



GROWING WITH THE GENERATIONS

Considerations for guests young and old prompted a smart and modern update in the case of a beautiful Prairie Village home. Design was key to making sure the household is ready and able to accommodate the needs and wishes of growing grandchildren and visits from aging parents.

“I had drawn up designs and knew what I wanted to improve,” the homeowner says. “It was just a matter for finding the right person who matched my design sensibility.”

After seeing Lisa Schmitz’s website and work, the homeowner instinctively knew they were on the same page for the remodel of the downstairs bathroom and guest bedroom. Knowing it would benefit the homeowner’s 90-year-old father, Schmitz suggested making the room accessible with a walker or wheelchair.

That consideration was in part responsible for creating an open guest bedroom enhanced by beautiful natural light, including widening doorways and allowing ample access to the toilet and shower. By minimizing the furniture footprint, Schmitz could focus on a modern and architectural design. This included a simple and symmetrical bedroom design using a custom-made bed and bedside tables. In order to achieve this balance, the contractor, Schmitz Remodeling, moved an existing coat closet on the opposite side of the wall, which featured prominently in the home’s entryway. The move provided the dual benefit of a larger and more centered closet in the entryway and additional space to recess the bedroom’s custom headboard and bedside tables against the closet’s back wall.

On each side of the headboard, built-in stained Ash Maple cabinets offer linen storage, and the bedside tables feature modern black accents in the form of steel hardware and lamps. On the opposite wall, Schmitz repeated the use of the custom Ash in the space-saving, floor-to-ceiling closet, which features custom warm LED lighting triggered upon opening. Wool carpet cushions the floor and provides the added benefit of easy maneuvering for wheelchair and walker wheels.

Keeping the room’s focus modern and sleek, Schmitz added a console and desk designed by Lisa Schmitz Interior Design and built by Matt Castilleja and pottery from local artist Erica Iman. Art the homeowner purchased from Weinberger Fine Art on Southwest Boulevard graces the walls.

Gaining valuable real estate from the bedroom alternations allowed for enlargement of the master suite and the creation of a straight path into the bathroom from both the guest bedroom and the adjacent hallway. A deep tub featuring marble from Carthage Stone Works is the highlight of the now-spacious bathroom, complemented by Calcutta Gold subway tiles, which add a subtle warmth.

One tricky request included recessing the toilet behind the vanity so it was not visible from the front hall. Once in place, the contractor, Schmitz and homeowner agreed it was the perfect solution. As to not to draw the focus away from the striking marble slab, the rest of the room’s design remains simple, yet elegant, with brushed nickel fixtures, modern accents and a large mirror framed in walnut.

Without a doubt, this collaboration will beautifully accommodate multiple generations for years to come.

