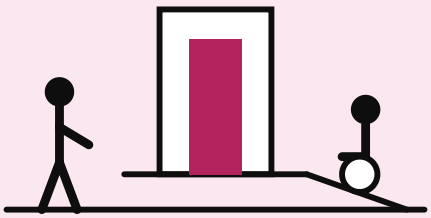
Model

Universal design

A set of seven principles for designing products, spaces and services that all people can use, to the greatest extent possible, without the need for adaptation or specialized design.



In Spanish
Diseño universal

Origin
Connell et al. (1997), at The Center for Universal Design

What problem it addresses

It avoids designing for an "average" person and then adding separate solutions for whoever is left out.

Components

Equitable use
Useful to people with diverse abilities, without segregating or singling anyone out.

Flexibility in use
It adapts to different preferences and ways of using it.

Simple and intuitive use
Easy to understand without prior experience or much concentration.

Perceptible information
It communicates through several senses, whatever the setting.

Tolerance for error
It reduces the risks and consequences of a mistake.

Low physical effort
It can be used comfortably and without fatigue.

Size and space for approach and use
To approach, reach and use it, with any body or posture.

How it works

1 

Think about the diversity of people from the start.

2 

Review the design against each of the seven principles.

3 

What works for some usually makes things easier for everyone.

Applications in design

Use it like this

Review a product, a space or a service principle by principle before launching it.

Avoid

Solving accessibility with a separate version, like a back entrance only for wheelchairs.

Don't fall for it

No design works for everyone: back up the seven principles with tests alongside the people who need them most.

Connections

Used in

- Accessible design
- Spatial design
- Industrial design

Related to

- Anthropometry
- WCAG guidelines
- Usability

Authors and works

1997	**Bettye Rose Connell, Ron Mace and others**	They wrote the seven principles at The Center for Universal Design, North Carolina State University.

Sources

Original sources

- Connell, B. R., Jones, M., Mace, R., Mueller, J., Mullick, A., Ostroff, E., Sanford, J., Steinfeld, E., Story, M., & Vanderheiden, G. (1997). The principles of universal design (versión 2.0). The Center for Universal Design, North Carolina State University.

Last reviewed: October 25, 2026

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