House with a zero-step entrance

Universal Green Design

Housing solutions for all ages

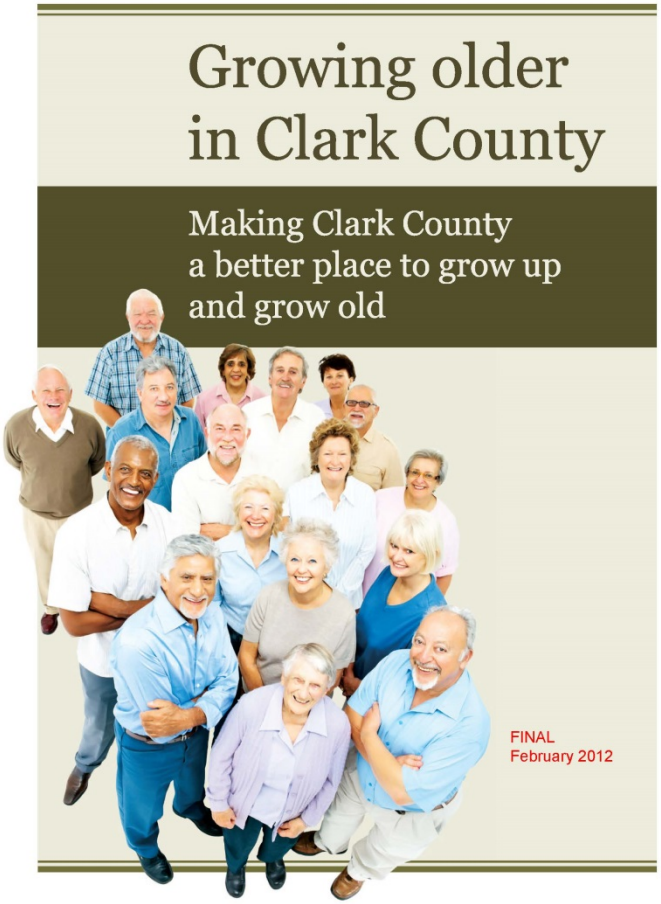
UNIVERSAL GREEN DESIGN
A home to last a lifetime

CLARK COUNTY COMMISSION on AGING

Aging Readiness Plan

Housing goals:

- Needs and expectations change with age
- Strong preference to stay in own home, community
- Availability, affordability, and variety of options can affect the ability to remain independent



Our homes should be designed for….

- Comfort
- Safety
- Change
- Independence
- Energy efficiency

We shouldn’t have to…

struggle with something big.

We shouldn’t have to…

find it hard to use everyday places.

We shouldn’t have to…

strain to see.

We shouldn’t have to…

stretch and reach.

We shouldn’t have to…

be forced to move because our home doesn’t work any more.

There is a better way to design our homes…..

UNIVERSAL
GREEN
DESIGN

A home to last a lifetime

What is Universal Green Design?

- It is one solution that works for everyone
- An idea of making things comfortable and convenient for people who:
  - Have families with young children
  - Want to stay in their home as they grow older
  - Want to simplify their housekeeping
  - Are taller or shorter than average
  - Need extra help getting around
  - Want to lower their energy bills

ENTRANCE, EXTERIOR AND MAIN AREAS

- Open space inside front door
- Peepholes at different heights for children and adults, or long glass panel by door
- Lighted doorbell
- Covered entryway with bench or shelf
- Large, simple house numbers
- Level walkways flanked by solar lights
- Easy access to electrical panel, water shut-off, energy-efficient water heater and thermostat
- Audio and visual smoke and carbon monoxide detectors
- Native plants for easy care

