The Principles of Universal Design

The design of products and environments to be usable by all people, to the greatest extent possible, without the need for adaptation or specialized design.

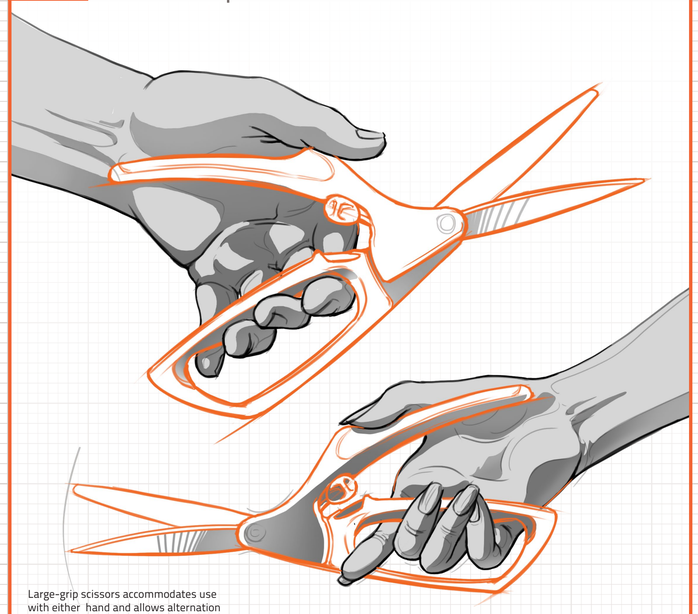
Powered door with sensors is convenient for all shoppers, especially if hands are full.

1 Equitable Use

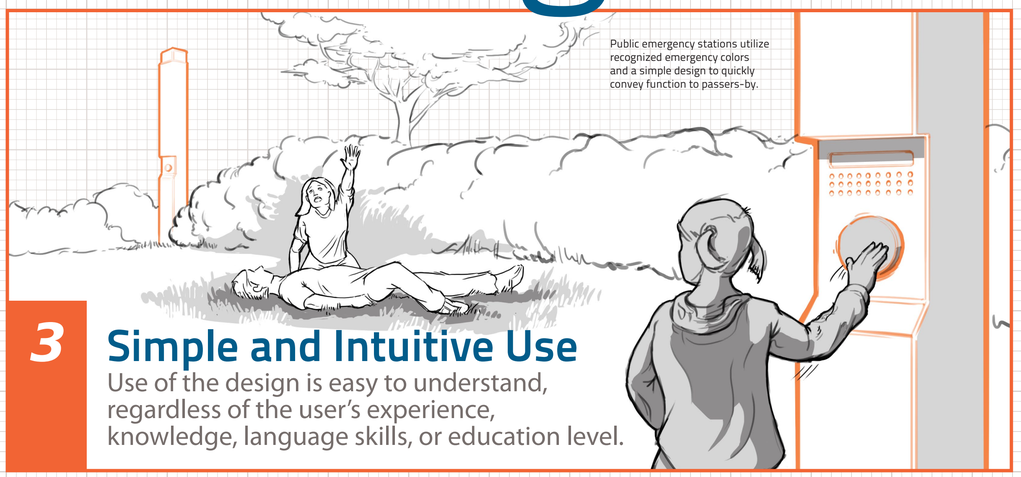
The design is useful and marketable to people with diverse abilities.

2 Flexibility in Use

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



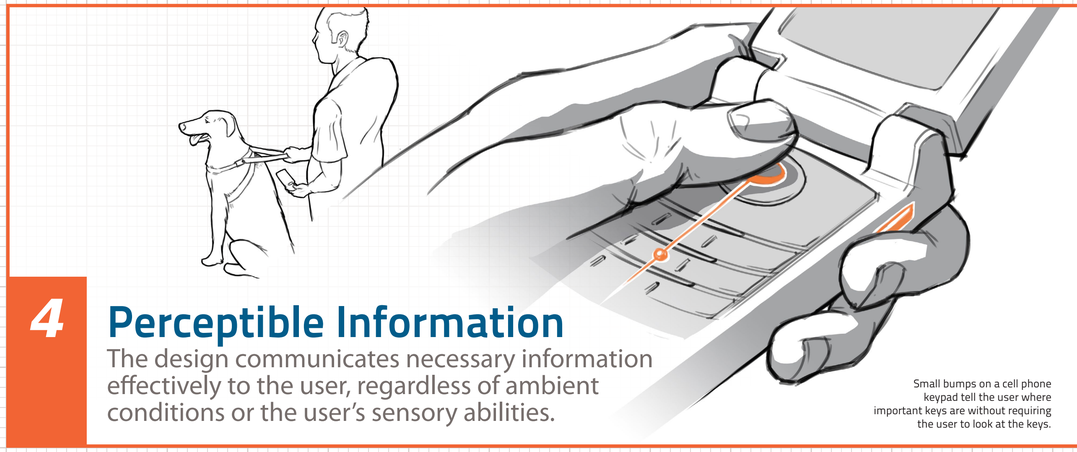
Large-grip scissors accommodates use with either hand and allows alternation between the two in highly repetitive tasks.



