Over 60 years of advocating for disability rights and advancing the needs of hundreds of thousands of individuals that struggle daily with independence and mobility issues, has taught us one important lesson…

*a rewarding life is always attainable.*

Paul J. Tobin, President & CEO

United Spinal Association
The Formula for Successful Home Modifications

- Who are the players?
- What is the process?
- Why function matters?
- When do I bring the builders into the process?
- Where do I find resources?
- How much will it cost?
Frank Gucciardo  M.S., P.T., C.A.P.S., C.G.P.

- Trained Professionally as a Physical Therapist
- Owned and operated a niche design/build company for nearly a decade.
- The company now operates strictly as a consulting and architectural design firm.

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Few guidelines for residential accessibility.

The information is not readily available to most.

Few knowledgeable designers, architects or builders exist.

There are an endless number of under-qualified professionals available

How do you make sense of it all?
Traditional Method of Tackling a Project

- The hunt for a builder begins 1st.
  - Friends, family and other trusted resources are called.
  - If the Church or some other charitable organization is involved, then they take the lead.
- Multiple builders are called into to provide estimates.
- Various solutions and bids come in all over the map.
- Who is right? If anyone?
- You now have to make heads or tails of it.
End Result:

Confusion, doubt and typically price driven

Ugly and poorly designed
Hang on... We must be doing something wrong... How does the saying go again?
Building a Bridge: A Team Effort
How the Process Should Flow

Plan & Design 1st

Build 2nd

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Discovery, Diagnosis & Design

Medical Discovery
A full understanding of your medical condition and functional abilities must be grasped

Diagnosis of Problems
The “as built” environment is examined thoroughly in order to assess where the problems will lie.

Design Documents
A scope of work is created outlining what will be built. Performance specification of material to be used would be included.
Function Drives Solutions

Self Propelled Shower Chair

Tilt-in Space Shower Chair
This can work but only if you have no other options:
Being measured 1st is critical.

Counter top heights are typically lower

Allows for space underneath the sink

Toe kicks are enlarged to allow for foot rest clearance.

Function drives design and yet it can look beautiful.

The Devil is in the Details: Accessible Cabinetry
You need an advocate to act in your best interests.

Your designer should create the ideal solution THEN work backwards if it doesn’t match your budget.

You simply cannot rely on contractors to give you proper counsel because of the inherent conflict of interest.

Accurate Objective Information is Paramount
The Role of the Contractor

- The general contractor’s true responsibility is to install what YOU tell them to...DO NOT expect more.

- What you should absolutely expect from your general contractor is professionalism, competence, reputation, licensing, insurances, references and competitive pricing.

DO NOT leave your very specific needs to be solved by a general contractor with little to no experience in designing accessible environments.
What NOT to build!
Recap

- Medical input is a must.
- Independent, objective advice and design must be in place 1st.
- Product selection comes in at the time of design.
- Builders come to the property after a plan is in place.
- Ensures “Apples to Apples” bidding and allows for proper negotiation of price.
• 3 options/tools which are based on the size of your project:
  ○ Narrative
  ○ Concept
  ○ Full set of construction documents
Simple Narrative Scope of Work

Plumbing

- Relocate & re-rough all water and waste lines for toilet, shower and sink
- Drain, purge & restart heating system. Relocate, supply & install approximate 4-5’ of base board heating.
- Supply & install a Best Bath 60” x 42” pre pitched barrier free shower base.
  - Finish: White
- Supply & install Delta 1700 series universal shower body with trim or equivalent, .5” wall union, a Grohe 79” metal hose and a hand held shower spray on a 2’ slide bar
  - Finish: polished chrome
  - Budget: $850.00
- Supply & install a Kohler Cimarron K-3589 or equivalent
  - Color: White
  - Budget: $350.00
- Supply & install a Kohler Pinoir K-2035 wall mounted sink
  - Color: White
- Supply & install a Kohler K-15241-4 (or equivalent) faucet
  - Finish: Polished chrome
  - Budget: 125.00
Conceptual Floor Plans
Stamped and Signed Construction Documents

TYPICAL FOR LARGER PROJECTS REQUIRING PERMITS AND INSPECTIONS
Interview & Installation Phase

Interview & Hiring Process
- Look to NAHB designations
- Local Supply House
- Call Dept. of Consumer Affairs

Selections
- Try to have some fun here
- Work from a specification sheet

Installation
- Budget for more time and money to complete your project.
- Most projects hit a snag or two

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Things to Look at & Questions to Ask:

- How fast do they return calls or emails?
- Can I see finished work?
- Where are you working now?
- Can I visit?
  - Speak to the homeowner
    - Are they punctual?
    - Respectful?
    - On budget and time?
    - Would you use them again?
If designed correctly, your accessible projects should not have an “institutional” feel.

The aesthetics of your project will be limited only by your imagination and budget.

The two primary concerns in creating an accessible spaces are spatial requirements and product selection.
You DO NOT have to pay a premium for a specialized accessible design/build firm...IF...you have a set of working documents to instruct your GC.

Although your needs are special and specific, you DO NOT need a specialist to INSTALL your project.

What is all of this going to cost?
When it comes time to install your project you get to pick 2 of the following:

Speed/Time
Quality
Cost

Because most of the time you can’t have all 3.

"The bitterness of poor quality remains long after the sweetness of a low price is forgotten"

- Benjamin Franklin.

“If you pay with peanuts, you will get monkeys”
Proper Preparation is the Answer
Success.
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We will gladly work with Clients or other professionals on a national basis.