



Aging in Place in Style

UNIVERSAL DESIGN -- BATH

Our clients, a retired couple, wanted to create a brand-new main floor bathroom as part of a larger addition that would allow them to age in place gracefully. They recognize that accessibility may become necessary in the future. Their objective was clear: build a beautiful, modern bathroom with subtle universal design features that provide both safety and independence—without sacrificing aesthetics.

Ironically, during construction, the homeowner underwent foot surgery. This real-time experience sharpened her perspective on accessibility needs and confirmed the importance of every thoughtful design choice.





Client Needs

The clients' main objective was to prepare for the future without creating a space that felt like a "handicap bathroom." This was achieved beautifully.

Age in place gracefully: all accessibility features are integrated subtly into the design.

Safety now and later: grab bars, curbless entry, and wide clearances provide immediate support and future adaptability.

Elegance over sterility: bold tile, layered lighting, and warm finishes deliver a sophisticated, spa-like retreat.

Peace of mind: knowing that they can remain in their beloved home, no matter what health challenges may come.

Functionality

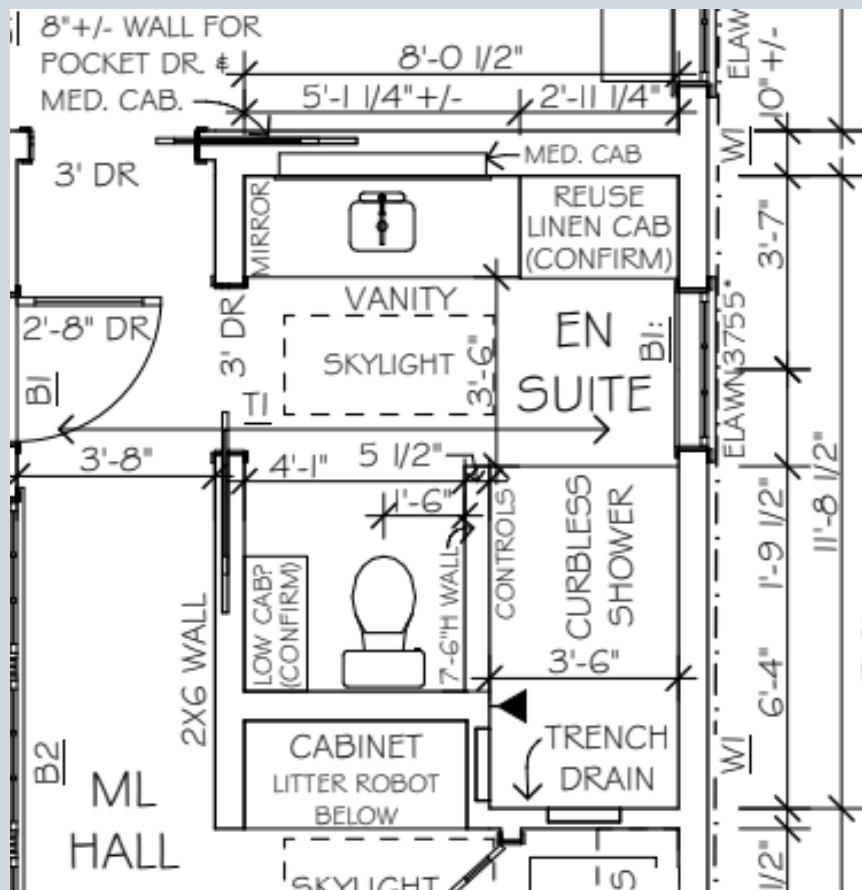
Every element of this bathroom was designed to anticipate the clients' future needs, while remaining fully functional today.

- 36" pocket door ensures barrier-free entry.
- Curbless shower with a fold-down bench, grab bars, and a linear drain ensures easy wheelchair access and safe showering.
- Custom vanity with a removable center section (secured with six screws) allows for quick wheelchair conversion. The wall and floor behind are fully tiled for immediate usability.
- Cabinet next to the toilet can be removed to allow for full wheelchair accessibility or room for an aid.
- Grab bars already installed in shower and toilet areas for fall prevention.
- Large linen cabinet provides ample storage.
- Bidet seat adds comfort and improved hygiene.
- Clearances and spacious layout allow for future in-home care if necessary.

