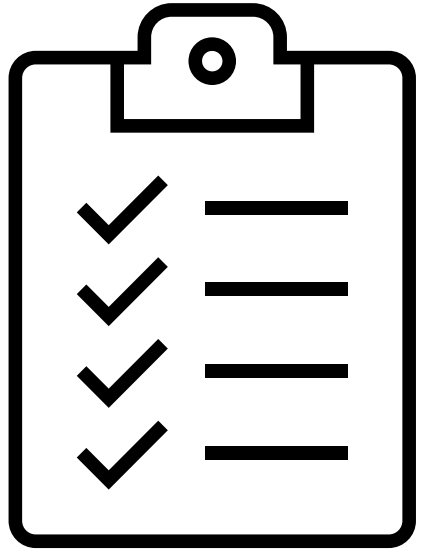
Universal Design

MAA Chastain

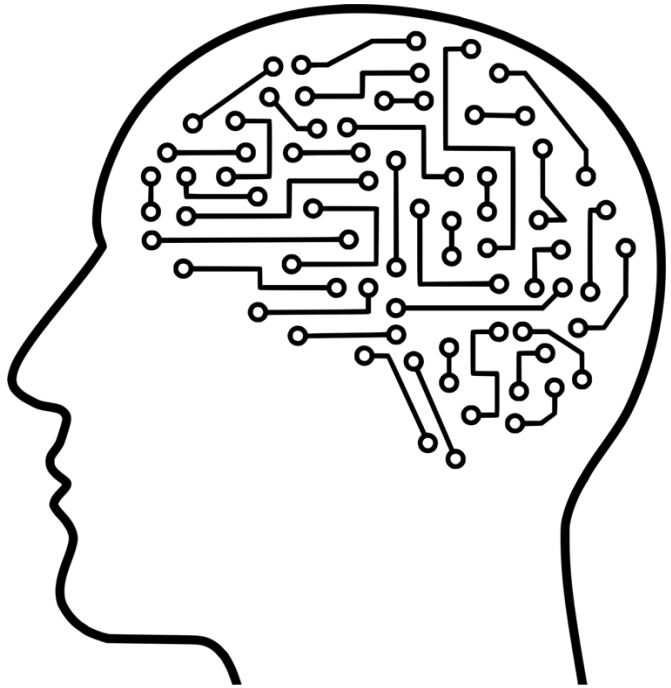
What we'll cover today

- What is Universal Design
- Principles of Universal Design
- MAA Chastain & Universal Design
- Inaccessible Fonts
- Lack of Headings
- Difficult to Find Information
- Difficult to Navigate



What is Universal Design?

A way to design spaces, services, products, and information that ensures it is usable by as many people as possible, regardless of their characteristics or circumstances [2].



Principles of Universal Design

1. Equitable in use
2. Flexibility in Use
3. Simple & Intuitive Use
4. Perceptible Information
5. Tolerance for Error
6. Low Physical Effort
7. Appropriate Size and Space for Approach and Use [1]

