



Dickson Development Corporation
A Tradition of Innovative Quality Construction

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Building Success 101

Q: Isn't "universal design" just another word for handicap accessible?

A: The term "universal design" is a much broader term that seeks to make the home environment more comfortable, convenient, and even cost-effective. Universal design considers the needs of occupants of all ages and abilities, as well as how those abilities and lifestyles change over time. Meanwhile, our suppliers have stepped up with products that are more ergonomic and aesthetically pleasing, so that universal design is all but unnoticed when compared to traditional housing design.

Building toward your Future

No two homes are the same and every client is unique.

Our mission is to build a home that fits each family's immediate wants and needs, while taking into account future lifestyle considerations. We work alongside architects and decorators to carefully consider a client's specific situation; the number of people in the household, the gender and age of every family member, and their particular preferences and interests.

Our goal is to capture the essence of a client's current lifestyle and make an educated guess about how they'll live in their new home as time passes.

This "lifestyle profile" helps determine everything about a client's new home, from the simplest and most obvious, such as the number of bedrooms and bathrooms, to less common features such as personal and public entertainment areas, specialized storage space and architectural style. We encourage them to spend some time thinking about their current lifestyle, paying particular attention to how it might change in the future.

Creating your own Lifestyle Profile:

Plan with an eye to the future. In addition to a simple count (Don't forget the pets!) of those living under your roof, consider how each person in the family uses the house now and is likely to use it in the near future.

A couple without children, for instance, might consider at least two secondary bedrooms (in addition to the master suite) that can serve as a home office, guest room, or a hobby space -- or, eventually, children's bedrooms.

A young family might look for a home in which the secondary bedrooms are located on the opposite side of the house or on a different level. This plan will not only accommodate aging kids but can also serve different uses, such as a guest or game room, once the children leave the nest.

If regular visitors are a part of your lifestyle, you might consider a separate suite above the garage that could double as a hobby space or home office.

Mobility and Special Needs. Regardless of your age or current physical condition, remember that a temporary or chronic impairment might limit your ability to get around your house in the future.

If bedrooms are on the second floor, even a pulled muscle can keep a family member from climbing the stairs. A main-level "flex" space (especially one with semi-private access to a bathroom) offers a comfortable alternative to a couch or a cot in times of a temporary disability. This setup easily converts to a permanent bedroom on the lower level when stairs are best left to younger members of the household.

Floor coverings, cabinet and counter heights can be tastefully altered to promote ease of use regardless of one's physical state.

Consider, too, ease of access to and around the house from the outside. You might consider at-grade entrances and solid, hard surfaces such as continuous walkways instead of paving stones.

And don't forget the outdoors. For clients who relish the opportunity to spend the day in their garden, we'll factor that into the design and layout of a new home. However, for those who disdain mowing the lawn we'll focus on low maintenance backyards.

As a builder dedicated to making housing dreams a reality, we are committed to providing homes that are best suited to the people who buy and live in them. Armed with a solid understanding of our clients' particular wants and needs, we can pinpoint the right house and features, delivering homes that suit their circumstances now and in the future.

Warm regards,

Richard

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