

## **MEDIA RELEASE**

### **SINGAPORE UNIVERSAL DESIGN WEEK 2016: UNIVERSAL DESIGN GOES PUBLIC**

*- Organised by BCA, this year's 3<sup>rd</sup> Singapore Universal Design Week will focus on Universal Design in public places*

*- Highlight of the Week will be the launch of Singapore's latest Universal Design Guide*

**Singapore, 26 July 2016** – The Building and Construction Authority (BCA) is placing more emphasis on Universal Design in Singapore to public places for the third Singapore Universal Design Week (the “Week”). With the Week’s theme “Universal Design in Public Places” this year, BCA as the leading agency in promoting inclusive design for all has organised events focusing on how excellent Universal Design strategies create an inclusive environment for the people in Singapore.

2. Commenting on the significance of the Week, BCA Chief Executive Officer Dr John Keung said, “Our objective is to make Universal Design a big part of life in Singapore such that everyone – persons with different abilities, seniors, families and children – can live, work, learn and play in comfort, ease and in friendly surroundings. We recognise how public places are an important part of our living environment and simple but inclusive designs can make a huge difference in everyone’s lives. Hence, our universal design efforts will go beyond buildings and focus on public places.

3. From 27 to 30 July, the Singapore Universal Design Week will gather building professionals, developers, industry firms, public agencies and voluntary welfare organisations to take part in various events and learning opportunities. They can share their knowledge about Universal Design – with a special emphasis on public places

such as parks – and learn from invited speakers who are internationally renowned practitioners in Universal Design.

4. One of the highlights of the Week is the launch of Singapore’s first **Universal Design Guide for Public Places** (the “Guide”). The Guide will be unveiled at the Week’s opening ceremony at the Grand Copthorne Waterfront Hotel by the Guest-of-Honour, National Development Minister Mr Lawrence Wong. The publication, which is one of the key initiatives of the Ministerial Committee on Ageing’s Action Plan for Successful Ageing, will guide architects, engineers, building owners and developers in providing more Universal Design features in public places.

5. Developed in collaboration with the BCA’s tripartite partners – public agencies, the industry and voluntary welfare organisations, the Guide covers a comprehensive approach to Universal Design in and around buildings, vehicular environments, sanitary facilities and even for different types of public buildings such as community clubs and supermarkets.

6. The Week’s main events are:

a. **Universal Design Conference** (27 – 28 July): Conference delegates and participants have the opportunity to hear renowned experts in Universal Design share their experiences and insights on the latest trends, including its implementation in people’s everyday lives.

(<https://www.bca.gov.sg/events/sudw/conference/conference.html>)

b. **Universal Design Exhibition** (27 – 28 July): With its theme “A Journey Through Our Inclusive Public Places”, visitors to the Exhibition will appreciate how simple and inclusive design interventions in public places can make a big difference to the seniors, persons with disabilities and families with young children.

(<https://www.bca.gov.sg/events/sudw/conference/ud-exhibition.html>)

c. **Universal Design Forum** (28 July): Invited guests from the business community, the industry, public agencies and voluntary welfare organisations will discuss and explore broader design philosophies that cater to the needs of a family-friendly business environment.

d. **Universal Design Building Tour** (29 July): Delegates and participants will be given guided tours to three exemplary developments in Singapore which had obtained the BCA Universal Design Mark Awards. The developments are the Enabling Village, the Palette (residential) and Changi General Hospital – Integrated Building.

(<https://www.bca.gov.sg/events/sudw/conference/ud-building-tour.html>)

7. Other events include the Universal Design Explorer on Wheels – which is an experiential exhibition which introduces Universal Design to primary schoolchildren – and Project Breaking Barriers, which is the BCA’s corporate social responsibility project to improve the accessibility of residents from the Lee Ah Mooi Old Age Home. Details will be released in due course.

#### **Factsheets:**

Annex A – The Singapore Universal Design Week

Annex B – The Universal Design Conference 2016

Annex C – The Universal Design Exhibition 2016

Annex D – The Universal Design Forum 2016

Annex E – The Universal Design Tour 2016

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#### **About Building and Construction Authority**

The Building and Construction Authority (BCA) of Singapore champions the development of an excellent built environment for Singapore. BCA’s mission is to shape a safe, high quality, sustainable and friendly built environment, as these are four key elements where BCA has a significant influence. In doing so, it aims to differentiate Singapore’s built environment from those of other cities and contribute to a better quality of life for everyone in Singapore. Hence, its vision is to have "a future-ready built environment for Singapore". Together with its education arm, the BCA Academy, BCA works closely with its industry partners to develop skills and expertise that help shape a future-ready built environment for Singapore. For more information, visit [www.bca.gov.sg](http://www.bca.gov.sg).

