



Many people equate universal design (UD) with ADA (Americans with Disabilities Act) design guidelines, but they are not the same concept. To help you remember the difference, keep in mind that the word universal means all-inclusive or all-embracing.

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Welcome to Home Styles

Welcome to the flagship issue of Atlanta Design & Build's new *Home Styles* newsletter. We are privileged to reconnect with you, our "ADB Family", new friends and associates. Our hope is you will enjoy the content and receive *Home Styles* as our gift of thanks. You are the reason we are here!

At Atlanta Design & Build, we are focused on the future with eager anticipation. This publication is the first of many new and exciting things ahead. Our office relocation after 17 years has spurred many physical changes and improvements. Plans are also underway for a fresh and improved website, blogs and monthly eNewsletters, in addition to *Home Styles* in print quarterly.

Through each touch point our intent is to re-introduce you to ADB for you to know us better. You may be familiar with our company through a beautiful deck, screened porch, kitchen or bath renovation we completed. We look forward to broadening your perspective by sharing our skills with basements, whole house renovations and room additions. We also wish to describe in greater detail our exclusive *HomeStyle System*, the platform for "Transforming Homes and Enriching Lives" which ensures the

delivery of quality renovation products and client experience.

It's a privilege to share our experience and expertise as a full-service design build firm. We offer you one-stop shopping for all your remodeling needs. You can expect creative design solutions, professional working drawings, a cost that matches your budget, expert construction and, of course, an outstanding finished product. Your project is then backed with our two-year *HomeStyle* warranty, which is twice the industry standard.

If you have comments on what you see in *Home Styles*, renovation questions or plans—give us a call: 770-565-8999 or email: info@atlantadb.com. We'd love to hear from you.

H. Dale Contant, MCR, CRPM, UDCP
President | Principal Owner
Atlanta Design & Build



Awesome August Awards

We are pleased to announce that in August 2015 Atlanta Design & Build was chosen as one of *Qualified Remodeler* magazine's **Top 500** full-service remodelers in the nation. In the same month, we were also named to *Remodeling* magazine's list of the country's **550** largest home improvement businesses. These two lists are considered benchmarks for

performance in the national remodeling industry, and we're proud to be included. On a local level, we're excited that in August ADB was selected for *Atlanta Business Chronicle's* 2015 **Top 20** list of Residential Remodeling Contractors. Our thanks goes out to all our wonderful clients, employees and suppliers for helping us reach these milestones. ■

All-Embracing Bathrooms

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Photo: Courtesy of Kohler (www.kohler.com)



Photo: Courtesy of Fleurco (www.fleurco.com)

Here's a concrete example: You may own a set of standard sockets and wrenches for working on your older GM pickup truck, but then you also need a metric set for your newer Toyota vehicle. Now, if you purchase a universal socket and wrench set, it will replace both your metric and standard sockets and wrenches with a unique design that automatically adjusts to any size or shape.

In a similar way, ADA design guidelines help meet the particular accessibility needs of a specific homeowner, ensuring the home environment functions well for that individual. Whereas, UD strives to build an environment that enhances the experience for people of all ages and abilities, making their surroundings safer, more user-friendly and more aesthetically pleasing.

Universal design celebrates the fact that there is always variation in human ability—some of us wear eyeglasses and some do not; we have different body sizes and shapes. The environment UD seeks to form is one where the broadest spectrum of people possible can feel confident, comfortable and in control. A universally designed bathroom is not intended to include every assistive device that may be necessary for someone who is experiencing a disability. UD does not try to find a solution to a specific challenge. Instead, UD seeks to create attractive environments where accessibility is so deeply embedded in the design that people do not even notice it.

All they are aware of is that your home is a beautiful place where everything is amazingly convenient for multiple generations, including children, teens, adults and the elderly.

So, when you are planning your next bathroom remodel, do not be afraid to include UD principles in the design. Doing so will not make your bathroom look cold and institutional. A universally designed bathroom can have the amenities and the warm, comfortable look and feel of a luxury spa retreat, while enabling almost anyone to use the space. It allows visitability. It is the kind of smart design we all want to have in our homes.

Bathroom features often include:

1. Sliding or pocket doors with openings 34" - 36" wide
2. Curbless showers
3. Shower seats
4. Detachable hand showers
5. Roll-under vanities with step stools
6. Lever handles on faucets and doors
7. Thermostatic mixing valves
8. Grab bars
9. Slip-resistant flooring
10. Layered lighting with motion-sensors

New Product Introductions



Photo: Courtesy of Kohler (www.kohler.com)

INTELLIGENT TOILETS

QUEST FOR CLEAN AIR

What is the best way to clear the air in your home if it is stale and stuffy or musty and muggy? New research challenges some of the long-held assumptions people often have. The following information should help you debunk some common myths and misconceptions about the air you breathe at home.

Myth No. 1: The air inside a home is cleaner than the air outside.

