



# INSIDE REFLECTIONS



**MAY 2023**

**DO YOU REQUIRE AN ADAPTABLE OR ACCESSIBLE BATHROOM SPACE DUE TO PHYSICAL CHALLENGES OR TO ACCOMMODATE AN AGING LOVED ONE? DO YOU ALSO WANT AN APPEALING 'EYE-CATCHING' DESIGN?**

**5 KEY TIPS ON HOW TO DESIGN AN ACCESSIBLE BATHROOM SPACE WITHOUT COMPROMISING ON BEAUTY AND STYLE!**

We are faced with so many challenges in life, which are a part of being a human being. And we often will find the strength, endurance, and fortitude to work through and overcome life's challenges. But there are some who are faced with more extreme challenges that are harder mountains to climb, but not

impossible to get to the top. The physical challenges of living life in a wheelchair are one of those life circumstances that are not ideal, but it is a reality for a pocket of people. And living within this reality, certain accommodations must be made to ensure they can live a full life and have as much independence as possible in their home environment.

And how a home space or more specifically, a bathroom space is designed plays a role in creating an accessible, safe, and independent lifestyle for wheelchair users.



*MAN IN WHEELCHAIR WASHING DISHES IN ACCESSIBLE KITCHEN DESIGN*

The main concern in the construction of an accessible bathroom space is for the design to meet all the safety and mobility requirements for a wheelchair user. And the secondary concern is for this bathroom space not to result in having a 'clinical' appearance, and instead have an eye-catching and appealing design aesthetic.

The evolution of interior design and architecture allows for the marriage of creating a bathroom space that meets accessibility requirements while not compromising on an appealing aesthetic. And with Interior Designers such as **Rodrozen Design + Build** who have expertise in designing accessible bathroom spaces with a pop of the "wow" factor; the beautiful adaptable bathroom space is within reach and can be a reality.

We will explore the 5 key design elements implemented to create an eye-catching accessible bathroom design.

To help us on this journey, SIDLER has been honoured to have **Rose Madani** who is a Senior Interior Designer at **Rodrozen Design + Build** provide her expertise and insight into the design elements used in creating an accessible bathroom space



*ROSE MADANI, SENIOR INTERIOR DESIGNER AT RODROZEN DESIGN + BUILD*

that does not compromise on style or aesthetic appeal.

**Rosed Madani** qualified with a diploma in Interior Design from **The Art Institute of Vancouver** in 2018 and a Certificate in REVIT for Interior Design and construction from the **BCIT School of Business**. Rose is passionate about space planning and interior designs that are both beautiful and simple.

**Let's jump in and take a look at the key design features of creating a stylish and accessible bathroom space!**

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## **5 DESIGN TIPS TO CREATE AN ACCESSIBLE BATHROOM SPACE WITH AMPLIFIED BEAUTY AND STYLE!!**

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### **HEIGHT AND SPACE**

When designing an accessible bathroom, the key is the relationship between height and space between bathroom fixtures and features to incorporate the space required for a wheelchair user.

In the design environment, we utilize a standard measurement of 30" by 48" to represent a wheelchair user. We then ensure space is required in all bathroom designs to ensure the wheelchair can navigate into and around these spaces. The other space requirement is a turning diameter of 5 feet to allow wheelchair users in the room to turn themselves around in a circle within a bathroom space. So, everything in the initial planning stages and layout of bathroom design takes into consideration these two concepts we will incorporate into the space.

For example, the toilet needs space around it to ensure wheelchair users can position themselves next to the toilet before transferring across. Another example is the height of a bathroom vanity counter. Have you ever walked into a bank and noticed the teller counter is a bit taller than the average desk height of 30" tall. There is a careful reason for this. Countertop heights are also required to be at a certain level considered optimal for a wheelchair user. The standard countertop height for wheelchair allowances is 36". This countertop height allows for accessibility underneath for a wheelchair while also ensuring the wheelchair user has enough room to operate the handles or reach for objects



*WEST 13TH AVENUE PROJECT - BY RODROZEN DESIGN + BUILD*



*BURHILL AVENUE PROJECT - BY RODROZEN DESIGN + BUILD*

For an adaptable bathroom, we design a bathroom space with less under the counter storage and drawers to provide enough wheelchair clearance underneath. Instead, we balance the storage capacity with some drawers under the counter and design storage space above or next to the counter. For

example, when we incorporate storage above the counterspace, we will add a mirrored cabinet in order to maximize the functionality of not only providing adequate storage space, but to also have this storage function as a mirror, and in some cases overhead lighting.



