

2016

ACCESS
AWARDS
Excellence in Universal Design
and Accessibility

Circle of Excellence Nomination #1

Specialized Services for Children & Youth (SSCY)

David Essex
Stantec Architecture

Specialized Services for Children and Youth is an example of an innovative adaptive reuse of an historic building for accessible programming and services. Located in the Christie's Biscuit factory, the design team creatively resolved challenges in the 100 year old building to ensure universal design throughout. Challenges to adapting the existing building to accommodate contemporary barrier free needs included creating effective acoustic controls.

A complex functional program to meet a wide range of stakeholder needs included multiple security and climate control zones, specific infection control requirements for medical laboratories and low tolerances for materials and construction in laboratories.



Specialized Services for Children & Youth (SSCY) (continued)

Circle of Excellence Nomination #1

The facility provides over 94,000 square feet of space for approximately 250 staff. In addition to physical accessibility, it has sound dampening for children who may overload from sensory input, and has colour-coded the service areas to help people find their way around this 100,000-plus square foot building.

The building is divided into 'neighbourhoods', which help with intuitive wayfinding. The design of the SSCY interior had input from patients and their families, along with a number of service agencies such as the CNIB, Society for Manitobans with Disabilities and St. Amant Centre and others.

The central area, called Central Park, features a waterfall, large foam objects to climb on and a computer image of an aquarium on the floor that moves and makes sounds when you touch it.

The building itself has 23 washrooms, most which have change tables that will work to assist youth up to age 21, including four with overhead lifts. There are also three accessible showers, including one in an accessible washroom so families can try out the features before installing them in homes.



2015



Physical Access – New Construction

Circle of Excellence Nomination #2

Canadian Museum for Human Rights

Grant Van Iderstine

Architecture 49

The fundamental design intent of the Canadian Museum for Human Rights was inclusion. The design team accommodated inclusivity in the broadest way possible, and not just for persons with disabilities but to utilize a sense of universal participation by the whole community.

The real success of the design objectives is that it is not obvious that inclusion and accessibility was a focus, but it was accomplished through subtle things done as part of the experience for everyone to participate.

Way-finding and Communication of the Human Rights issues is extremely complex and absolutely necessary for all the visitors. There are over a dozen methods of communicating the Human Rights message; whether it is using the 70 plus cultural languages of the vast number of volunteers and staff on duty, the use of accessible options like tactile and colour contrasting lettering, braille, ASL translation on all screens, hand held apps available for your android and smart phones,



Canadian Museum for Human Rights (continued)

Circle of Excellence Nomination #2

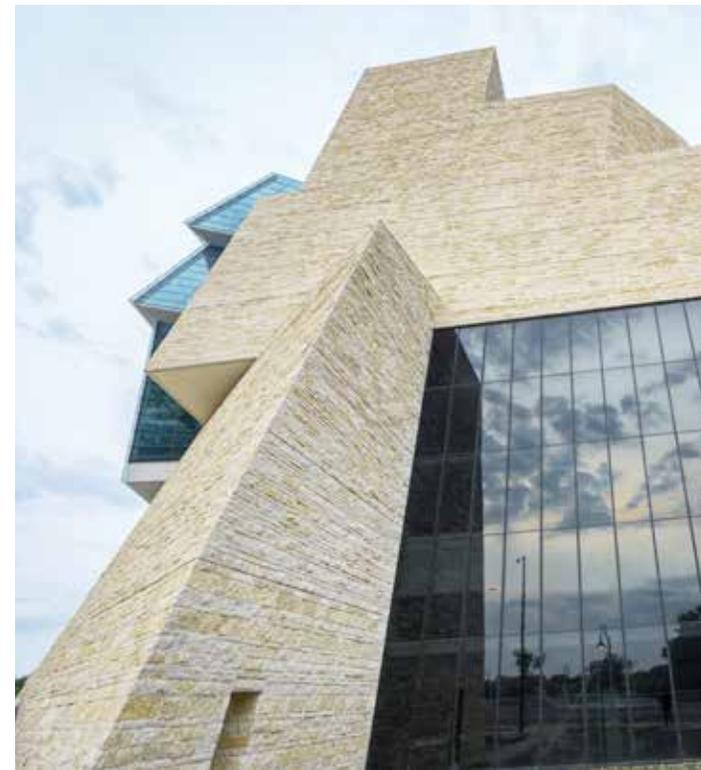
near field communication tools, open captioning, signage in French and English, or the availability of Universal key pad options throughout the displays which provides personal options in which are all integral in achieving a nearly universally designed environment.

The building boasts a number of state of the art physical access features which include accessible washrooms with large turning radiuses; Universal toilet rooms complete with adjustable transfer benches which provide options for visitors who need accompanying assistance or even nursing mothers; elevators, ramps, interactive displays, accessible resting areas like the reflection ponds, complete access to the outdoor courtyard, low level reception desks, accessible ATM's with audible plug-ins; accessible benches with optional back rests, variable widths between arm rests, and plug in options to view the displays while seated, as well as all entries to the museum are equipped with accessible power doors at grade level and all lead to the Main entry.

