



These NanaWalls open to create a four-season patio and large outdoor living space.



It takes 16 days to do an electrical rough-in for the average home, but it took six months for this home, says builder Brad Brown. Features such as energy-efficient LED lighting, motorized window coverings, automated elevator doors, high-end home automation, a backup generator and specialty lighting had a lot to do with it.

FORM FOLLOWS FUNCTION

Barrier-free home is worry-free for residents.

STORY **AMY LaMAR**

PHOTOGRAPHY **JEFFREY BEBEE**



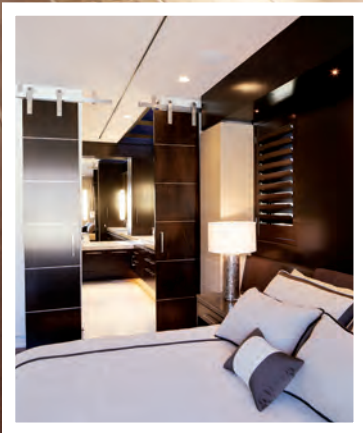
His wife would hold her breath. That's how difficult it was for him to get around in the family's former multi-level, multi-room home of 20-plus years.

"I've become a good faller," he says jokingly about his disabling disease. He relies on a mobility device or cane since he can no longer walk using his own strength.

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The bar is made of white onyx with LED lighting and is the focal point of the main living space.



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Their new home will continue to adapt to the homeowner's needs – but you wouldn't know it's barrier-free. Many of the state-of-the-art elements, such as the ceiling track lift system in the master bathroom, were designed to look like architectural design features. And components like the framed stone mobility device recharging station in the kitchen may as well be a piece of art.

Project leader and builder Brad Brown of Archistructure has been building luxury barrier-free residences for 15 years – including homes for two quadriplegics. He enjoys challenging traditional design standards and what he refers to as “staying ahead of the curve.”

“Sixty percent of the population is over age 50, so it's about sustainability in our homes,” he says. “People say they are in their last house, but for how long? The hospital won't release you for something as simple as a knee surgery if your home isn't set up correctly.”

Brown completed his first barrier-free project in 2000 – the Omaha Symphony show house in Linden Estates. “Back then it seemed like a futuristic concept,” he says.

‘SEAMLESSLY’ BARRIER-FREE

While it was not out of the question to make the existing home on the lot barrier-free, it quickly became more cost-efficient to tear it down and build new. Thankfully, the homeowners say, their neighbors were patient throughout the demolition and building process.

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⬆ “Say barrier-free home and people ask, ‘Oh, is it a ranch?’” quips builder Brad Brown. This Frank Lloyd Wright-inspired home has three levels.

⬅ The ceiling track system in the master bathroom and bedroom features a lift docking station and a sling harness with turntables to the shower, stool and closet. “It's in place if it's needed,” the homeowner says.

A photograph of an outdoor patio and pool area. In the foreground, there's a swimming pool. Around the pool, there are several colorful Adirondack chairs in yellow, green, red, and blue. A small table with a lantern is also visible. The background shows a lush green lawn and a white fence.

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A photograph of a bedroom with a bed covered in a white and floral patterned duvet. There are several pillows, including one with a floral pattern and one with a green and white checkered pattern. The background is a large window with a view of greenery.

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room in your home

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Brown appreciated the homeowners’ trust. “They knew enough about what they wanted, but they trusted us to take it to the next level.”

Features include a Lutron lighting system that creates lit pathways and “lighting zones” throughout the home to minimize tripping hazards. There are stainless steel profiles on the custom-designed baseboards to minimize damage from mobility devices. And all of the doors are 3 feet wide with thresholds that are flush with the floor.

The same can be said for the shower floors, on which there are no “curbs,” and the tile floor, which features hand-flattened grout seams.

CONTEMPORARY-RUSTIC STYLE

Although the homeowners knew they had different decorating styles, they weren’t sure what to call them. They weren’t particular about materials or where they were sourced from either. So they pinned what they liked from online galleries and left the rest up to designer Lisa Schrager of LMK Concepts.

“She has better taste than all of us put together,” the homeowner quips.

The result is a contemporary-rustic style that leans more rustic or contemporary depending on which room you’re in. For example, the “man cave” resembles a high-tech hunting lodge. High-tech is a theme throughout the house, as the homeowner has the ability to access the lighting, sound, geothermal heating/cooling system and security cameras from his iPhone – anywhere in the world.

Meanwhile, his wife loves the amenities in the sleek and modern kitchen.

“I am using every inch of these,” she says about the Eurowood Cabinetry. “We used to have stuff out on the counter and now I have almost floor-to-ceiling storage.”

Like in most homes, the kitchen and adjoining living space are primary hangouts for this busy family. They like the openness and the view of the backyard year-round pool and four-season patio.

In fact, one of the homeowner’s favorite things to do is dim the lights and look out onto the pool area at night. “It’s casual and relaxing,” he says. “We aren’t formal people. We like blue jeans and tennis shoes.”

And this home invites just that – for years to come.



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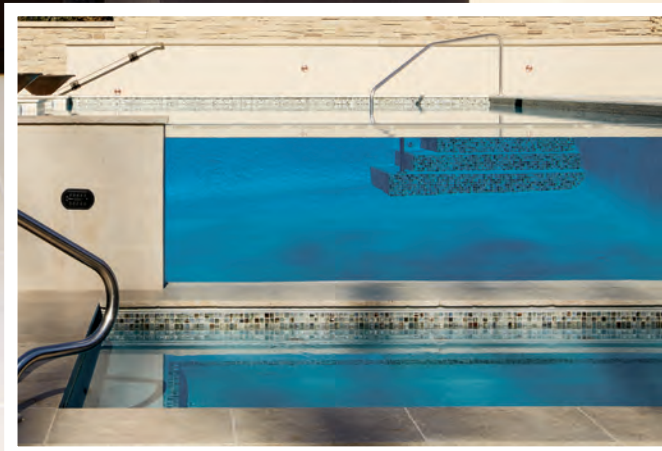



"The only one who misses the carpeting is our dog," the homeowners say about the predominately limestone, maple and hardwood floors.





The lower level of this home is perfect for entertaining and family gatherings. Escape to the "man cave," enjoy a glass of wine in the state-of-the-art wine cellar or open the 20-foot-tall glass wall from the kitchen area to the outdoor pool and spa.



The year-round pool resembles an aquarium with its 5-foot-tall glass walls. 

The countertop cascades down the side of the bar and rolls into a footrest, which wraps around the entire bar. The footrest is supported by a steel-embedded base. 