Dear Friends:

The Mayor’s Office for People with Disabilities should be commended for developing a cogent and concise set of universal design guidelines. This book of design criteria draws upon specific examples to illustrate what works best in achieving universal design principles.

Going beyond the strictures of the Americans with Disabilities Act, the tenets of universal design address the manner in which attention to the differential needs of all people, over time, can lead to well-designed buildings that seamlessly integrate thoughtful solutions and appropriate materials.

The New York Chapter of the American Institute of Architects is dedicated to design excellence, professional development and public outreach. The City’s universal design guidelines combine these three goals in a well-written document which should be used by all architects and building owners as a reference and resource.

Yours truly,

Fredric Bell, FAIA
Executive Director
AIA New York Chapter