**10 FACTS ABOUT THE SINGAPORE UNIVERSAL DESIGN WEEK 2016**

1. This is the third year that the Building and Construction Authority is organising the Singapore Universal Design Week and its focus is on Universal Design in public places.
2. The opening ceremony and most of the activities during the Week will be held at the Grand Copthorne Waterfront Hotel from 27 to 29 July.
3. Minister for National Development, Mr Lawrence Wong will officiate and grace the opening ceremony as the guest-of-honour.
4. The highlight of the opening ceremony will be Minister Lawrence Wong unveiling Singapore's first Universal Design Guide for Public Places.
5. One of the Week's main event is the one-day Universal Design Conference (27 July) where renowned practitioners of Universal Design from Singapore, Ireland and Denmark will share their insights and experiences as well as trends on inclusive designs in public places.
6. Another main event of the Week is the Universal Design Exhibition (27 – 28 July) where the latest Universal Design features are displayed so that visitors can understand and experience how they can benefit not just persons with disabilities but also seniors and families with young children. This year's Exhibition will focus on Universal Design features in public places such as hawker centres, supermarkets and toilets. Admission is free.
7. On 30 July, the Week will close with a showcase of BCA's tripartite partnerships – government agencies, the industry and voluntary welfare organisations – in action as they work together to improve accessibility for the residents of Lee Ah Moi Old Age Home.
8. The Singapore Universal Design Week was conceived to promote the importance of Universal Design for buildings, public spaces and infrastructure in Singapore so that they are better designed to allow everyone – including persons with disabilities and seniors – to enjoy an inclusive environment with their loved ones.
9. The first Singapore Universal Design Week was held on 5-9 November 2014. With its theme was "An environment built Inclusive through Universal Design", it introduced the concept of Universal Design to Singaporeans for the first time through an interactive Universal Design Exhibition.
10. The second Week was held on 27 July – 2 August 2015. Its theme was "Shaping an age-friendly built environment".

For more information about the Singapore Universal Design Week 2016, visit

<https://www.bca.gov.sg/events/sudw/index.html>.

## UNIVERSAL DESIGN CONFERENCE 2016

### **Theme:** “Universal Design in Public Places”

This year’s theme, ‘Universal Design in Public Places’, looks at fostering exchanges on the need for creating an inclusive built environment that is usable by all. The Conference will bring together experts who will share their experiences and insights on the current trends in Universal Design and its implementation in our everyday lives and the built environment.

Conference keynote speakers:

#### **Mr Chin Chi Leong**

**Acting Deputy CEO, Building Control, Building and Construction Authority (BCA)**

Topic: Universal Design Implementation Strategy - Towards an Inclusive Built Environment

Synopsis:

Mr Chin Chi Leong will share why Universal Design is an important strategy for a future-ready Singapore, and how the BCA is gearing to improve inclusivity through new approaches and objectives to accelerate Universal Design adoption in the building industry.

#### **Dr Gerald Craddock**

**Chief Officer, Centre for Excellence in Universal Design, Ireland**

Topic: Bridging the “Know –Do” Gap through a Universal Design Approach: A National Perspective from Ireland

Synopsis:

Dr Craddock will share about how the key to success of applying a participatory design process that enables all stakeholders (end users, public, private, communities, and professional bodies) to engage in defining the contextual issues as well as the problems resulting in better solutions, outcomes and consensus by all parties. This can be classified as bridging the “know-do” gap between research policy and practice. His presentation will also discuss the barriers and the facilitators in achieving the implementation of Universal Design at a national level.

#### **Mr Riccardo Marini**

**Senior Director, Gehl Architects Copenhagen**

Topic: Like Human Do

Synopsis:

Mr Riccardo Marini will share how Gehl Architects work all over the world with city administrations to enable transformations that put people central to the future of those cities. Once this happens what becomes meaningful is the health wellbeing and happiness of people and the cities economic performance benefits. Mr Marini will also discuss how having an understanding of what is the right habitat for us is key to a better future for all.

