Universal design is described as the design of an environment that can be accessed and understood by all people, regardless of their ability, disability, age, or size. It is a principle of design that is inclusive and adaptable to users with diverse abilities. We use this principle for a multitude of different reasons. For instance, we are avoiding segregation and stigmatizing any other users who provide the same resources for all people. This concept may seem challenging to achieve while maintaining a beautiful design, but during the research you will see some of the most beautiful designs are flexible for various abilities.

"Universal Design is good design."

When applying Universal Design to a space or architecture, our design is a design that is easy to understand and experience with no limits. This is consistency important when applying to homes for those who may be limited in mobility, increased risk of falling, restricted mental processing capabilities. This is also known as aging in place. It's also important to understand universal design. It can be achieved by eliminating unnecessary complexity, consistent design, and provide accessible space and ease for approach, usage, and manipulation.

To begin creating a space for our client, we needed to determine the outermost shell before the interior planning began. It was essential for this addition to be a spacious bathroom. I was able to achieve a space plan that would be wheelchair accessible if needed and a completely livable one level apartment.

In conclusion, I implemented universal design in a recent project for a client who was looking for a new addition to their home, so they can appropriately age within their home. This creates a challenge for those individuals with their environment or not equipped for changes that come with age. By making changes to make the appropriate additions to their home will therefore grow with them, and continue to improve their quality of life.

In what started as a very small addition, we developed a vibrant new addition to their home that included a sitting area overlooking their pond, a bedroom, laundry with storage, and a spacious bathroom. We were able to achieve a space plan that would be wheelchair accessible if needed and a completely livable one level apartment.

**SPECIFIC REQUESTS FROM THE CLIENT:**

- Plumbing fixtures, incl. W/D should be clustered in NW so the plumbing runs are short.
- South wall angles from current house at 50 degrees, perhaps with pin.
- Would like to avoid hallways and doors. Two doors only needed pocket door to close toilet stall and tracked door closing off addition from main house. Openings should be sized for wheelchair access.
- Wood slab? Fronts, except in bathroom.
- Six-inch external walls.
- In-floor radiant heat.
- Steel shingle style roof.
- Green metal roof.
- Wood windows (Andersen triple pane).