Beneficial Design – Philosophy of Design for…
Designing Beyond the Norm to Meet the Needs of All People

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When is Design Beneficial?
Universal Design
Adaptable Design
Adaptive Design

Mainstream Products

Applying Universal Design Principles to Products
Designing Products for Adaptability

The Control Interface

The Seating Interface
Development of Adaptive Technologies
Use of Technology to Enhance and Create Experiences

Personal Technologies
Activity-Specific Technologies
Environmental Technologies

Balance Dimension
Physical
Intellectual
Spiritual

Sociological Dimension
Dependence
Independence
Interdependence

Need
Function
Interests
Preferences

Meeting Peoples’ Needs

Whose Needs?
Average person
5 foot something
75 kilograms

Functional Assumptions
Mobility
Vision
Hearing
Grasp
Endurance

Long Term Disabilities and Impairments
Aging Related Disabilities and Impairments
Shorter Term Disabilities and Impairments

Understanding the Limiting Process
Pathophysiology
Impairment
Functional Limitation
Disability

Experiential
Balance Dimension
Sociological Dimension
Experiential Dimension
Life Function Activities
Vocational Activities
Recreational Activities

Quantify User Function

Strength
Cognitive Function
Skills Required
Economic Resources
Mobility Requirements

Intuitive Sense
Balance Requirements
Coordination
Patience

Identify and Evaluate Interests

Businesslike - Playful
Inconspicuous - High profile
Luxurious - Utilitarian
Robust - Delicate
Expensive - Low budget
Macho - Sensitive
Recreational - Career oriented
Masculine - Feminine
Sexy - Dull
Sporty - Dignified
Functional - Fanciful
Conventional - Innovative
Versatile - Specific use

Re-Creation Preferences

Competitive vs. Non-competitive
Active vs. Passive
Individual vs. Group
Dependent vs. Independent
Integrated vs. Segregated
Modified vs. Unmodified Rules

Design Process

1 Listen
2 Let go
3 Gather info
4 Let go
5 Reflect
6 Wait
7 Act

Listen...
to what you are being asked to do

Let go...
of your hold on what first seems best from your perspective

Gather info...
from the best sources of wisdom you can find

Let go...
of your hold on what first seems best based on your own desires

Reflect...
on the decisions or recommendations you must make

Analyze... with your mind
Listen... to your heart
Talk... to someone greater than you

Wait...
for consistency in your thoughts and feelings

Act...
making the best recommendations you can

Clearly communicate your outcome

Accept the consequences of your actions

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