*SIDLER QUADRO MİRRORED CABINET FEATURED  
IN KAI KITSILANO MULTI-RESIDENTIAL PROJECT,  
VANCOUVER BC*

**SIDLER mirrored cabinets** is one of these design options that is a 3 in 1 functional design solution where it combines a mirror, storage and also lighting. A mirrored cabinet such as the **SIDLER Quadro** can be mounted recessed, but for accessibility it is surface mounted in order to ensure ease of reach. And if a mirrored cabinet with LED lighting is used, then there is an added bonus of lighting for the bathroom space.

### **EASY ACCESS**

When it comes to other design elements, we install on bathroom walls such as toilet paper holders or towel drying racks and light switches; we position these within better reach and slightly lower than usual to ensure a wheelchair user

can reach them more easily. We also ensure fixtures are installed within reach of a basin or toilet.



*HIGHLAND BOULEVARD PROJECT - BY RODROZEN DESIGN + BUILD*

When installing accessible doors for a wheelchair user, we must ensure that the door design swings away from the user as much as possible. This allows the wheelchair user unobstructed and easy access into and out of the bathroom or a shower. Therefore, we design the bathroom flow to maximize room for doors to swing outward and away as much as possible. Also, much like what you see in commercial designs, we can also include automatic doors or 'smart' door designs with switches to open and close doors.



*ACCESSIBLE TOILET WITH GRAB BAR - BY RODROZEN DESIGN + BUILD*

We as designers look for specific products when designing an accessible bathroom. [The American Disability Act](#) is an association who provides a [list of products that display the ADA logo](#), which indicates these products meet the requirements for accessible users. There is also an [ADA requirement guide for Canada](#) as well.



*1383 MARINASIDE CRESCENT PROJECT - BY  
RODROZEN DESIGN + BUILD*

This list contains design elements such as faucets, sinks, baths, grab bars, and toilets that all meet the ADA requirements. For example, simple accessible design considerations such as, turning a knob to operate a faucet is harder for someone in a wheelchair. So, instead we select ADA recommended faucets and fixtures that can be operated via motion sensor or with one movement rather than several repeated movements such as a lever style versus a multi-turn faucet.



*GRANVILLE STREET PROJECT - BY RODROZEN DESIGN + BUILD*

## **SHOWER AND TILE**

We design our walk-in showers so a wheelchair user can roll into and out of a shower without any lips or steps. In addition, a foldable bench is often easier to use when showering allowing for better accessibility and cleaning. These benches can easily be folded away when not in use. The alternative is we can also design a permanent bench seat, which is a very on-trend design element in bathroom design. And to further amp up shower bench adaptability, including strip lighting aids with visibility in the bathroom around bench seats.





*503 WEST 16TH AVENUE PROJECT - BY RODROZEN DESIGN + BUILD*



*RAVEN PLACE PROJECT - BY RODROZEN DESIGN + BUILD*

The best shower for a wheelchair user is one without a door. So, we often utilize glass partitions in our walk-in showers to minimize water spread while allowing a wheelchair user to get in and out without opening any glass doors. Or if a door is added, it is a 'smart' door which can swing out wide and outward with an automatic open and close function.

As designers, we ensure clients select tile surfaces that are the right type and style for their bathroom while maximizing accessibility. For example, there is no point in having a glossy and slippery finish tile on the wall or floor in the shower

space or the overall bathroom design. When there is water involved, these glossy surfaces will become slippery surfaces. Instead, we use slip-resistant materials where the tile surfaces are matte and or textured to ensure and maximize grip so, there is no slipping when the tiles are wet.

