps with light pointing at task
- Filtered or shielded light – not bare bulbs (too much glare)
- Under cabinet lights
- Contrasting switch plates and countertop to help see edges
- Choices of lighting from different angles
- Dimmers to turn on and off
- Light should come over shoulder – sofa table with lamp situated behind sofa
- Matte work surfaces – not polished granite
- Low sheen tile
- Eyes see grey scale (value) first before color (hue)
- Make black and white copies of your paint chips to better see contrast
- ADA grab bars on stairs; paint a contrasting color
- Stair runners with first and last stair a contrasting color
- Flooring -- avoid geometrics, use overall patterns with similar value

Evergreen Standards Workgroup:

Scott Starr reported that Washington State has standards for reducing energy use and reducing indoor pollution for new public low-income housing projects. The Evergreen Standards Workgroup has identified 2 or 3 UD items that could be incorporated with the state standards to increase accessibility and usability. Some people don't want to mix green and universal. The workgroup will reconvene to consider three broad items such as an accessible bathroom and kitchen to propose to the state.

Website expenses:

The group discussed several options for paying maintenance costs for NWUDC website. A subgroup will develop a strategy to get 3 to 5 sponsors for the site and report at next NWUDC meeting in 2011.

Next Meeting Date:

- **PLEASE PUT THIS DATE/TIME ON YOUR CALENDAR: The location to be determined.**
 - **February 17, 2011; 9:30 – 11:30 am**
- If you have ideas for PROGRAMS, please feel free to let Andrea.Yip@seattle.gov know.

Contact for more information:

- Andrea.Yip@seattle.gov
- (206) 386.0035
- Northwest Universal Design Council Web site: www.environmentforall.org