Public emergency stations utilize recognized emergency colors and a simple design to quickly convey function to passers-by.

3 Simple and Intuitive Use

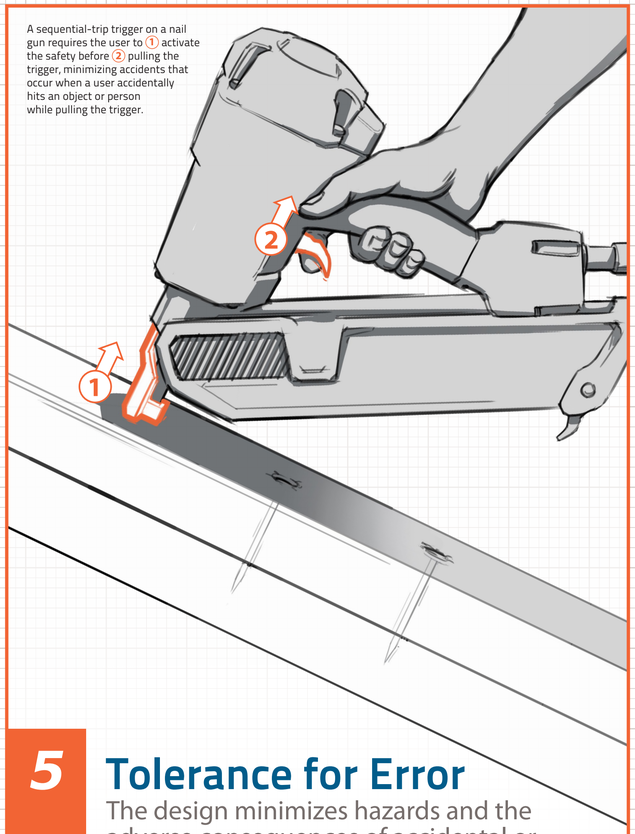
Use of the design is easy to understand, regardless of the user's experience, knowledge, language skills, or education level.



Small bumps on a cell phone keypad tell the user where important keys are without requiring the user to look at the keys.

4 Perceptible Information

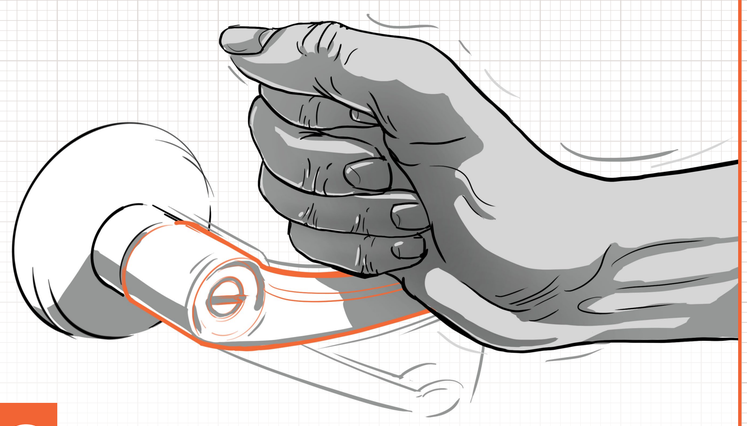
The design communicates necessary information effectively to the user, regardless of ambient conditions or the user's sensory abilities.



A sequential-trip trigger on a nail gun requires the user to (1) activate the safety before (2) pulling the trigger, minimizing accidents that occur when a user accidentally hits an object or person while pulling the trigger.

5 Tolerance for Error

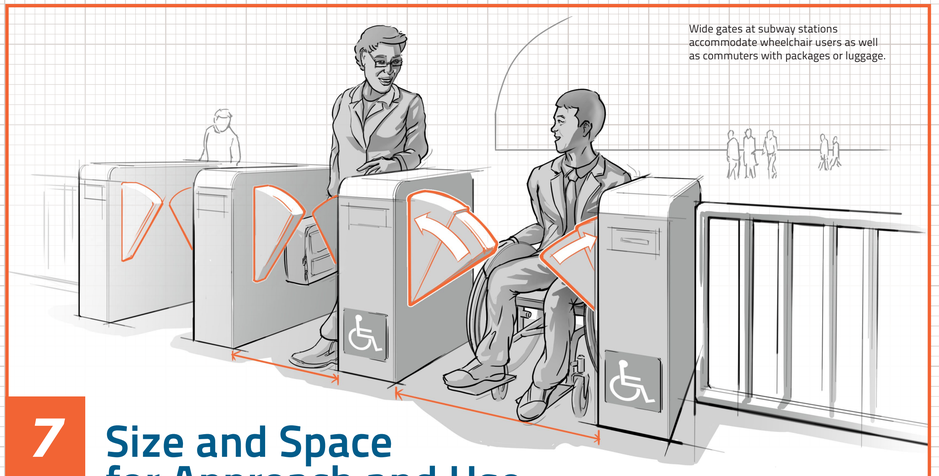
The design minimizes hazards and the adverse consequences of accidental or unintended actions.



Door lever does not require grip strength to operate, and can even be operated by a closed fist or elbow.

6 Low Physical Effort

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



Wide gates at subway stations accommodate wheelchair users as well as commuters with packages or luggage.

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.

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