According to the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency, indoor levels of many pollutants may be 25 to even 100 times higher than outdoor levels. The increased level of pollutants is due in part to homes being constructed more tightly without adequate ventilation. To identify the levels of pollutants in a home, have the air in your home tested for common pollutants, such as carbon dioxide, odors, chemical vapors and airborne particles.

Myth No. 2: Air fresheners and scented candles can help get rid of unwanted odors in the home.

Air fresheners and scented candles do not actually improve the quality of the air in a home. In fact, the EPA confirms that burning incense and candles with lead-core wicks can release contaminants and potentially harmful chemicals into the air. In addition, these products are often purchased to cover up an underlying indoor air quality issue, such as musty odors or tobacco smoke, which would

be better addressed through the use of a whole-home air cleaner connected to the home's central air system.

Myth No. 3: Opening a window is a good way to air out a house and get rid of harmful indoor air pollutants.

When you open a window, outdoor allergens like pollen can enter the home and potentially aggravate the symptoms of allergy and asthma sufferers. The best way to enjoy the fresh-air feel of an open window is to install a heat- or energy-recovery ventilator that exchanges stale, re-circulated indoor air with fresh, filtered outside air, with virtually little or no heat or energy loss.

Myth No. 4: Because your central heating and cooling system already has an air filter, the air you breathe is clean.

Some filters are designed to trap and capture indoor air pollutants better than others. It's best to look for a filter with a MERV rating of 10 or higher for effective filtration and to protect your heating and cooling system. In addition, high-efficiency filtration products, such as media air cleaners and HEPA filters, go way beyond traditional fiberglass panel

filters to capture the smallest particles and biological pollutants to create a healthier home environment.

Myth No. 5: Portable, stand-alone air cleaners are an effective way to improve the air you breathe.

Millions of portable room air cleaners are sold each year, but some of these products actually could be adding to the pollution in a home. In fact, a study funded by the National Science Foundation found that several ionic air purifiers can produce detectable levels of ozone, which is a known lung irritant. Purchasing a single, whole-home system instead of multiple room units is usually more effective and cost-efficient for homeowners. ■



When flu and cold season hits, we all become more conscious of the need to prevent germs from spreading from one person to another. With these touchless toilets, a simple wave of the hand activates a sensor on the inside of the toilet tank to flush, eliminating the need to touch the tank lever and potentially spread germs.

The sleek styling of Kohler's San Souci toilet offers a concealed trapway which also helps with sanitation in your bathroom. The one-piece design is seamless and easy to clean.

The FlushIQ toilet by Delta offers other great benefits as well. Have you ever watched helplessly as the water was rising in your bathroom's toilet bowl, threatening to overrun? This new toilet has a sensor on the back of the bowl that monitors the water level and if the level rises to a critical point, the sensor will prevent additional flushes until the issue is resolved. Another built-in sensor identifies possible tank leaks, which could save you water and money. ■



Photo: Courtesy of Delta (www.deltafaucet.com)

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Save the Date!

The **NARI Atlanta 2015 Tour of Remodeled Homes** is taking place on **Sat., Oct. 24, from 10am to 4pm** and we would love to see you there! The Tour features eight remodeled homes along the Highway 400 corridor, including one very special home that we recently had the pleasure of renovating. Come and talk to us about how this home was completely re-engineered and transformed into an open, connected gathering space for our clients. Rooms included on the tour are the kitchen/keeping room, dining room, family room, master bathroom and basement.

All proceeds from ticket sales will be donated to CURE Childhood Cancer. There is just no way to adequately describe the impact of this wonderful organization, other than to send you to their website and encourage you to read some of the amazing stories featured there: curechildhoodcancer.org. The organization's vision is to beat childhood cancer in our lifetime. We are thrilled that the Tour this year is dedicated to CURE's mission of funding targeted research and supporting patients and their families.

Scan the QR code to get your tour map and tickets or visit online: atlantaremodelingtour.com



Photography by Barbara Brown Photography



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YOUR SNEAK PREVIEW OF THE TOUR



After meeting us at the 2012 Spring Atlanta Home Show our clients chose Atlanta Design & Build for their master bath makeover. This couple was a delight to work with and we were so pleased that the completed master bathroom fulfilled their vision for updated style and function. On our Customer Project Questionnaire, they responded, "We had design ideas, but ADB showed us how to maximize the existing infrastructure of the room in order to best accomplish our goals." We realized that our performance on their bathroom project gave them confidence to contract with ADB the following year for a much larger kitchen project.

The Kitchen/Dining/Keeping room renovation involved significant structural modification to create a wonderful open floorplan that enhances the traffic flow between work centers and spaces.

When the main floor living space was complete, our clients focused on their outdated basement, wanting to turn it into a space for family fun. Removing hallways and walls allowed us to design a gathering space that includes a game area and a sports bar. A state-of-the-art home theatre sets the stage for the ultimate sports entertainment.

Come and walk through this spectacular home during the **NARI Atlanta 2015 Tour of Remodeled Homes on Sat., Oct. 24, from 10am to 4pm**. We will be on-hand to answer your questions about this project and to discuss your desires for your home.



Photography by Barbara Brown Photography