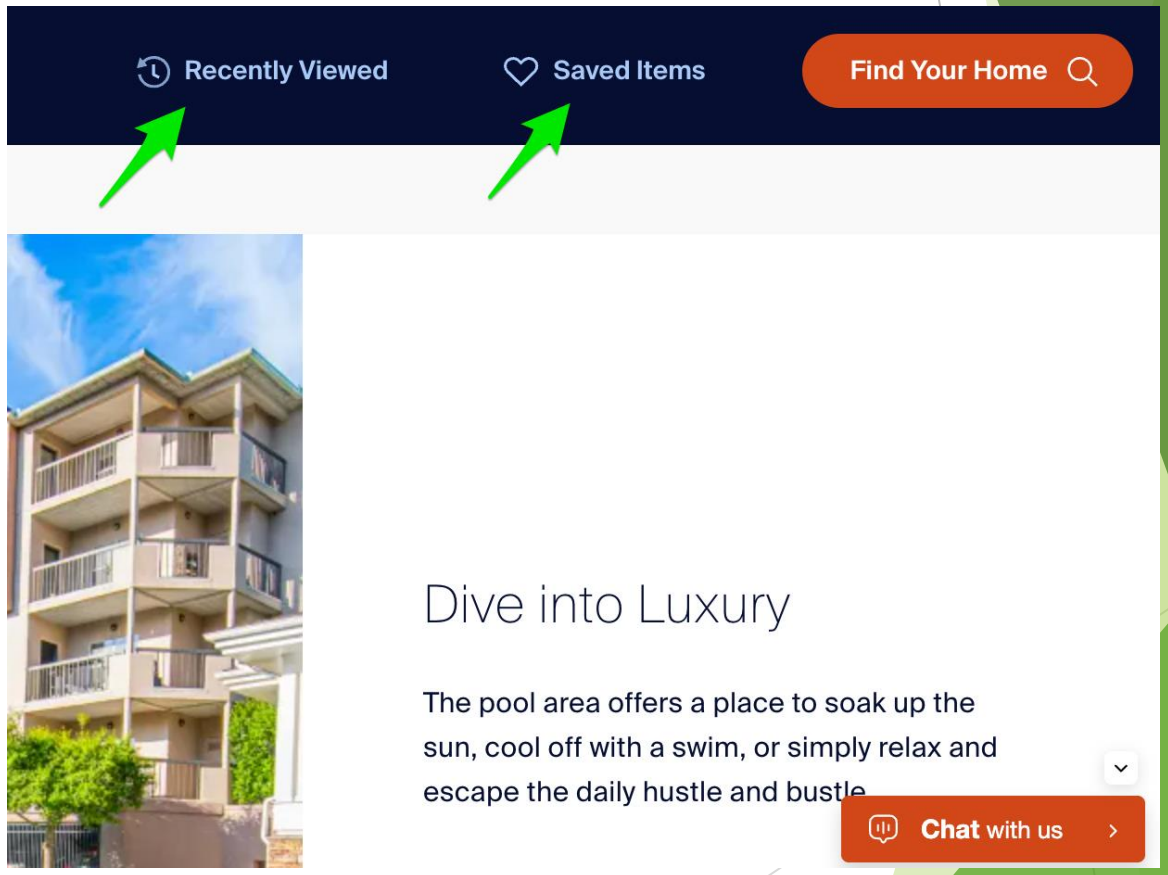
MAA Chastain & Universal Design

Many issues on the website fall under the following:

- Equitable Use
  - The design is useful and marketable to people with diverse abilities [1].
- Simple & Intuitive Use
  - Use of the design is easy to understand, regardless of the user's characteristics [1].
- Perceptible Information
  - The design communicates necessary information effectively to the user, regardless of ambient conditions or the user's sensory abilities [1].
- Low Physical Effort
  - The design can be used efficiently and comfortably and with a minimum of fatigue [1].

