Stepping Thru Accessibility – Seminar Series

Bio

Janis Kent, FAIA, CASp is the Founding President of the Certified Access Specialist Institute (CASI), serving those involved with access, whether private practice or public sector. She has given presentations on Accessibility at numerous venues from Dwell On Design in Los Angeles, to Design DC in Washington, to the National AIA Conventions in Atlanta, Philadelphia, Chicago, New Orleans, and upcoming in Orlando. Her new book being published by Wiley – "ADA in Details – Interpreting the 2010 ADA Standards for Accessible Design" is due out April 2017. Her previous book, the second edition of *Stepping Through Accessible Details,* is described by the Secretary of the San Francisco Access Appeals Commission as, *"The most comprehensive and thorough compilation of accessibility information I have encountered."*

Ms. Kent is designated a Subject Matter Expert (SME) by the California Division of the State Architect, a Certified Access Specialist, and serves on the committee to develop the California state CASp exams. She has conducted seminars for the Nevada State Board of Architecture, Interior, and Residential Design and has presented to business associations including AIA Chapters, US Institute for Theatre Technology (USITT), Manufactured Housing Educational Trust (MHET), California Public Parking Association (CPPA), the Southern California Association of Non-Profit Housing (SCANPH), the University of California - Construction Services, the California State University - Capital Planning, Design, and Construction, Construction Specifications Institute (CSI-LA), and for the ICC Orange Empire Chapter.

Ms. Kent is a licensed California Architect, and has been involved in the specialized field of Accessibility since the mid-1980's. Aside from training and drawing review, she also serves as an expert witness. She has managed a wide range of architectural projects, surveyed numerous facilities for accessibility compliance, and provided quality control and property assessments on access throughout the country.

Company

Founded in 2009 and based in Long Beach, CA, Stepping Thru Accessibility (STA) consults with Architects, Building Owners, Developers, Property Managers, Public Agencies, Attorneys and Tenants, assisting them to navigate their way thru accessibility issues with both the Americans with Disabilities Act Standards (ADAS) and the California Building Codes (CBC). These laws created a greater need for interpretation and understanding, as well as information on Accessibility throughout the built environment.

Our strengths:

- Research, analysis, and review of questions and determinations on Access issues
- Navigating the intricacies of California Building Codes and Federal Access regulations
- STA surveys facilities and provides detailed reports of items in non-compliance with today's accessibility standards for the built environment
- CASp reports issued once correction schedules are established
- Review and evaluation of construction drawings for new buildings and alterations to verify if accessibility requirements are adequately addressed
- Topical seminars for architects, facilities and property managers, interior designers, landscape, civil engineers, & others involved in the built environment
- Property Assessment Reports based on the ADA or California Building Codes to support due diligence in overall property analysis

Stepping Thru

Accessible Businesses – What Needs to be Done

DESCRIPTION

Have you heard people say that 'they do not need to worry about Access' - that they are 'grandfathered in'? This is a common misconception. For older facilities, even if no construction is being done, there is an obligation to implement *Barrier Removal* that is *Readily Achievable*. No such thing as 'grandfathering'! Newer facilities that did not comply with the original ADA are now required to comply with the 2010 ADA Standards. We will discuss common areas of non-compliance and issues of ongoing facility management thru photographs of complying and non-complying elements.

SUMMARY

An overview in a non-technical sense of *readily achievable barrier removal* for items that need to be implemented even if no construction is being done

LEARNING OBJECTIVES

- Understand obligations of *Barrier Removal* and just what it means for older buildings
- Review what makes *Barrier Removal* readily achievable and how to plan on an on-going basis
- Learn about common items of non-compliance in the business world
- Overview examples of easy solutions for typical situations and available government incentives

typically 2 hours for the full seminar or 1½ hours for the condensed version

Stepping Thru

Hotels, Motels, Inns, & Restaurants AND Access

DESCRIPTION

An overview of elements found in hotels, motels, inns, and restaurants along with their scoping and technical requirements. These are one of the more involved building types. Not only do guest rooms have a myriad of parameters but there are many diverse elements, each with their own set of requirements found within one facility. It is not unusual to find retail and restaurants, pools and fitness rooms, business and banquet facilities, not to mention valet service and hotel shuttles for even more complexity. We will also review student housing at a place of education which is considered transient lodging but with some additional requirements.