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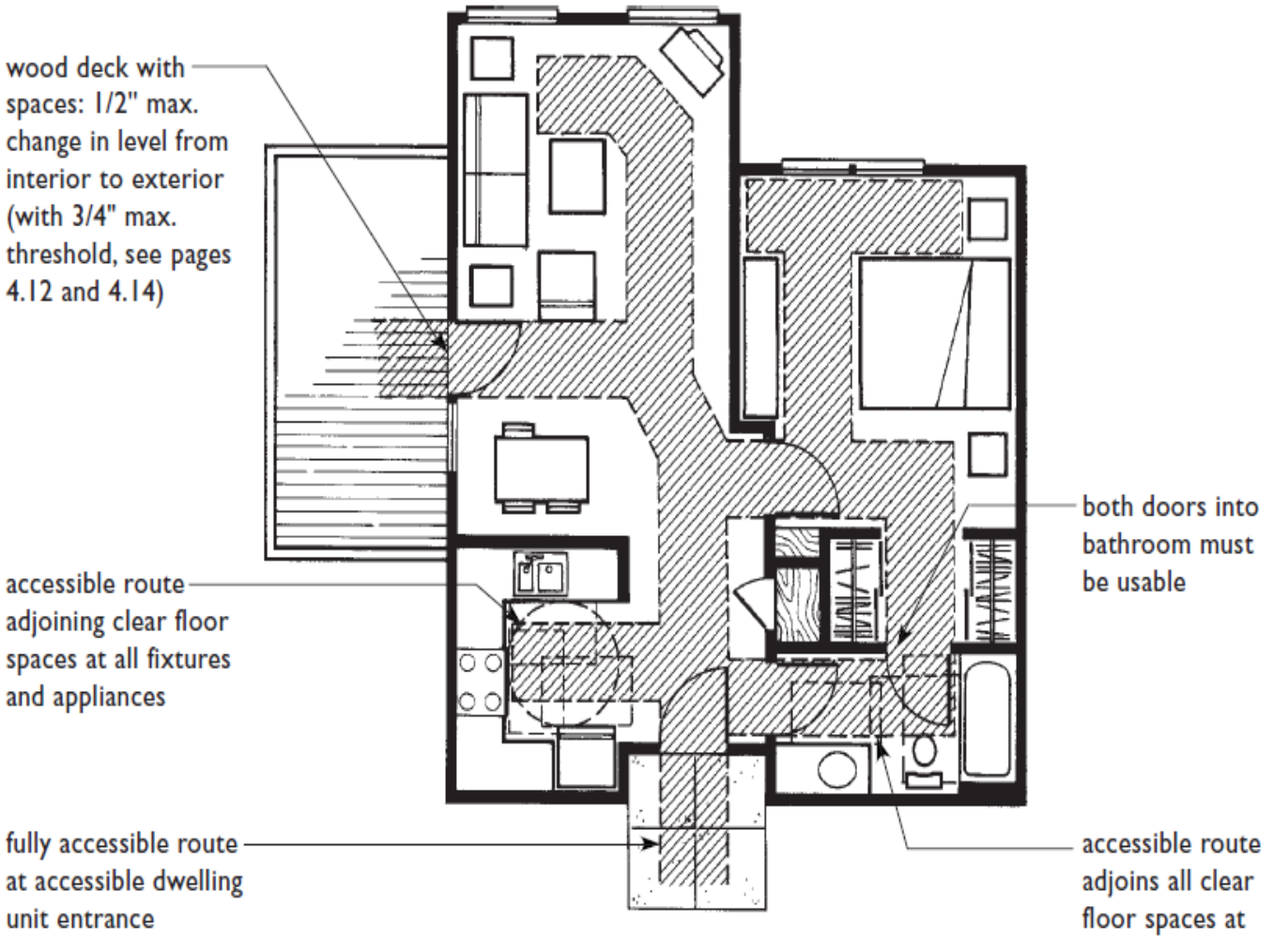

