

TAKEAWAYS



UNIVERSAL DESIGN:

Designing for Human Needs

An Executive Summary on the Impact of Aging

INSIDE YOU WILL LEARN ABOUT:

The current state of aging and associated health conditions.

The alignment between universal design and sustainable design strategies inspired by environments for aging.

Universal design models that enable flexible and adaptable spaces to support aging needs and human needs.

The Impact of Aging toolbox is made available through a partnership with

patcraft[®]



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Universal Design: Designing for Human Needs

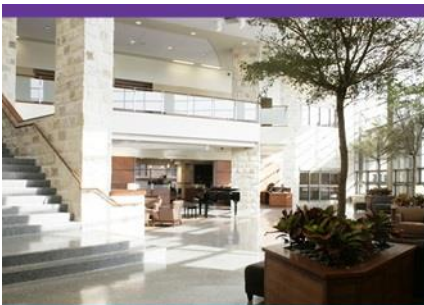
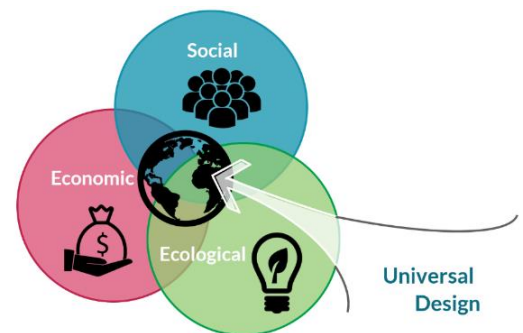
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Overview

Advancements in medicine and lifestyle changes have led to an enormous decrease in human mortality worldwide (Burger, Baudisch, & Vaupel, 2012). While life expectancy rates are improving, however, health and quality of life are not (He, Goodkind, & Kowal, 2016). When designing for an aging population, the consensus is that the environment must be prepared for anything. Couldn't the same be said for any person, at any age? No one knows what tomorrow brings—how an accident or illness could make our comfortable home, our innovative workplace, or our local park completely incompatible with our needs.

Public policies and design strategies tend to focus on meeting the basic safety and physiological needs of older members of society, but there are missed opportunities to support the higher-level needs of *all* humans. Referencing Maslow's hierarchy of needs as well as foundational principles of sustainable design, this brief presents a shifting paradigm in the design of environments for aging toward more universal solutions. The universal design approach is being fostered among many forward-thinking groups who see the benefits of equitable, flexible, and accessible design for society as a whole—both today and in the future.

Universal design is being embraced across the built environment. Design strategies include environments that support aging in place, social networks, active living, age-friendly workplaces, and person-centered healthcare. When designing for aging, there are great opportunities at hand to design for ourselves—for every age—for all.



The Center for Health Design:
Moving Healthcare Forward

The Center for Health Design advances best practices and empowers healthcare leaders with quality research that demonstrates the value of design to improve health outcomes, patient experience of care, and provider/staff satisfaction and performance.

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