

Access To Design Professions

Access to Design Professions (ADP) is a Leadership Initiative funded by the National Endowment for the Arts, with the goal to increase and support the participation of people with disabilities in the design professions.

Join the Access to Design Community of Architects, Design Professionals, Educators, Counselors and Students.

Learn and exchange ideas through Community Resources and E-Forum.

Make the connection - participate in the one-on-one E-Mentoring Program:

- Make a difference - be a mentor
- Find answers, find your way, find a mentor
- Learn about Building Careers in Design - an online course for counselors and disability staff

Access to Design is a Community of Designers and Students from Around the World



Access to Design Professions is dedicated to the late architect, Ron Mace, shown at his drafting table.

Join the Community to take advantage of these free opportunities:

One-on-One Mentoring Programs

Access to Design's e-mentoring program matches protégés and mentors for email based mentoring relationships.

Access to Design E-Forum - a web-based discussion group where Community members can exchange ideas and advice.

Resources - gain access to Careers in Design Web Resources and links on careers and accommodations for designers with disabilities.

International Network of Designers with Disabilities - meet students and practitioners worldwide.

Who Can Join the Access to Design Community?

The Community is inclusive while keeping its focus on supporting people with disabilities in design fields. Career seekers with disabilities, professional designers, educators, counselors, employers, families and service providers are all welcome, including:

- High school and college students, or others interested in a design* career.
- Educators and professionals working in design fields,* especially those interested in mentoring others.
- Beginning professionals and students with disabilities looking for mentoring and support.
- Educators, rehabilitation counselors or others interested in people with disabilities, and advancement of accessibility issues in design.*

* Design includes architecture, computer aided design, industrial design, graphic and information design, interior design, and landscape architecture and design.

Join the Access to Design **community** today. Go to www.accesstodesign.org

Make the Connection: Increasing Access to Design through E-Mentoring

"The contributions I made in accessible design, and educating others on the ADA design standards, is a tribute to the support I received from mentors at Texas A&M and Michigan, and the advice and friendship of professional Architects like Ron Mace."

Ruth Hall Lusher,
Retired Manager
ADA Technical
Assistance Program
U.S. Department
of Justice



Access to Design's E-Mentoring Program provides mentors and protégés with the opportunity for a mutually beneficial, one-on-one relationship.

Mentors share their skills, knowledge and experience, and provide encouragement through email communications.

Protégés - students and entry-level designers with disabilities gain information, insight and support, while benefiting from the perspective and networks of a mentor working in the profession.

Find Your Way in Your Chosen Field, Find Answers, Find a Mentor

Access to Design's One-on-One E-Mentoring Program matches student or beginning designers with disabilities with experienced design professionals who serve as mentors.



Architect Robert Nichols, who is deaf, presents a design plan to the mayor of Buffalo.

- Get answers by email about course work, design skills, career goals, working in industry & more.
- Build your network - spend just 20 minutes a week gaining insight, advice and support from your mentor.
- Become part of an active community of professionals and students from around the world and learn from Community Resources & E-Forum.

Make a Difference to a Student in Your Field, Share Your Success - Be a Mentor

Access to Design's One-on-One E-Mentoring Program matches a student or beginning designer with disabilities with an experienced design professional mentor.

- Communicate by email about course work, design skills, career goals and other topics.
- Spend just 20 minutes a week to make a difference in the life of a student or beginning professional with a disability.



Andrew Parker, a graduate from Tennessee School for the Deaf (sStanding right rear across from interpreter Jeff Palmer), is given a glimpse of a day-in-the-life of Graphic Designer Susan Jacques (seated), at Oak Ridge Associated Universities (ORAU). Photo courtesy of ORAU.

- Become part of an active community of professionals and students from around the world and learn from Community Resources and E-Forum.

Rebecca Ingram, a New Mexico architect, critiques a student project in a design class at the University of New Mexico.



"Beyond the issues of building a student's competencies for practice, mentorship provides students with models of courage in practice---the courage to make important decisions; the courage to take significant risks; and the courage to make sustained commitments to one's passions in design."

Joseph Bilello, Dean
College of Architecture and
Planning, Ball State University

Sign up to become a mentor or find a mentor. Go to www.AccessToDesign.org or contact Ruth Lusher at rlusher@HumanCenteredDesign.org



Institute for Human Centered Design [Adaptive Environments]

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