

all-access

▶ ACCESSIBLE AND MODERN. THAT'S THE DESIGN COMBO THIS FUN-LOVING FAMILY NEEDED FOR THEIR HOME TO LIVE EASIER. SEE HOW THEY MAKE IT ALL WORK—AND THEN SOME.

pass

CLEAN SLATE
Painting the original brick white helps collections and photos stand out.

SPACE TO PLAY
Lots of open, clutter-free floor space makes Amy and Bracken Webb's Cincinnati home work for the whole family, including a daughter who uses a wheelchair. For example, the area around their piano—a rare 1960s Baldwin Acrosonic that meshes with Amy's midcentury aesthetic—lets all three daughters easily reach it.

“Accessibility takes from no one and gives to everyone. You will never regret having a zero entrance or wider door.”

AMY WEBB

OPEN KITCHEN

To make the kitchen usable for everyone, kids dishes are stored in lower drawers with wide, easy-to-grab pulls, and the microwave is set low into the island.

Extra distance around the island (especially behind the stools) creates a more open, bottleneck-free work space.

TAP ON
Touch faucets allow their daughter to wash up with ease.



Every home could benefit from wide halls and doorways, a wheelchair-friendly bathroom, and a zero-clearance entry, says disability advocate and mom to three girls Amy Webb (@thislittlemiggy). You might not need these features now, but they'll make life easier in the future for you, your family, and visitors.

When Amy's second daughter was diagnosed with microgastria and limb reduction complex, Amy and husband Bracken knew this little girl would change their lives—not just in the way that kids always change parents, but in a more specific we-need-to-figure-this-out kind of way.

Their daughter started training with a wheelchair at 16 months. Her first power chair was the smallest on the market, and while it didn't require a lot of space to operate, the Webbs knew they would need a better-functioning home as their daughter and her wheelchair grew. The couple found a house in deep disrepair, bought it for the price of the land, and hired an architect versed in universal design (meaning accessible to everyone) to help them give it a full-scale makeover. The home needed some major work: an elevator, ramps



▲ **BREATHING ROOM** In the living room, walls were removed to open the space and make it easier to navigate. To brighten the room and keep the focus on the view through the wall-to-wall windows, the Webbs painted the ceilings and original brick fireplace white. Minimal furniture pieces arranged far apart, a low-pile rug, and a round coffee table all contribute to better traffic flow.



PUNCH IT UP

Black doors add drama to an all-white paint palette.

WARM WELCOME

The extra-wide entry hallway leads to double office doors. A secondhand bench and vintage rug set the style tone for the rest of the house. August, the family's apricot-color poodle, keeps watch.

MOODY RETREAT

One dark wall in a mostly white house makes a bold statement. Amy created the painting above the walnut wood bed Bracken built, and she hand-pieced the gray and white quilt. "I swear, it's worth \$5,000 to me," Amy jokes. "It took me months to make it." A large, colorful vintage rug ties their collections together.



STYLE CONTRAST

Airy rattan is unexpected on this midcentury-inspired light fixture.



GO UNIVERSAL
Scan this code with your phone camera for more universal design ideas to implement in your space.



LIGHTS OUT

The ceiling light and window blinds are controlled by voice command.

“When you design for someone with the least mobility or greatest physical needs, it brings greater freedom to everyone.” AMY WEBB

GOOD READS

Amy wrote *When Charley Met Emma* and *Awesome Emma* about a girl with physical differences.

AT THE READY

A low bed is easier to get in and out of. A display shelf lets their daughter keep favorite toys and books close. The lamp turns on and off with a single touch.



EASY IN
Seamless floors (without any raised lips) are wheelchair-friendly.

TWO-STEP

The girls' bathroom includes a pair of sinks at different heights, grab bars, and a transition seat. The drawer pulls are turned upside down to make them easier to grab.

BUNK ROOM

Bracken built the versatile bunk beds in their youngest's room. The top bunk is an extra sleep space for now, but it can be changed later if they want to add a desk below the loft.

at each of the three entrances, an accessible bathroom on each level, and space planning for the wheelchair's turning radius. But the couple quickly learned that even if they designed a home to meet the recommendations of the Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA), they would still have to make additional changes to suit the individual needs of their daughter. In the kitchen, the fridge moved to an open wall so it's available to everyone at all times (even during busy meal prep), and sinks were placed so she could roll up in the easiest way possible. The tweaks aren't standard, but they're what the family needed.

The Webbs meticulously considered the usability of every inch, but the style came easy. Clean white walls and neutral furniture emphasize the view of the wooded landscape. Vintage and midcentury finds and their own handmade artwork and furniture throughout add soul. “We put a lot of thought into how our home would work for all of us,” Amy says. “Because our daughter is able to live with independence, so are we.” ■