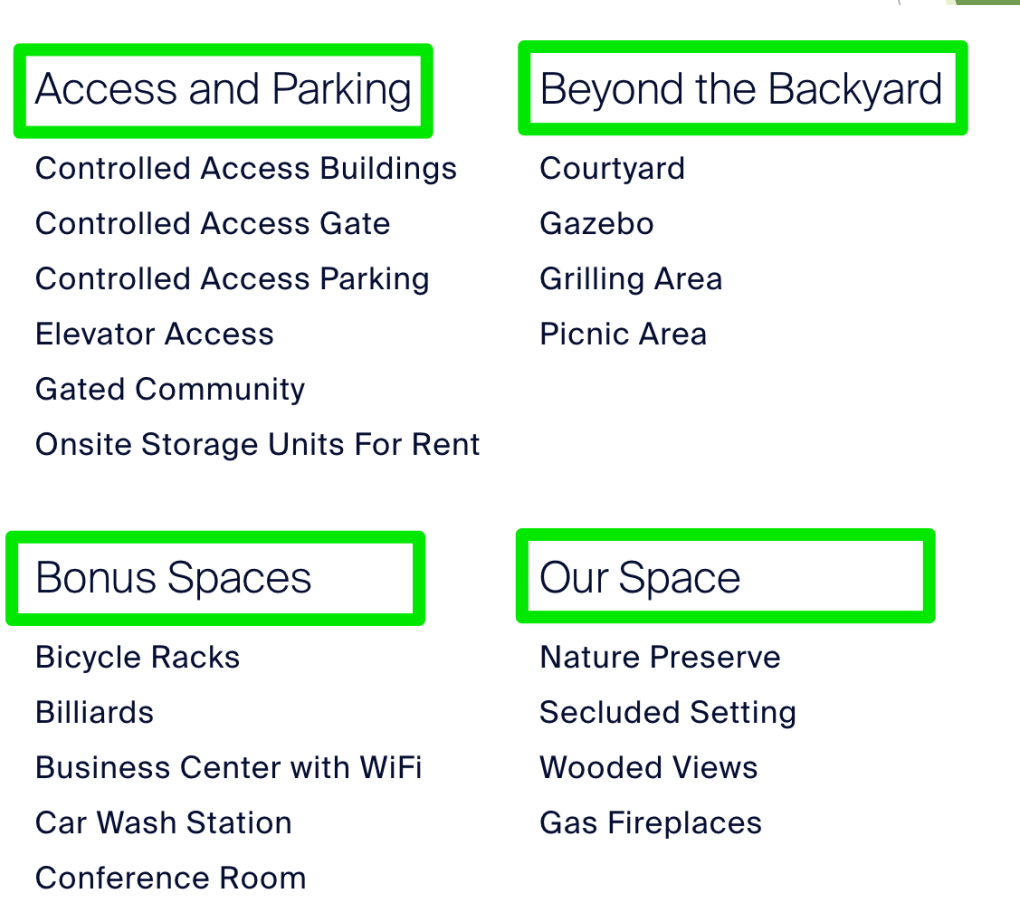
Inaccessible Fonts

- Problem:
  - Low contrast in fonts and too small
  - Lacking in Perceptible Information, Low Physical Effort, and Equitable Use
- Solution:
  - Implement larger fonts with higher contrast colors



Lack of Headings

- Problem:
  - Used a larger font size in place of headings
  - Inaccessible to screen readers
  - Lacking in Equitable Use, Perceptible Information, and Simple & Intuitive Use
- Solution:
  - Implement headings consistently on the website



Access and Parking

Controlled Access Buildings
Controlled Access Gate
Controlled Access Parking
Elevator Access
Gated Community
Onsite Storage Units For Rent

Beyond the Backyard

Courtyard
Gazebo
Grilling Area
Picnic Area

Bonus Spaces

Bicycle Racks
Billiards
Business Center with WiFi
Car Wash Station
Conference Room