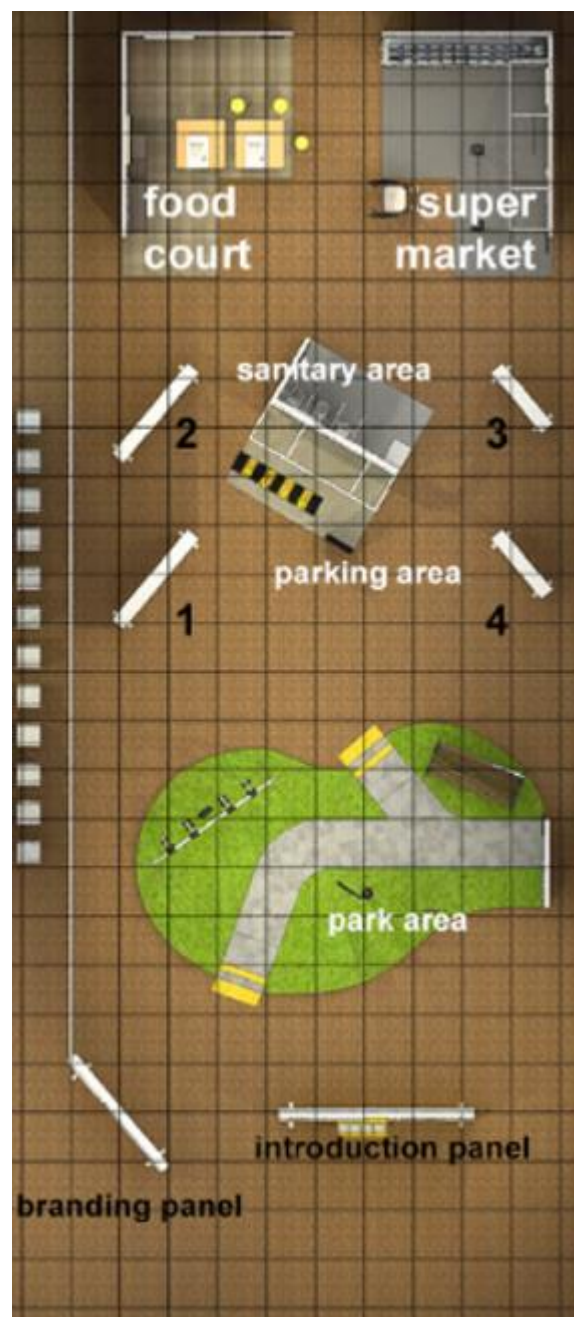
## UNIVERSAL DESIGN EXHIBITION 2016

**Theme:** “A Journey Through our Inclusive Public Places”

The Universal Design Exhibition features the inclusive design principles from the Universal Design Guide for Public Place through life-sized graphics and product displays.

Through life-sized graphics and product displays, visitors will appreciate how simple design interventions can make a big difference to the elderly, the persons with disabilities and families with young children in various public places. Admission to the UD Exhibition is free.

### Layout



## UNIVERSAL DESIGN EXHIBITION 2016

### Panel #1

– The Universal Design Guide for Public Places: gives a snapshot of how Universal Design features in public places can benefit the different groups of users: infants and children, expectant mothers, older persons, wheelchair users, ambulant disabled person, persons with visual impairment and persons with hearing impairment. It includes the top ten senior-friendly features and top ten family-friendly features.

### Panel #2

– Ministry of Social and Family Development and its Family-Friendly Business Schemes: shows how the Ministry, through its FamilyMatters@Business initiative, encourages businesses to adopt strategies, infrastructure and services that cater to families. It includes information about the upcoming BCA-MSF Universal Design Mark for Family-friendly Businesses.

### Panel #3

– Universal Design Mark and its 62 certified developments: introduces the BCA Universal Design Mark and how it recognises projects with exemplary application of Universal Design principles that meet the varying needs of their diverse user groups. It includes a collage of the 62 developments that have received the BCA Universal Design Mark certification.

### Panel #4

– Universal Design in Offices: shows how a user-centric office environment can support its occupants in their work performance with a holistic building design. It includes two BCA Universal Design Mark-certified office buildings and how their Universal Design features support the employability and comfort of all employees, including persons with disabilities, older persons and working mothers.

- Universal Design in Public Places: shows how Universal Design will benefit more people in the long term with the inclusion of accessible routes, corridors, paths and other features. They cater to everyone, not only persons with disabilities, seniors and families with young children and baby strollers. It includes examples of sports complexes and education institutions which have applied Universal Design principles exemplarily.

## UNIVERSAL DESIGN EXHIBITION 2016

### Exhibition Areas

**Parks:** are places where everyone – regardless of age or ability– can enjoy and relax. Universal Design features:

- (a) Sufficient space for wheelchair users to park beside benches
- (b) Child-friendly playgrounds with rounded edges, shockproof flooring, etc.
- (c) Seating areas / benches located near footpaths
- (d) Slip-resistant footpaths
- (e) Clear navigation with a map of the park and directory

**Hawker Centres / Food outlets:** are popular food places where good accessibility, user-friendly furniture as well as amenities allow everyone to bond comfortably over a meal outside of our homes. Universal Design features:

