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# THE PRINCIPLES OF **UNIVERSAL DESIGN**

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**UNIVERSAL DESIGN :** The design of products and environments to be usable by all people, to the greatest extent possible, without adaptation or specialized design.

The authors, a working group of architects, product designers, engineers and environmental design researchers, collaborated to establish the following Principles of Universal Design to guide a wide range of design disciplines including environments, products and communications. These seven principles may be applied to evaluate existing designs, guide the design process, and educate both designers and consumers about the characteristics of more usable products and environments.

**1 EQUITABLE USE**

The design is useful and marketable to people with diverse abilities.

**2 FLEXIBILITY IN USE**

The design accommodates a wide range of individual preferences and abilities.

**3 SIMPLE AND INTUITIVE USE**

Use of the design is easy to understand, regardless of the user's experience, knowledge, language skills, or current concentration level.

**4 PERCEPTIBLE INFORMATION**

The design communicates necessary information effectively to the user, regardless of ambient conditions or the user's sensory abilities.

**5 TOLERANCE FOR ERROR**

The design minimizes hazards and the adverse consequences of accidental or unintended actions.

**6 LOW PHYSICAL EFFORT**

The design can be used efficiently and comfortably and with a minimum of fatigue.

**7 SIZE AND SPACE FOR APPROACH AND USE**

Appropriate size and space is provided for approach, reach, manipulation, and use regardless of user's body size, posture, or mobility.