The Universal Key Pad which was designed by OCAD University in Toronto is a unique communication device never seen in the world, and way ahead of other Federal Museums in Canada. Originally tested by a national beta group with input from the Museum's Inclusive Design Advisory Committee, the Universal Key Pad is now being looked at by the Smithsonian and other International Museums.

The Canadian Museum of Human Rights recently won the 2015 JODI Award which is a British Award for innovation and Excellence in Digital Media.

The Canadian Museum for Human Rights is committed to Universal and Inclusive design by embedding the policies and procedures for each and every department within the Museum by having a designated staff person in each of those departments responsible for Universal Design on a day to day basis.



2012

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Circle of Excellence Nomination #3

University of Winnipeg Richardson Environment and Science Complex

Greg Hasiuk

Number Ten Architects

The University of Winnipeg and the Number Ten Architectural Group have gone above and beyond the building code incorporating universal design elements and inclusive features in a seamless and functional manner. Recycling the hardwood floor from the old Winnipeg Roller Skating Rink which sat on this site previously to adorn the centre court feature wall was impressive and considerate. At first look, the architects have included the accessible features without making it obvious to the general public. The committee was impressed with: the use of colour to identify the different floor levels, the tactile indicator strips which are colour contrasted at all the stair locations, the colour identifiable and fully accessible washrooms on each floor, the height adjustable lab tables and accessible emergency wash stations in each classroom, the transparent window treatments to reduce glare from all the outside windows, indirect lighting in all the work areas, an accessible washroom and shower facility complete with a transfer bench in the students lounge, strobe emergency lighting in all washrooms and locker rooms, tile floor indicators to classroom entrances, signage that is tactile contrast significant and brailled, etched glass at doorways, and a large number of priority accessible parking stalls. This recently opened facility has come very close to the model of Universal Design.



2012

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Circle of Excellence Nomination #4

Variety Heritage Adventure Playground, 1 Forks Market Road

Monica Giesbrecht

HTFC Planning & Design

The built environment has the capacity to teach and inform. Through creative planning and design the Variety Heritage Adventure Playground provides a sensitive and engaging public accessible play space for children and their caregivers. Culture, history and inclusion provide the thematic fabric of this intentionally designed play destination. The playground provides children and their care givers an engaging network of play experiences.

Age appropriate features throughout the park stimulate all the senses; soft rollable surfacing, tactile and accessible signage, sensorial play structures such as chimes and drums, an accessible water spray area, accessible picnic tables, safe-clear and unobstructed lines of travel, tactile signage recognition to the sponsors and community supporters, shade and quiet.

The planners, partners, and designers of this playground challenged themselves in providing an accessible opportunity to parents, grandparents, caregivers, and siblings who may also have a disability to participate equally. By ensuring our National Historic Site can support and enable an inclusive play experience is valuable for children and families.



2014



Award of Excellence in Accessible Site Design

Circle of Excellence Nomination #4

Victoria General Hospital Miracle Garden

Monica Giesbrecht
HTFC Planning & Design

The Miracle Garden was conceived as a place of respite, contemplation and healing, founded on the restorative qualities of nature. The garden wraps around the Buhler Cancer Centre and serves patients, families, staff and the community at large. Attaining seamless accessibility and providing a rich sensory experience for people with varying levels of ability was a primary consideration in its design and planning.

Notable features include:

- sounds, scents, colours, textures, light and shade provide a variety of sensations which enrich the experience for all users, and can be a stimulant for memory and wayfinding for people with cognitive or sensory impairment
- the garden is subdivided into smaller, comprehensible rooms, each with its own focal point, to foster socializing and help with orientation
- tactile and colour contrasting surfaces at edges
- benches have arms and backs and spaces to socialize with people in wheelchairs
- roll-on play zone with accessible adventure play elements
- it is surrounded by windows, so people unable to venture outside can enjoy the garden through all seasons



2014



Leadership Award for the Advancement of Accessible Environmental Design

Circle of Excellence Nomination #5

Bridgwater Neighbourhoods in Waverly West, Winnipeg

Manitoba Housing

Province of Manitoba

Bridgwater is an example of successful Government leadership to provide barrier-free homes which meet market demand. The visitable homes initiative provides a development where half of new homes meet standards of visitability. The designs engage with a spectrum of needs experienced by homebuyers in Winnipeg including older adults, families and people with disabilities. Visitable homes acknowledge that all members of family and community could have access needs and home should accommodate, not create barriers, for coming together.

Visitable homes provide grade-level entry with and 36" entryway, 32" interior doorway, 43.25" corridors, a main-floor accessible washroom and the ability to host an overnight guest in an accessible room (which may have flexible uses). Bridgwater is an example of innovative accommodation in new residential development.