## AESTHETIC HARMONY

With some of the requirements of accessible bathroom features, we also need to ensure we do not compromise on the aesthetics of a design. Typically, there will be drawers under a basin, which is utilized to hide the unsightly plumbing underneath. However, for accessibility, the area under a basin must be kept free and unobstructed. And in some cases, this can create an unappealing design with these exposed pipes, etc. We work around these challenges by using fixtures that cover unsightly plumbing while ensuring space under the sink for a wheelchair user.



WEST 36TH AVENUE PROJECT - BY RODROZEN DESIGN + BUILD

To further amp up an an eye-catching and appealing design aesthetic in an accessible bathroom, we try to avoid designing sharp corners. Instead, we incorporate rounded and curved corners such as rounded countertops, which gives the bathroom space a sleek and modern aesthetic design for wheelchair users. So, not only does the bathroom space showcase an appealing design aesthetic, but rounded corners such as curved countertops help reduce the likelihood of injury. Also, curved design elements create a more open and larger bathroom space in order to accommodate the number of safety fixtures and accessories needed in an accessible design.

*"It's all about easy access, the height of plumbing fixtures, and incorporating as*

*many safety features as you can without compromising on the overall aesthetic of the design." - Rose Madaini, Senior Designer at Rodrozen Design + Build*



*938 NELSON STREET PROJECT - BY RODROZEN DESIGN + BUILD*

When it comes to accessible bathroom design, we always consider the functional needs first to ensure it is wheelchair friendly. And then we marry the functional requirements with aesthetic properties in the bathroom design in order to create an ideal space of accessibility with a splash of beautiful eye-catching aesthetics. For example, there is no point in opening a drawer with a beautiful ornate handle if it can't be reached or opened easily, but this does not mean there has to be a compromise on an aesthetically appealing handle that provides accessibility as well.

A bathroom space with the perfect harmony between meeting accessible requirements combined with a splash of style and beautiful design is finally within reach.

### **SMART LIGHTING**

Another accessibility design consideration is the installation of light switches. For an adaptable bathroom design, rather than having several light switches in one room; we reduce the number of switches in order to minimize the amount of reaching required to turn the lights on and off. Not only does this create a sleeker, less cluttered wall façade; it also accommodates accessibility needs.



*638 BEACH CRESCENT PROJECT - BY RODROZEN DESIGN + BUILD*



*638 BEACH CRESCENT PROJECT - BY RODROZEN DESIGN + BUILD*

As well, the evolution of technology offers many advancements where ‘smart’ home systems can now be easily controlled from a mobile device for wheelchair users who can easily use a phone or, there are voice activated systems to accommodate those who require this feature.

## **CONCLUSION**

Each individual has certain requirements, needs and aesthetic tastes when it

comes to their wants in their home or bathroom design. And Interior Designers and Architects will always work toward meeting a client's needs and desires in order to create their dream home or ideal bathroom design space.

And when it comes to those with physical challenges and who are living in a wheelchair, their requirements and needs should also be accommodated without having to make sacrifices on beauty and style. So, in the same vein as ensuring the quality of life and independence of a wheelchair user is met in their accessibility requirements, they can also enjoy a beautiful, aesthetically appealing, and stylish home or bathroom space.

Here are some other interesting and informative articles on stylish modifications you can make to create an accessible home design:

- 1) [HGTV.com article](#).
- 2) [ApartmentTherapy.com article](#).

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## What else is happening in the SIDLER world?



*SIDLER MIRRORED CABINETS AROUND THE WORLD*

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## **NEW FACES AT SIDLER!**

### **INTRODUCING NEW SIDLER BRAND AMBASSADORS!!**

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#### **JOE LAMM, THE LAMM GROUP**



*JOE LAMM, FOUNDER OF  
THE LAMM GROUP*

**Joe Lamm** as a luxury brand Sales and Manufacturing Representative is the founder of The Lamm Group. For over 30 years, Joe has provided professional sales and services to the kitchen & luxury bath industry throughout the Southeastern United States on a national level.

In providing viable products to market along with providing support and training; this has enabled Joe to cultivate and sustain long lasting relationships within the industry. His knowledge of manufacturing within the industry also plays a contributing factor to his success.

Joe has come on board as SIDLER International Ltd.'s new Brand Ambassador representing the SIDLER brand in North and South Carolina.

