

What is Universal Design?

To better understand the concept of Universal Design, consider this excerpt from Infnitec.org:

Accessible housing doesn't simply mean a house with a ramp or lift anymore. Today, the concept of universal design extends to all—old, young, tall, short, disabled, non-disabled. A recent visit to a tall friend's newly constructed condominium was very encouraging because I noticed the developers positioned his sink and stove higher to accommodate his height! Today's contemporary values require personal comfort at the least—not just for people with disabilities! Words like "barrier free" and "ergonomic" are now part of the common vocabulary.

Therefore, modifying one's home is merely customizing it. Nothing more, nothing less. Universal design accommodates all—from small children to elderly, and it's a worthwhile consideration in the planning stages of house design if a homeowner is planning to stay in the same house after retirement. Installing lever-type door handles, for example, or wheelchair accessible entrances and bathrooms isn't any more expensive than regular knobs and doorways.

When accessibility features are added everyone is welcome. Home modifications can accommodate everyone from persons with mobility impairments to those with vision loss, hearing loss or even cognitive or developmental disabilities. Everyone's home can be safe and comfortable. What's more, businesses catering to the disability community have exploded. From homebuilders to cabinetmakers, manufacturers of kitchen appliances to bathroom fixtures, they all offer adapted versions of their regular products.

Source: Infnitec.org
Infinite Potential Through Assistive Technology