SUMMARY

An overview of the various elements found in hotels, motels, inns, and restaurants along with their scoping and technical requirements for Access

LEARNING OBJECTIVES

- Understand technical and scoping parameters for guest rooms with communication and mobility features, and non-mobility rooms
- Review requirements regarding pools, spas, and fitness centers
- Learn about retail, restaurant, and other elements often-times found in transient lodging
- Overview student housing at a place of education and how it overlaps transient lodging

typically 5 hours for the full seminar - this seminar can also be increased in time to incorporate more elements and can easily be customized for just specific elements

Stepping Thru

Toilet & Bathing Facilities – What Makes Them Accessible

DESCRIPTION

Although toilet and bathing facilities have been around forever and the new ADA Standards for over a few years, we still have facilities that are not completely compliant. The major question is, why? Each component within a toilet or bathing room has a myriad of requirements needing to fit together like a puzzle. We will take an in-depth look at the technical and scoping requirements for Access and how it impacts toilet and bathing facility design, whether single-user, multi-user, or multiple single user, including the requirements for each of the individual components.

SUMMARY

An in-depth look at the technical and scoping requirements for Access and how it impacts toilet and bathing facility design, whether single-user, multi-user, or multiple single user including the requirements for each of the individual components

LEARNING OBJECTIVES

- Understand overall scoping and spatial parameters for toilet and bathing facility
- Review differences between between single and multi-user facilities
- Learn technical requirements for the various elements typically found within a toilet or bathing room
- Overview critical design factors for compliant design

typically 5 hours for the full seminar, 4 hours for abbreviated eliminating showers & bath tubs

Stepping Thru

Circulation Paths, Accessible Routes, & Path of Travel

DESCRIPTION

Accessible Routes, Circulation Paths, & *Path of Travel* in both new and existing projects are essential aspects of Accessible design – if you can not even get to an area, no matter how accessible that portion is, it will still not be accessible. Overview routes from the public right of way, to site amenities, to the entry, and thru the building including egress and existing building requirements.

SUMMARY

An overview of the differences between and requirements for *Circulation Paths, Accessible Routes,* and *Path of Travel* from the public way, thru the site, to the entry, thru the building, and to the exits

LEARNING OBJECTIVES

- Understand the differences between *Circulation Paths, Accessible Routes,* and *Path of Travel*
- Review the scoping and technical requirements for each on both the exterior and interior
- Learn about the connectivity of elements, entries, floors, and exits and what is required
- Overview *Path of Travel* requirements for existing projects and alterations

typically 5 hours for the full seminar

Stepping Thru

Signage & What Makes It Accessible

DESCRIPTION

One of the more important elements for navigating thru our built environment is signage, whether interior or exterior. It often appears to be an entirely different language separate from architecture and is relegated to a corner or an after-thought. But signage is something that affects all of us. With this in-depth look at sign types and their components, we will be better abled to integrate signage into our language of architecture.

SUMMARY

One of the more important elements of navigating thru the built environment is signage — with this in-depth look at sign types and components we will be better abled to integrate signage into our language of architecture

LEARNING OBJECTIVES

- Understand signage in general and various installation requirements
- Review the different sign types and what elements each is comprised of
- Learn the various sign component pieces and their technical requirements
- Overview methods to incorporate signage specifications into construction document sets

typically 2½ hours for the full seminar or 2 hours for the condensed version

Stepping Thru

Doors, Gates, & Signs, AND What Makes Them Accessible

DESCRIPTION

Just about every facility has a door or gate that can either welcome us into a building or act as a hindrance. We will review door and gate requirements from clearances and specifications to operating hardware, including automatic opening devices. The requirements vary depending upon the type of entry and whether it is swinging, sliding, pocket, or just an opening. There are power-assist, low energy, and automatic doors and gates which have further requirements over and above manual doors. As always, the approach has impact on spatial parameters. We will additionally review permanent room signs which are associated with doors and also have impact on spatial requirements.

