

It's time to live green

Expert's take on green household solutions

Do Universal Design and “green building” go together? Absolutely, according to Rosemarie Rosetti who, paralyzed in an accident 13 years ago, designed such a home along with her husband Mark Leder.

They planned the house to be their home as well as a laboratory for builders, designers, architects and consumers. The goal is to teach the public they can live in a comfortable environment that will enhance the occupants' quality of life regardless of their circumstance, age or abilities.

Universal design and “green” building design are totally compatible approaches in home construction, Rosemarie says.

“Universal design is human-centered design, accommodating people of all sizes, ages, and abilities. It provides for accessibility by removing barriers such as steps and integrating features like wider doors and hallways to allow people who use wheelchairs equal access to the house and rooms in the house.”

”Green” is an approach to building homes that



conserve natural resources and highlight environmental quality. These homes are healthier in terms of air and water quality. The products used to build these homes emit fewer health endangering gases or volatile organic compounds (VOC). These gases are often produced from paints, stains, carpeting, wall paper, flooring adhesives, plywood, solvents, and synthetic fabrics.

“Green awareness is a pivotal facet when constructing a brand new home, or updating your household to the standards of the 21st century,” says Rosemarie.

“In a time of economic uncertainty, it is important to conserve money anywhere you can; and this does not negate the inherent environmental benefit that a green home provides.”



Rosemarie and Mark began designing their home in 2004 and hired architect Patrick Manley to draw the house plans. A team of experts assisted with the design.

The homeowners faced a unique design challenge. Rosemarie is 4'2" tall when seated, while Mark stands at

6'4". Both manage separate home-based businesses which necessitate private offices. They wanted an easy-to-maintain residence and fully accessible landscaped environment that provides ample space for entertaining and housing extended-stay family or guests.

Construction began in

September 2009 on the 3,500 square foot ranch-style home.

Rosemarie and Mark moved in May of this year.

"We are still working on the home while we are living here. Lots of light fixtures are soon to be delivered."

"The home will be open to the public for a month when we finish installing the landscape. Net proceeds will go to my

spinal cord injury research fund at The Ohio State University. We will be living here during this month.

After the month of tours, we will host tours by appointment.

"There are currently 183 contributors and we are looking for furniture contributors." The major contributors are Marvin Windows and Doors, KraftMaid, Whirlpool, Mannington, Classic Metal Roofing Systems, Cosentino.



Features of home

Kitchen

- Single lever faucets, low profile sink
- Pot filler at cooktop
- Bar handles rather than knobs on cabinets and drawers
- Counter tops at a variety of common heights
- Roll-out full extension shelves and drawers in lower cabinets
- Toe kick area at the base of lower cabinets: 9-10" high by 6" deep
- Vertical (pantry style) cabinets with pull out shelving for most often used items
- Waste and recycling container on pull-out drawers in lower cabinets
- Side by side refrigerator/freezer w/ full extension shelves
- Rounded corners on counter tops

- Side hinged doors on oven and microwave that is under center island
- Dishwasher elevated 8" above the floor
- Front-mounted controls with easy to read print on all appliances
- Knee space under sink and cooktop
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Bathrooms

- 36" wide swinging doors with lever handles and/or pocket doors as a space saving alternative
- Multiple-height vanities with flexible knee space under the sink
- Toe kick area at the base of lower cabinets: 9-10" high
- Electrical wall outlets 18" above the floor

Wardrobe/Laundry

- Front-loading washer and dryer with front controls

installed on a raised storage platform. Platform is 15.5" and contains storage for laundry essentials.

- Utility sink with knee space underneath

Bedrooms

- Light switches are illuminated rocker switches
- The hardwood floor is easy to keep dust free and is wheelchair friendly.
- 36" of clear space around the king size bed
- Casement windows with locks that are reachable from a seated position
- 36" wide door which allows for 32" clearance
- Pocket door leading to bathroom to save space

This is just a partial listing of accessible features. For an entire list go to www.udll.com