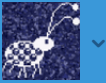




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
</> Embed



By examining the extreme ends of a set of phenomena in depth, the entire universe of relationships can be illuminated since other

AEASEA 2016 - Extreme Design

Derek Featherstone's talk on accessibility, design, and development @ An Event apart Seattle 2016

by  Anne Gibson a year ago 34 Views ▾



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Derek Featherstone [@feather](#) up next with extreme design
[#AEASEA](#)

5:00 PM - 4 Apr 2016



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.[@feather](#) leads off with a story about a badly designed British shower. Group closely related items: the principle of proximity.
[#AEASEA](#)

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Straw test: make a fist like you're holding a straw, try to read an interface through the straw. This is what low vision is like
[#AEASEA](#)

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Low vision users might be at 400% magnification. 1/16 of the screen. Can you still use your site? [#AEASEA](#) [#a11y](#)

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Can you see the questions and the answers on a form at the same time? How do your buttons feel? #AEASEA #a11y

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The form can be coded absolutely perfectly but it can still be unusable for those with low vision because of the design layout #AEASEA #a11y

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What is the proximity and pattern of use for someone low-vision? What if they can't read your buttons? #AEASEA #a11y

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Accessibility isn't just about being screen-reader-centric. Low vision is a huge issue. #AEASEA #a11y

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Use layout to create the right chunks. Use pattern of use to lead the eye to action. [#AEASEA](#) [#a11y](#)

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(Aaaand there goes my belief in right-aligned buttons.)

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Use the straw test on wire frames, comps, live sites, paper, with anyone. Look for layouts and design patterns that create issues [#AEASEA](#)

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If you can see the shipping info but not the cart or the “loading” graphic, do low vision users know you updated the screen? [#AEASEA](#) [#a11y](#)

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Vision and hearing and motor skills are on a bell curve. Some with little/none, lots with most, some with perfect #AEASEA #a11y

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Redesigning the (physical) shopping cart: [youtube.com/watch?v=M66ZU2...](https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=M66ZU2...)

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“By examining the extreme ends of a set of phenomena in depth, the entire universe of relationships can be illuminated since other instances will fall somewhere between on the map of relations and links.”



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Designing for the ends leads to good design for the middle
[#AEASEA](#) [#a11y](#)

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Designing for opposite extremes (e.g. young and old) results in a product that works for everyone. [#extremedesign](#) [#a11y](#) [#aea](#)
[@feather](#)

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  15  14



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Find ways to take the extreme with respect to design and apply them to your design problem. [#AEASEA](#) [#a11y](#)

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People with disabilities find usability problems faster, more pronounced, and easier to see the problem [#AEASEA](#) [#a11y](#)

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What if you're designing a critical visual and it can't be seen? Maps, for example. Big text description? Latitude/longitude? [#AEASEA](#) [#a11y](#)

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If the problem is more about the change in the map, describe the change? [#a11y](#) [#AEASEA](#)

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But what's the real reason? To know whether it affects them? -
Maybe use a postal code lookup or other no-visual solution
[#AEASEA](#) [#a11y](#)

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Trying to figure out how to represent something you can't see
can force you to come up with other solutions to the root issue
[#AEASEA](#) [#a11y](#)

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Limited view of the screen and big massive tables. It's easy to
get lost! [#AEASEA](#) [#a11y](#)

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.@feather demos a column/row head cell identifier on
hover/click to bring the table heads in view [#AEASEA](#) [#a11y](#)

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examples.simplyaccessible.com/cell-headers for some experiments Simply Accessible are working on for tables
#AEASEA #a11y

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Someone zoomed in may not be able to get to video controls at the bottom of the screen. Maybe movable controls are good?
#AEASEA #a11y

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Design for Dory - she has the worst memory ever. What can you do to remind folks what's wrong on a form? #AEASEA

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Error on the form? Link directly to that form field so it's easier to find. Add "fix the next error" under that form. [#AEASEA](#) [#a11y](#)

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Make sure you can remember what's wrong with the field at the field level as well as the context at the top of the page [#AEASEA](#) [#a11y](#)

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If you're going to have a placeholder as a label, when they start filling out the form pop a label above. [#AEASEA](#) [#a11y](#)

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Date of birth - label, placeholder is hint to fill out. As soon as it disappears hint is gone. Append the placeholder to the label [#AEASEA](#)

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Someone may be able to mouse but also use voiceover, drag something as “mouse drag up” then “mouse drag left”. Things get lost #AEASEA #a11y

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Dragging on a diagonal can be a problem if you're using voice recognition. Make the whole question a target #AEASEA #a11y

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Design for Andre the Giant (or Fezzik) — what if your hands were bigger than a can of beer?


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Imagine Andre the Giant trying to use the  - his fingers are roughly half the size of the screen. Changes everything

[#AEASEA](#) [#a11y](#)

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(Someone replies “bigger watch” and @feather adds “Andre would just put an iPhone on his wrist”) #AEASEA

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(Also, I cut the tip off my index finger off 6 months ago and dang the watch is harder to use now, so we don't have to be Andre)

#AEASEA

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If not the watch, what about those tiny pagination controls you built on your site? Could Andre use those? #AEASEA #a11y

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Focus on design, not solution. “Use voice recognition” is solution, “Use hands-free” is problem. Focus on what you get #AEASEA #a11y

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Minimum viable interaction. What if they can only read the headings? What if they can only read the links? The form fields?
[#AEASEA](#) [#a11y](#)

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  2 



Zeldman 

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Tesla has voice recognition but requires you to touch the UI—when you **should** be able to drive hands-free. [@feather](#)
[#aeasea](#) [#a11y](#)

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  6  10



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(By the way, the [#a11y](#) hashtag is for accessibility - an a, 11 letters, and a y - and yes we know it's not accessible ;)

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  2  2



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If you're using sliders and things need to be precise, provide a text field too — and put it with the labels! [#AEASEA](#) [#a11y](#)

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If you're sorting by departure time, move the departure time into the heading so someone only hearing headings hears it

[#AEASEA](#) [#a11y](#)

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Transform the digital to physical. Not everyone grew up in the digital world. [#AEASEA](#) [#a11y](#)

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Experiments with connecting lights like the Philips Hue Light to a browser extension to connect the physical to the digital

[#AEASEA](#) [#a11y](#)

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Screen readers are heavily emphasized but they're only one piece of the [#a11y](#) puzzle. [#AEASEA](#)

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Project an extreme onto a design problem. Solve that problem.
Improve the interface for everyone. #AEASEA #a11y

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