Our Space

Nature Preserve
Secluded Setting
Wooded Views
Gas Fireplaces

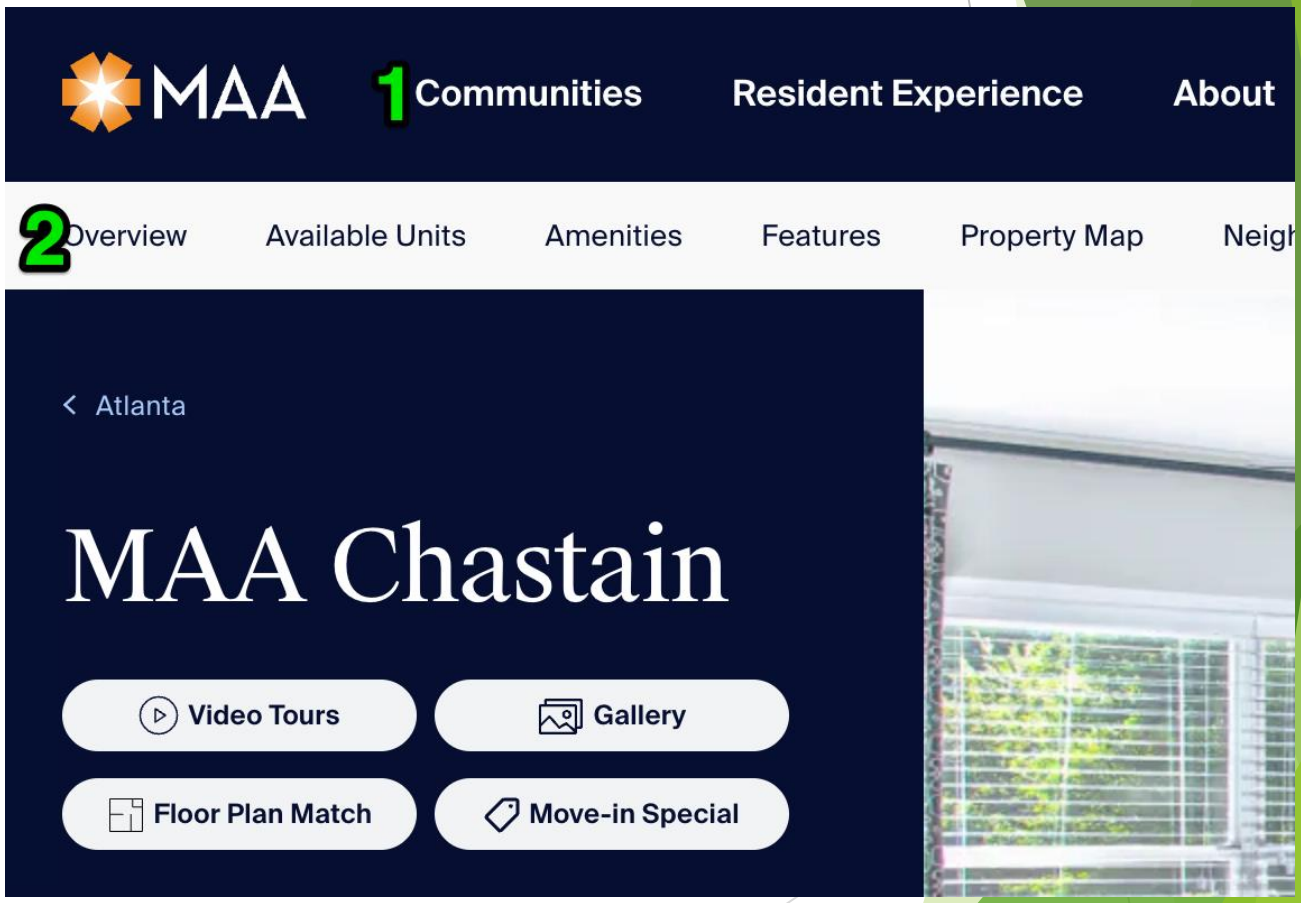
Difficult to Find Information

- Problem:
  - Resident information is difficult to locate and hidden in the footer
  - Lacking in Equitable Use, Perceptible Information, Low Physical Effort, Simple & Intuitive Use
- Solution:
  - Relocate resident information to an easily accessible area of the webpage



Difficult to Navigate

- Problem:
  - Two top-level menus are confusing and difficult to navigate
  - Lacking in Perceptible Information and Simple & Intuitive Use
- Solution:
  - Relocate some menu options to the footer and consolidate the top menu



Thank you!

Citations

1. “The 7 Principles.” Centre for Excellence in Universal Design. Accessed May 29, 2026. https://universaldesign.ie/about-universal-design/the-7-principles.
2. “Universal Design Principles.” Accessibility at UB - University at Buffalo, December 3, 2024. https://www.buffalo.edu/access/basics/universal-design/principles.html.