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BOOK REVIEW

House adaption: design choices in adapting a family home for accessible living

by architect Harry Sprintz

Published by Harry Sprintz, Kiama NSW¹; 2012; 168 pp.; ISBN 978-0-646-57532-2; RRP \$39.50 (hardcover); Ursula Davidson Library call number 360 SPRI 2012

This book is directed at those, including veterans, who are seeking assistance to continue to live in their existing homes, despite injuries (including those resulting from military service) and/or physical deterioration, by modifying the existing facilities and access.

Harry Sprintz is a member of the Institute. He has used his experience as a military engineer in his design work for disabled veterans and others. He was awarded a Medal of the Order of Australia in 2012; and holds a Master of Arts in Disability Design/Research (London Guildhall University). He has been a consultant architect to NSW Department of Veterans' Affairs and has assisted many ex-service personnel to design critical areas of their homes, so as to avoid having to move to a retirement home.

In this book, Sprintz has assembled relevant information from diverse sources, including *Housing for Life* by the Master Builders' Association (ACT), Australian

Standards on 'Adaptable Housing', the *Disability Act* and the Building Code of Australia. The text is enhanced with case studies. The Table of Contents, however, lacks page numbers and it would help readers if a detailed index were added to the rear of the book. The text probably achieves two of its objectives: assisting development consultants and real estate professionals. The third aim, assisting non-professionals, may be only indirectly met because the first nine of the 21 chapters tend to be for professionals. While the remaining chapters contain much material for professionals, there are many coloured illustrations and dimensioned aids for the disabled which should be readily understood by non-professionals.

Overall, this book is a valuable summary of the adaption of family housing for accessible living for the disabled, including veterans. It will be a useful guide for professional builders, designers and sellers of 'houses for life'. It also will help the disabled and their carers to appreciate how their facilities can be built or modified, including kitchens, bathrooms, home offices, access *etc.* Readers will be assisted by some guides on the costs of such modifications.

John M. Hutcheson

¹Available from Harry Sprintz, 4/44 Manning Street, Kiama NSW 2533, for \$39.90 (hardcover) plus \$11.70 postage; or as an e-book for \$27.00 from www.harrysprintzarchitect.com.