SUMMARY

Just about every facility has a door that can either welcome us into a building or act as a hindrance — we will review door, gate, and opening requirements from clearances and specifications to operating hardware, including automatic opening devices and permanent room signage

LEARNING OBJECTIVES

- Understand different door types and hardware including specialty doors and their parameters
- Review door clear floor space requirements dependent upon approach and door type
- Learn about various sign components along with their technical requirements
- Overview different sign types in general and their installation requirements

typically 5 hours for the full seminar, or 3 hours (no signs)

Stepping Thru

The Existing Building – Access Within & Without

DESCRIPTION

The nature of our practice has changed with a higher proportion of renovation and re-use. Under the ADA Standards there are differing requirements for new construction versus alteration. Since these are federal laws local public agencies can only offer limited direction. We will review criteria for existing facilities in regard to scoping to acquire a better sense of the implications of the law and how it applies and cover a range of concepts such as *Program Accessibility* vs *Barrier Removal, Proportional Spending, Safe Harbor,* and *Path of Travel* obligations.

SUMMARY

An in-depth review for implementing ADAS on existing projects whether or not construction is actually scheduled – including alteration requirements for public facilities and places of public accommodation from *Program Accessibility* to *Barrier Removal*

LEARNING OBJECTIVES

- Understand differences between *Public Facilities* and *Places of Public Accommodation*
- Review the distinctions between *Program Accessibility* vs *Barrier Removal* and their impact
- Learn about *Proportional Spending* and *Disproportionality* with its application to *Path of Travel* requirements
- Overview *Safe Harbor* and when it can or can not be applied to existing elements

Typically 5 hours for the full seminar, 4 hours without the CA overlay, or 2½ hours for just scoping

Stepping Thru

Interior Elements & Access

DESCRIPTION

Once you step thru the door into the building interior you encounter different elements, each with its own parameters, and all connected by a circulation path. There are requirements not only for the item itself but also how it relates to the facility as a whole. Whether furniture or cabinetry, drinking fountains or sinks, machines or telephones, desk/table or counter seating, all are overlaid with their own requirements relating to reach ranges, clear floor space, and operating force. We will review a number of these elements regarding their technical and scoping requirements to better increase our language and understanding for accessible design.

SUMMARY

An overview of different interior elements and their requirements typically encountered once you step thru the door, that can either create or interfere with an accessible environment

LEARNING OBJECTIVES

- Understand the scoping and technical requirements for various interior components including seating, counters, kitchenettes, & controls
- Review reach range and clear floor space requirements for different elements and their relationship to the accessible route
- Learn about the requirements for adjacency and dispersion within a space or a building
- Overview lighting parameters in our environment, and its impact on health and aging

typically 5 hours for the full seminar,

Stepping Thru

Accessible Public Multi-Family Residential Facilities

DESCRIPTION

An overview of publicly supported multi-family residential facilities and the differing requirements of regulations and codes. We will look at the various components found within dwelling units and social service center establishment sleeping accommodations, including kitchens and bathrooms. Multi-family residential is one of the more complex building types. Depending on when the facility was initially built and the funding, you can have a number of different regulations for one project such as the ADA Standards, the FHA, UFAS, and California Building Codes both 11A and 11B. We will also touch upon alterations and transition plans and how this impacts multi-family housing projects.