36-Inch Wide Minimum Accessible Route Through Dwelling Unit

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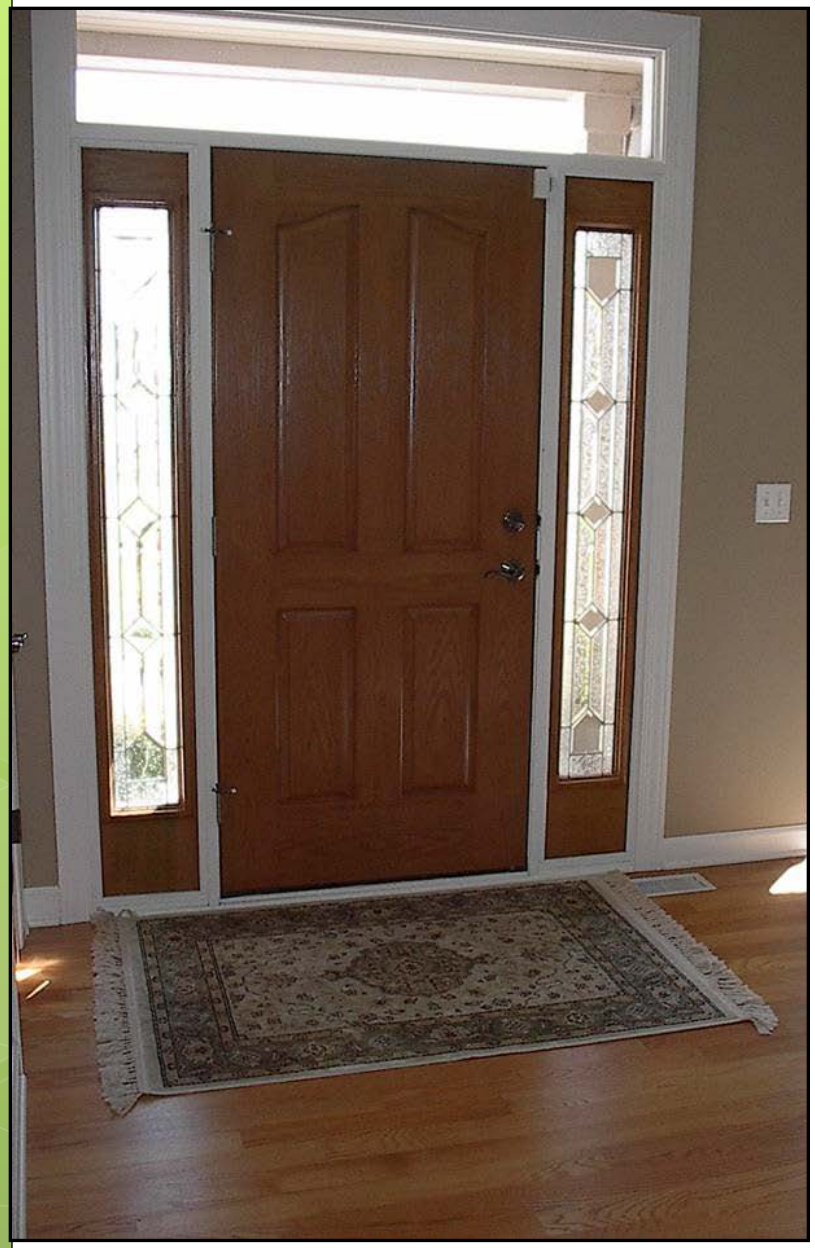