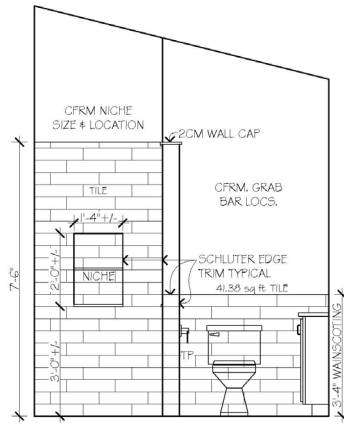




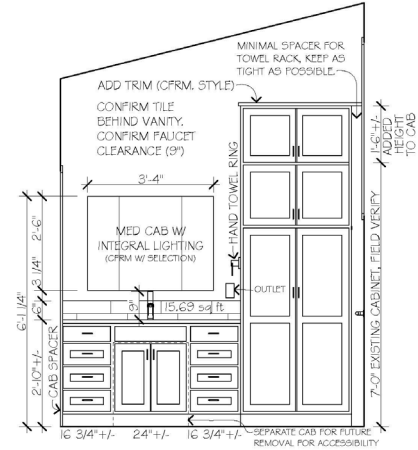
The grab bar can be down, up, or completely removed.



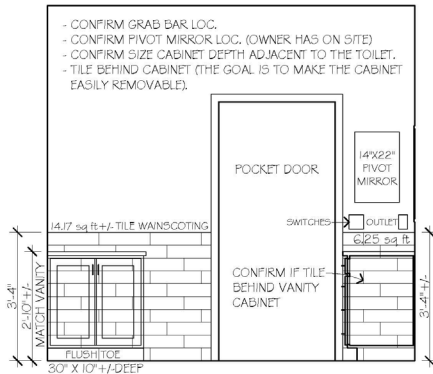
Plans



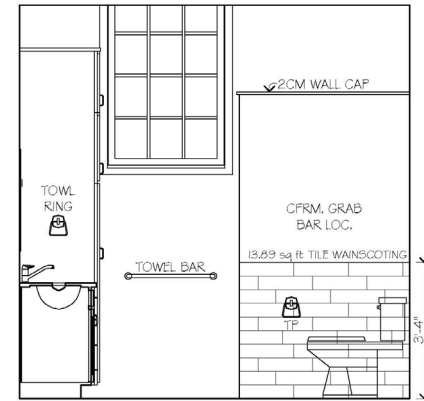
4 EN SUITE SOUTH
SCALE: 1/2"=1'-0"



1 EN SUITE NORTH
SCALE: 1/2"=1'-0"



5 EN SUITE WEST 1
SCALE: 1/2"=1'-0"



3 EN SUITE EAST 2
SCALE: 1/2"=1'-0"



Aesthetics

This bathroom proves that universal design can be both functional and stunning.

- A bold feature wall of vibrant tile anchors the space, adding personality and visual interest.
- Neutral-toned wall tile and porcelain floor tile provide balance, texture, and timeless elegance.
- A large window and overhead skylight bathe the space in natural light while preserving privacy—the window is placed high enough that blinds rarely need to be closed.
- A soft ribbon LED sconce creates a warm glow, while additional lighting layers add depth and drama.
- The result is a spa-like retreat that looks anything but institutional.



Innovation

The project integrates cutting-edge solutions that elevate both comfort and independence.

- Medicine cabinet mirror with integrated lighting and internal outlets keeps counters clutter-free.
- Hydronic radiant in-floor heat ensures year-round comfort.
- Heated towel bar with programmable switch adds a luxury touch.
- Lighted shaving mirror in the shower offers convenience and safety.
- Automated blinds combine privacy and ease of use and help users with limited mobility operate them easily
- We used Warmboard aluminum-coated radiant floor panels, which deliver heat 3 to 7 times faster than a traditionally set hydronic tubing in gypcrete.

Craftsmanship

Attention to detail was paramount in delivering a seamless and functional result.

- Custom cabinetry designed to fit the space perfectly, with removable components that remain aesthetically integrated.
- Tile craftsmanship: perfectly pitched curbless shower floor with linear drain, meticulously aligned tile patterns extending through shower niches, stain-resistant grout for durability.
- Quartz countertops, porcelain flooring, and ceramic wall tile provide both elegance and easy maintenance.
- Every surface was selected for durability, safety, and effortless cleaning.
- Custom floor joists were built to allow for proper pitch for the curbless shower while accommodating in-floor heating tubes.