SUMMARY

An overview of what is considered public multi-family residential facilities and which regulations apply along with requirements for kitchens, bathrooms, and social service center establishments

LEARNING OBJECTIVES

- Understand what is public multi-family residential and which regulations apply
- Review alteration and new construction requirements for the dwelling units
- Learn about specific requirements for kitchens and bathrooms within dwelling units
- Overview CA senior housing requirements and social service center establishment sleeping accommodation requirements

typically 5 hours for the full seminar

Stepping Thru

Parking, Passenger Loading, EVCS, & Their Connection to the Site

DESCRIPTION

In this day and age we are not only pedestrians but we are also closely tied to vehicular transportation – and of course there are a myriad of requirements for this as well, starting from the point where we are passengers, and then transitioning to pedestrians. Whether it is for parking, passenger drop-off, valet service, or transportation such as taxis, buses, or shuttles, there are differing requirements for space and slopes, all or which is required to connect with an accessible route. There are also new requirements for Electric Vehicle Charging Stations (EVCS) per the CBC. We will review the requirements for each of these types of vehicular to pedestrian transitions.

SUMMARY

An overview of the myriad of requirements starting from the point where we are passengers and then transitioning to pedestrians whether parking, passenger drop-offs, valet service, EVCS, or transportation such as taxis, buses, or shuttles

LEARNING OBJECTIVES

- Understand scoping for parking, passenger drop-off, valet, and boarding & alighting
- Review the technical parameters for the car and passenger to pedestrian interface
- Learn about the requirements for specified and unspecified transportation
- Overview the new developments for electrical vehicle charging stations

typically 5 hours for the full seminar

Stepping Thru Vertical Heights

DESCRIPTION

For someone who has a disability or is elderly, ascending or descending across levels is a key mobility challenge. We often address this by providing an element such as a ramp or elevator that takes people from one level to another but often these features alone do not solve the problem. We will look at options such as sloped walkways, curb ramps, pedestrian ramps, elevators, and lifts. We will also examine the parameters and requirements for each of these elements, as well as how to design and situate them for optimum access.

SUMMARY

Since the world is not flat, most buildings and facilities have some height change which can provide a challenge for access — we will review the different methods of access and the parameters for each

LEARNING OBJECTIVES

- Understand parameters for level surface and zero curb or blended transitions
- Review the scoping requirements for vertical access in terms of dispersion and location
- Learn the technical requirements for each method of vertical access
- Overview when vertical access is not required and what needs to be provided instead

typically 5 hours for the full seminar, 4 hours (full seminar condensed), 3 hours (eliminating elevators & lifts)

Stepping Thru – Vignette Series

Electric Vehicle Charging Stations & Access

DESCRIPTION

As Electric Vehicles become more prevalent, the question arises of what to do for Access and even whether or not they are required to be accessible. Although not specifically mentioned in the ADA Standards, the prevailing requirement in the implementing regulations requires a measure of access for all. So if an element is available to the able-bodied population, then it should also be available for those with a disability. Since there are no ADA scoping and technical requirements what do you do? California has developed new requirements being implemented January 1, 2017 which is what we will look at.

SUMMARY

As Electric Vehicles become more prevalent, the question comes up of what to do to make them accessible and even whether or not they are required to be accessible – we will review the new California requirements

LEARNING OBJECTIVES

- Understand the new California requirements for new and existing EVCS
- Review signage requirements for charging stations
- Learn the new scoping and technical requirements in California
- Overview how new charging stations integrate with existing

typically 2 hours for the full seminar

Stepping Thru – Vignette Series

Accessible Environments As We Age

DESCRIPTION

The silver tsunami is here! Now that the baby boomer generation is aging, we need to consider how this impacts our built environment – an overview of design considerations and lighting which can easily be addressed now to not only allow us to age in place later but also to have others visit us whether they have issues concerning accessibility or aging, whether just slowing down, or have a more vigorous disability. We will discuss common areas of concern and issues of aging and our built environment thru photographs of both good and more challenging examples of typical elements.

SUMMARY

An overview of design considerations which can easily be addressed now to not only allow us to age in place later but also have others visit us whether they have issues concerning accessibility or aging

LEARNING OBJECTIVES

- Understand how different types of disabilities impact our navigation of the built environment
- Review elements in buildings that can be more of a challenge as we age
- Learn about different items that can easily be implemented now for aging in place later
- Overview and become aware of different hazards to avoid in the built environment

typically 2 hours for the full seminar