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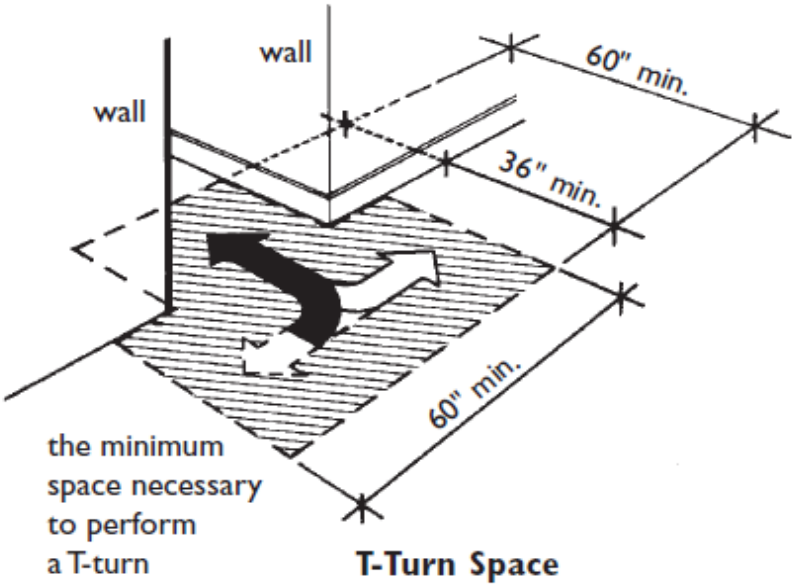
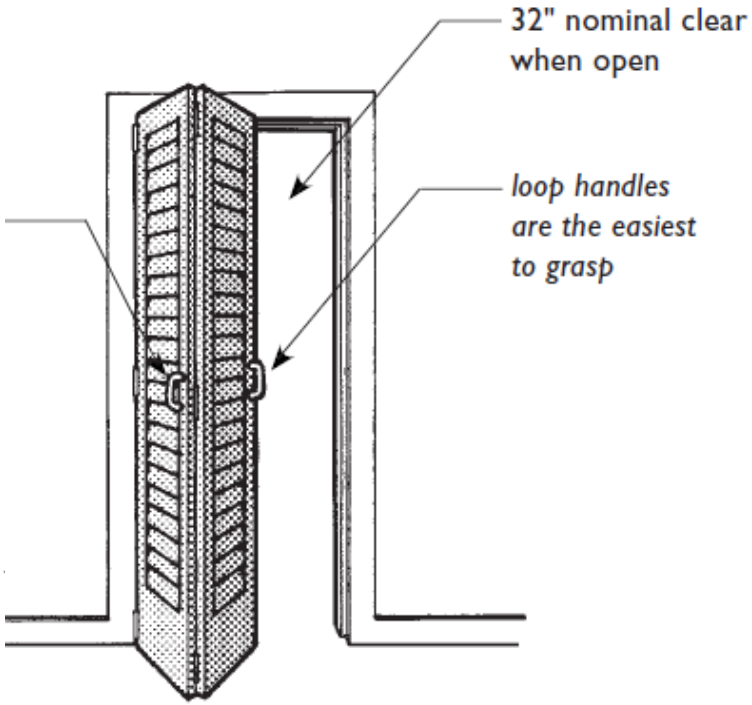


T-Turn Space



Usable Folding Door

KITCHEN

- Counters/workspaces at different heights
- Pull-out, adjustable shelves and drawers
- Drop-down shelves in upper cabinets
- Removable cabinet doors under sink
- Rounded cabinet and counter edges
- Color-contrast counter edging
- Folding lower cabinet doors
- Dishwasher on platform or over storage

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BATHROOM

- Lower, water-saving toilet for children; higher one for older adults
- Easy-to-reach or wall-mounted toilet flush
- Adjustable-height, hand-held shower head
- Curbless shower with built-in or folding seat
- Reinforced walls for shower- and toilet-area grab bars
- Plumbing at wall for clear access under sink, or wall-mounted sink
- Full-length, wall-mounted mirror

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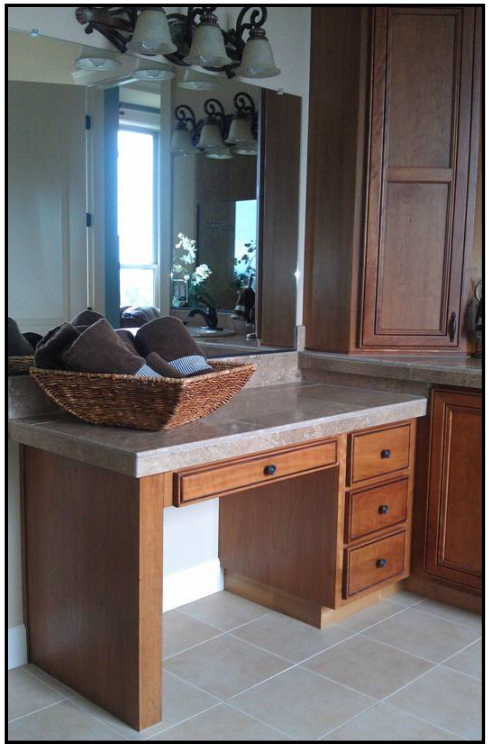