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#### **PREMIER DECORATIVE GROUP**



*PREMIER DECORATIVE GROUP TEAM*

**Premier Decorative Group** is a family-owned manufacturing representative and marketing group dedicated to offering the highest level of professionalism and integrity. They specialize in building relationships in a specific market segment. Their goal is to be the absolute best at what they do as partnership, trust, and Integrity are the key to their success!

Premier Decorative Group was founded in 1997 by **Mary Labowitz** and has grown to be one of the “premier” agencies in the United States. In 2003, they were voted as the DPHA National Representative Agency of the Year. With over 30 years in the plumbing industry, Premier Decorative Group covers all of the California, Northern Nevada and Arizona markets working exclusively with higher end kitchen and bath dealers, wholesale and retail distributors as well as, architects, designers, high-end builders and the hospitality industry.

PDG will be representing SIDLER International Ltd. in Northern California. The PDG Team is excited to work with SIDLER who is known for their high-caliber customer service and high-quality craftsmanship in their mirrored cabinet collections. They look forward to growing the SIDLER brand and business in the Northern California territory.

LEARN MORE ON THEIR WEBSITE [HERE!](#)

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**BECKY KEELER, KD SALES GROUP**



*BECKY KEELER, PRESIDENT &  
OWNER OF KD SALES GROUP*

**Becky Keeler** is the President and owner of KD Sales Group, which is an agency specializing in representing luxury plumbing showroom brands in Wisconsin, Illinois, and Indiana.

Becky has an educational background in business administration and marketing. She began a career in the decorative plumbing and hardware industry in January 2008 as the Showroom Regional Manager of Elkay Manufacturing Corporation LLC. And then in 2018, Becky took on the role of Regional Sales Manager for Pinnacle Sales Group covering the territory of Illinois.

With her continued passion and love of the luxury kitchen and bath industry, Becky was inspired to start her own company in 2010 called the KD Sales Group. She ran KD Sales Group while still employed at the Pinnacle Sales Group until making the decision in 2021 to devote full-time attention to her own thriving business.

And as of February 2023, Becky is thrilled to have rounded up her line card by joining SIDLER International Ltd. as their new Brand Ambassador. She looks forward to growing the SIDLER brand and business in her designated territory.

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**THE NEW EXCITING AND INNOVATIVE GRADIENT COLLECTION  
IS FINALLY HERE!**

**PLEASE PARTICIPATE IN OUR GRADIENT INSTAGRAM**



## CONTEST IN JUNE 2023 TO WIN A \$100 CASH PRIZE!

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*SIDLER® GRADIENT COLLECTION - TRIPLE DOOR 47" MİRRORED CABINET*

The NEW SIDLER® Gradient collection with a unique innovative mirrored glass and light design from Swiss Industrial Designers **STUDIOCOLONY Product Design**.

With its soft lines, and desilvering resistant handcrafted mirror doors, the Gradient sets the standard for a modern and seamless functional storage solution for you bathroom design.

**CHECK OUT THE GRADIENT ON OUR WEBSITE [HERE!](#)**

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**SWISS CANADIAN CHAMBER OF COMMERCE, MARCH 2023  
NEWSLETTER!**

**FEATURING A BLOG ARTICLE FROM SIDLER!**



### Details do make the difference

Our business member **Sidler** is featured in the "National Kitchen & Bath Association" - Western Canada Design Excellence Awards for the **Best Contemporary Medium Bathroom - Accessibility with Style**.

Their Quadro mirrored cabinet collection is one of the key highlight.



[Read the blog post](#)

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## SIDLER'S INSIGHTS ON HOW TO CREATE AN AWARD WINNING BATHROOM FEATURED IN SWISS CANADIAN CHAMBER OF COMMERCE'S MARCH 2023 NEWSLETTER!

SIDLER is a Swiss company where our mirrored cabinets are manufactured in Switzerland, and we are proud to have our content in the [Swiss Canadian Chamber of Commerce's](#) newsletter.