- (a) Large signs with contrasting colours make it easy for users to identify food stalls from a distance
- (b) Mealtimes with toddlers are easier with the availability of baby chairs
- (c) Low counter heights allow users to place their orders and access condiments as well as trays
- (d) Adequate space between tables and paths make it easier for people using wheelchairs, prams and strollers

**Supermarkets / Retail outlets:** with well-designed and planned routes, signs and shelves will bring about convenience and comfort for everyone, regardless of age or ability, as they shop for essentials. Universal Design features:

- (a) Automatic door entrances make it easier for wheelchairs, trolleys and prams to move in and out
- (b) Clear wayfinding cues help users navigate the aisles and find things quickly
- (c) Magnifying glass placed on shelves help users read labels better
- (d) Wide spaces between aisles make it easy for carts, trolleys, prams and wheelchairs to pass in both directions
- (e) Service and paying counters of a lower height are convenient for wheelchair users

**Toilets / Sanitary Facilities:** should be well-designed and accommodate the diverse needs of all users regardless of age or abilities. They should be easily identified, located conveniently and accessible from main entrances and waiting areas. Universal Design features:

- (a) Grab bars help seniors and wheelchair users stand and sit easily
- (b) Nursing rooms makes it easier to change children's diapers
- (c) Lower sinks are accessible to the young, the seniors and persons with different abilities



## UNIVERSAL DESIGN EXHIBITION 2016

**Carparks:** should include and give priority to the safety and convenience of drivers and passengers in accessing buildings. Universal Design features:

- (a) Family parking spaces located near lift lobbies and main entrances
- (b) Clear and designated pedestrian paths make it safer for everyone
- (c) Accessible parking spaces are easy to spot with their blue background and symbol of access

## **UNIVERSAL DESIGN FORUM**

**Date:** 28 July 2016, Thursday

**Time:** 8.30am – 1.00pm

The Universal Design Forum will allow participants to explore broader design thinking processes and greater commitment to the needs of a family-friendly environment for businesses.

To be attended by building professionals, representatives from Voluntary Welfare Organisations and business operators, the Forum aims to broaden design thinking and establish greater commitment to accessibility and Universal Design amongst the participants. Ideas, good practice and details will be documented and published, and given to the participants and distributed at other publicity events.

## UNIVERSAL DESIGN BUILDING TOUR

**Date:** 29 July 2016, Friday

**Time:** 2-5pm

The Universal Design Tour is a half-day showcase of three BCA Universal Design Award-winning developments. These developments have not only adopted a user-centric approach in its design stages, they have also carried the practice consistently throughout the buildings' life cycles, into their current facilities management procedures. Participants will see for themselves how important it is to adopt Universal Design features from the design stage and the downstream impact they have.

### **Route 1: Enabling Village**

*Owner / Developer:* SG Enable Ltd

*Architect:* WOHA Architects Pte Ltd

The Enabling Village is a community space refurbished from an old Bukit Merah ITE campus which combines retail, lifestyle and training. It is also home to SG Enable's information and career centre, which co-locates its job placement and job support service with offices operated by voluntary welfare organisations, such as the Autism Resource Centre, MINDS and SPD.

The architects mitigated difficult site constraints to produce a well-design accessible outdoor amphitheatre that is functional and usable by all. The clever use of bio-swailes, landscaping and gardens also create various focal views within the development. The provision of accessible amenities, features such as an interactive and height-adjustable directory, braille maps and hearing enhancement systems create an inclusive environment catered to different users.

### **Route 2: The Palette**

*Owners/Developers:*

City Developments Limited

Hong Realty (Pte) Ltd

Hong Leong Holdings Ltd

*Architect:* Architects 61 Pte Ltd

The Palette is a private residential development comprising 12 blocks of residential flats with a total of 892 residential units, one level of basement car park, swimming pool and communal facilities. The architects engaged the assistance from the Singapore Association of the Visually Handicapped to develop comprehensive braille provisions within the development. This holistic approach aids way-finding within the development for the visually impaired.

Dual-key units promote multi-generational living and the innovative storage systems within residential units also allow spatial flexibility for residents.

## **UNIVERSAL DESIGN BUILDING TOUR**

### **Route 3: Changi General Hospital – Integrated Building**

*Owner/Developer:* Ministry of Health

*Architect:* RDC Architects Pte Ltd

The new Integrated Building is a 280-bed facility set up to bridge the gap between services provided by the Changi General Hospital and the St. Andrew's Community Hospital. It caters to patients who may be in acute condition but require long-term care in rehabilitative settings. Therefore, the environment needs to be patient-centric, age-friendly, flexible and sustainable.

The building adopts the "Village Community concept", providing a conducive home-like environment that will help optimise patients' recovery and independence which optimally prepares them for the transition back to home.