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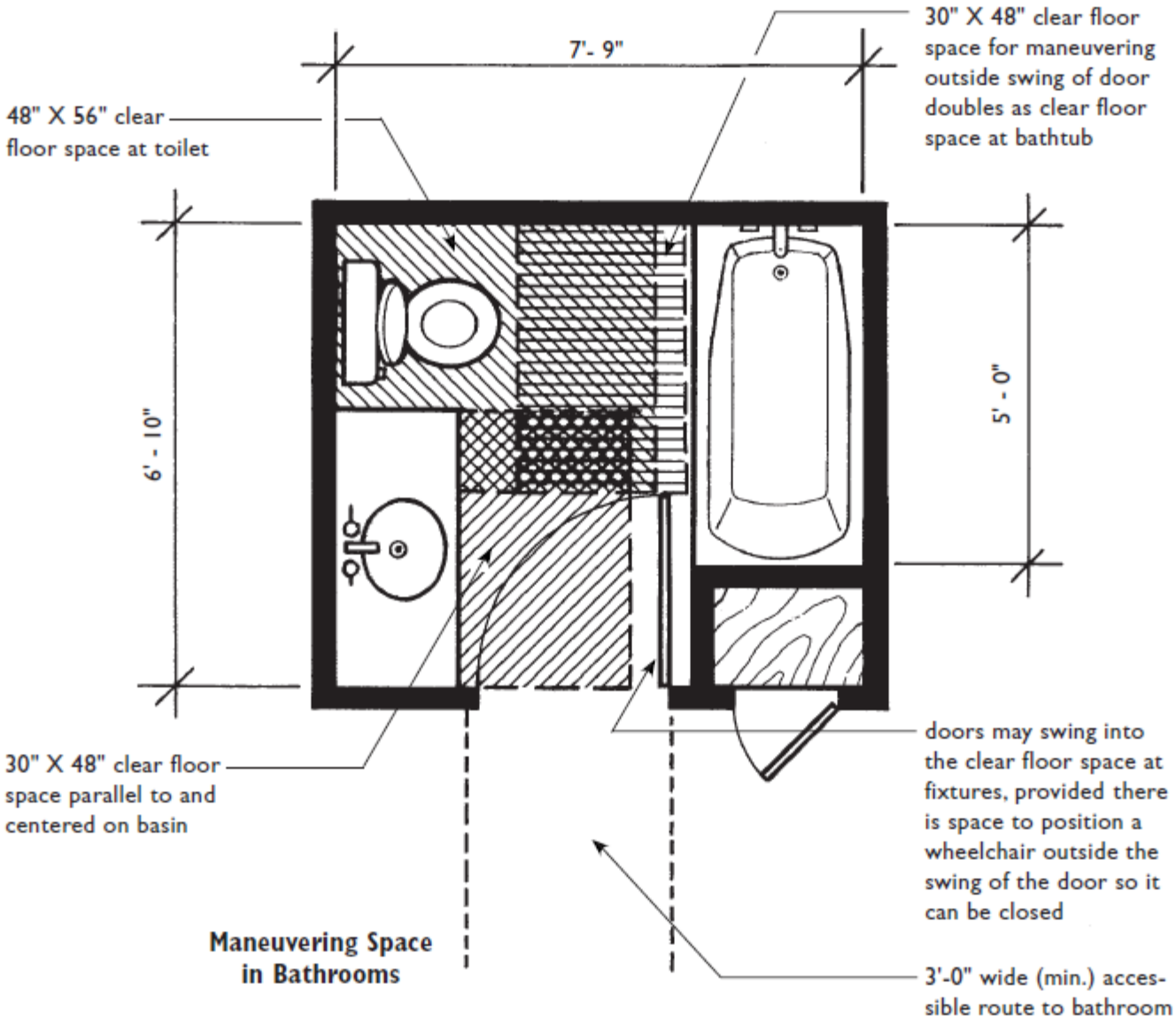

Maneuvering Space in Bathrooms

BEDROOM

- Clear access to bed, closet and window
- Extra outlets and switches near bed
- Adjustable closet rods, shelves, counter tops
- Emergency exit to outside
- Pocket or sliding interior doors

