

# Certification scheme for Universal Design

The BCA Universal Design Mark (UD Mark) accords recognition to the building owners and designers who go beyond the code compliance to create user-friendly buildings. It allows assessment of projects at design stage, thereby facilitating the incorporation of UD principles from the onset of project development.

«The UD Mark Certification is a great way to get the building owners, designers and builders to achieve a well-integrated design that caters to all.»

(GOH Siam Imm)

## BCA Universal Design (UD) Mark

Organisation:	Building and Construction Authority (BCA)
Country/region of origin:	Singapore
Beneficiaries targeted:	Persons with mental disabilities
Approach/model/solution:	Computer and internet learning laboratory, knowledge sharing, scientific research

## FACTS & FIGURES

- Voluntary certification scheme launched in October 2012
- 26 plaques were given since the launch of UD Mark Certification of which 2 were Platinum
- 20 projects are currently being assessed
- 5 courses on Certificate of UD Assessor (4 day duration) were conducted for about 250 architects, designers, facilities managers, project managers and builders
- 3 courses are scheduled for 2014

## PROBLEMS TARGETED

With the prospect of 1 in 5 of the population being aged 65 years and above in Singapore by 2030, it is necessary that buildings are made barrier-free and user-friendly.

## PROJECT

To support the 'ageing-in-place' lifestyle and an inclusive environment, the BCA launched the Accessibility Master Plan. The UD Mark is part of this and provides a 2-stage assessment process: upfront credit for the concept design and subsequent award affirmation when the development is completed. This encourages the developer and designer to think 'Universal Design' (UD) and accessibility at the early design stage. A UD 'self-help' checklist was created to make UD more tangible and easier to comprehend and implement.

## CURRENT SITUATION & OUTLOOK

The UD Mark identifies and distinguishes developments that have gone beyond meeting the minimum mandatory code requirements. It has attracted strong industry interest and buy-in as the certification enhances companies' corporate branding. The conduct of pre-assessments allowed BCA to influence several projects at an early stage, leading to enhancements in UD/accessibility provisions. The project supports the ageing population, the rise in accessible tourism and the greater awareness of user-friendly design. There are four UD Mark ratings available: Certified, Gold, GoldPLUS and Platinum.



The UD Mark plaque will be displayed at buildings.

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**EXPERT VOTING** Top marks for:

- Access to built environment

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