CHECK OUT OUR BLOG ARTICLE IN THE SCCC NEWSLETTER BY [CLICKING HERE!](#)

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## READ OUR NEWS BLOG ON HOW THE BRAND NEW SWISS OFFICE AND FACTORY BENEFITS SIDLER'S PRODUCT QUALITY, PRODUCTION EFFICIENCY AND CUSTOMER SATISFACTION!



*THE NEW SWISS OFFICE AND FACTORY,  
SWITZERLAND*

We built a brand new office and factory at our European head office location in

Switzerland!!

**PLEASE READ A RE-CAP OF THE CONSTRUCTION JOURNEY AND LEARN HOW A NEW FACTORY FURTHER AMPS UP THE HIGH-QUALITY CRAFTSMANSHIP SIDLER IS KNOWN FOR IN OUR [NEWS BLOG HERE!](#)**

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**JOINT MARKETING OR CO-OP ADVERTISING OPPORTUNITIES!**

**ATTENTION TO OUR SIDLER DEALERS! We would like to collaborate on any joint marketing or co-op advertising opportunities with you!**



*CO-OP ADVERTISING WITH SIDLER*

SIDLER would like to connect with all our dealers/showrooms and discuss any print or digital marketing opportunities where we can work with you in a joint or co-op advertising partnership.

This joint advertising partnership is mutually beneficial in both cross-promoting your showroom and the SIDLER brand.

The co-op would involve a percentage of shared costs for advertising.

**IF INTERESTED, PLEASE EMAIL US AT [sidler@sidler-international.com](mailto:sidler@sidler-international.com).**

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**WIN A \$50 CASH PRIZE!**

**ENTER A PRIZE DRAW!!**

**HOW? PLEASE SEE THE DETAILS BELOW!**



**PLEASE POST A REVIEW ABOUT SIDLER ON HOUZZ!**

Please visit our [HOZZZ page](https://www.houzz.com/pro/mirrorcabinets/sidler) and post a review. The more reviews, the more everyone can find out about SIDLER!

[www.houzz.com/pro/mirrorcabinets/sidler](https://www.houzz.com/pro/mirrorcabinets/sidler)

**ONCE YOU POST A REVIEW YOUR NAME WILL BE ENTERED  
INTO A PRIZE DRAW TO WIN A \$50 CASH PRIZE!!**

**THE DRAW ENDS ON MAY 31, 2023**

*\*Only ONE winner will be eligible for this prize.*

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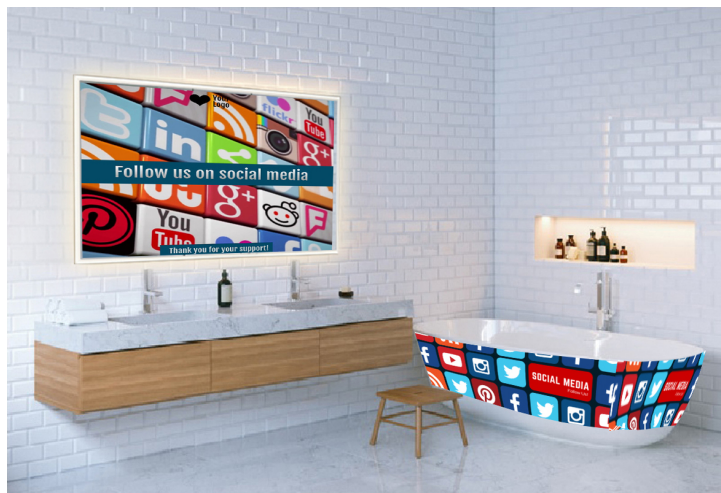
**SIDLER'S COMEDY CABINET**



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This is a feature of our newsletter where we will share a joke or pun or an image gif with you! We invite everyone to share your jokes/puns and images with us!

## PLEASE TALK BEHIND OUR BACKS AND GOSSIP ABOUT SIDLER!



*FOLLOW SIDLER AND TALK ABOUT US!*

**Just a friendly reminder to follow us, comment, share your experience on any of our social media feeds. Please share with your business partners, clients, colleagues and friends!**

**Click on any of the icons below!**

VIIISIT OUR WEBSITE OR SUBSCRIBE TO OUR NEWSLETTER!

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Written by, Sally Mark  
Marketing and Communications Director  
SIDLER International Ltd.



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