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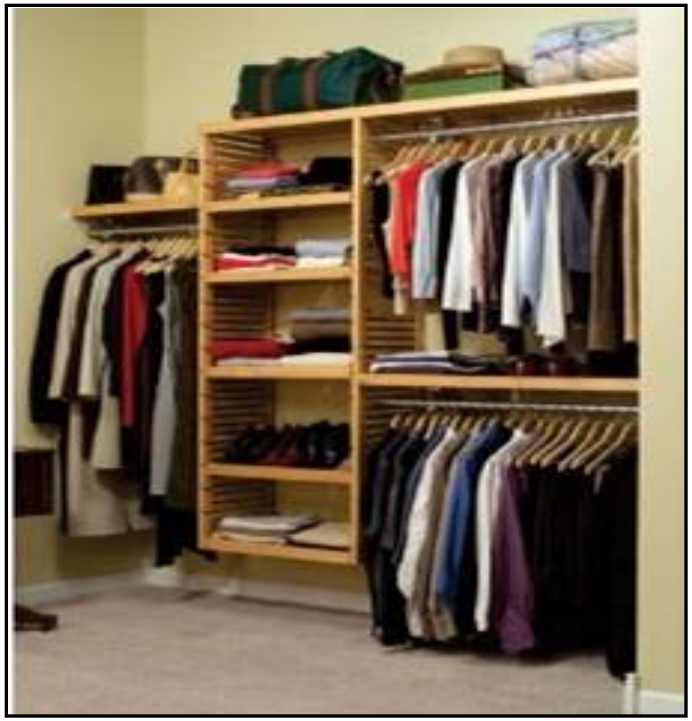

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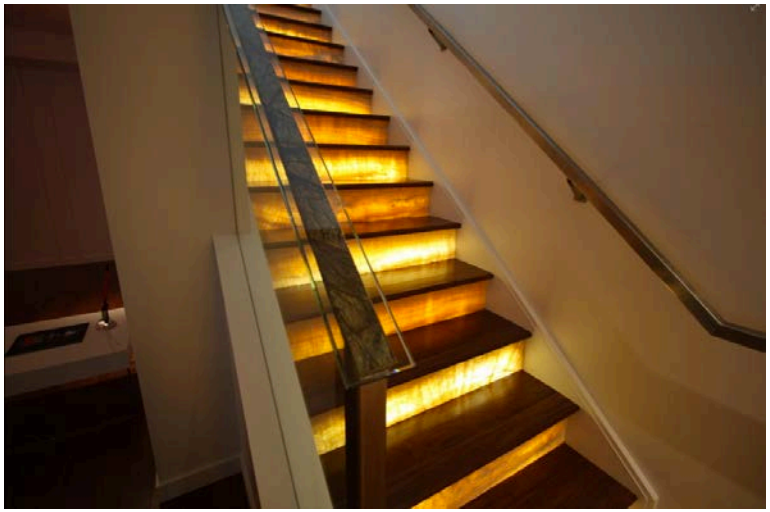

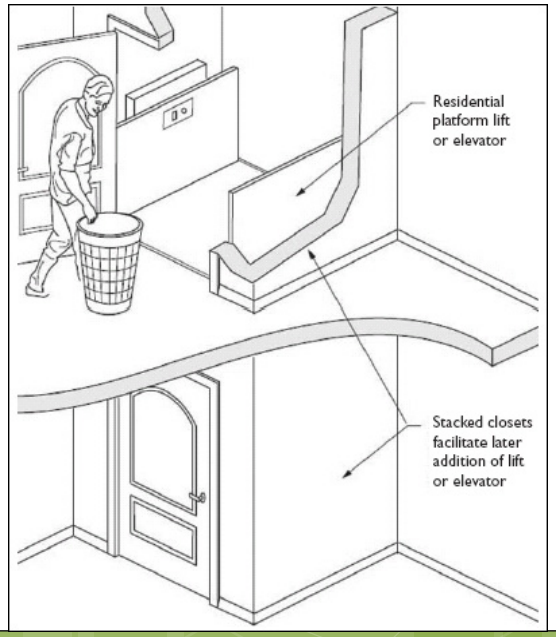

For more information

- Iowa Program for Assistive Technology
  - www.uiowa.edu/infotech/universalhomedesign.htm
- Ohio State University Extension
  - http://ehe.osu.edu/cs/ud/
- NC State University Center for Universal Design
  - http://www.ncsu.edu/project/design-projects/udi/
- Clark County
  - www.clark.wa.gov/aging
  - www.planetclark.com