

## Remodeling for All Ages Using Universal Design

**You might be asking what is Universal Design and Aging-In-Place?** The concepts of **Aging-in-Place** and Universal Design describe a home that is designed for people of all ages and abilities. Curb-less showers, handrails, grab-bars, step-less grade changes, and special positioning of electrical outlets are just a few of the features incorporated into an Aging-in-Place remodel. The design resulting from this way of building is very attractive even to the youngest of us. When done right, an Aging-in-Place remodel allows the homeowner to enjoy their home for many years to come. It also creates an inviting and gracious space.

### A Beautiful Master Bath Complete with Japanese Tiled-In Shower



*This repeat client was planning to remain in her one-story Hillwood neighborhood home, and after this remodel she will be able to use her master bathroom to meet her needs for many years to come. Her bathroom was redesigned using universal and aging-in-place standards to meet her changing mobility needs. This included replacing her bathtub with a new minimal transition tiled-in Japanese shower with glass doors. Stylish grab bars were also placed where needed to assist with showering, entering, and exiting. Small shower floor tiles with epoxy grout were installed for slip resistance and a Grohe hand shower with sliding bar was used to address both her showering and cleaning needs.*

### A Gentleman's Bathroom featuring a European Walk-in Shower



*As our client continued to age in his home and his disease progressed, further accommodations were needed to adapt to his illness. This was our company's second time remodeling our client's University Plaza Condo bathroom. The existing bathtub was replaced with a European walk-in shower. A Swanstone shower pan was installed surrounded by ceramic tile on the walls and a Kohler bypass sliding glass door. Stylish and functional grab bars aid the homeowner when getting up and down from the toilet, bathing in the shower, and entering and exiting. These eye pleasing grab bars were placed in the bathroom using ADA and universal standards with horizontal and vertical placements.*

**Child Safety** is fairly self explanatory, but in a remodel we believe it is important to design for the homeowners options that compliment their home and family needs. The whole family needs to be considered during the planning process. If the client's have children they must be included in the design and construction phases to ensure the final result is a home that is safe and functional for the entire family, even the littlest ones.

### Custom Hemlock and Wrought Iron Child Safety Gate



*As part of a whole home remodel a new staircase and railing were designed and built. To compliment the beautiful Tigerwood flooring and stairs, stained hemlock and wrought iron were used for the railing and child safety gate. As the parents of a toddler and a newborn, this growing family needed to keep their little ones safe from any trip or fall hazards the stairs would impose. Therefore a custom fabricated child safety gate was designed and built to compliment the wood hand rail and iron design. This gate has a seamless look and virtually disappears into the railing. It features 2 locks, one to keep it open and the other closed.*

### A Beautiful Custom Dutch Door Complete this Children's Room



*A beautiful door with child safety in mind! This custom Dutch door allows a small child to play in her room while the top door remains opened and the bottom door is closed. This way her parents can see and hear her while attending to the household. As part of this home's bedroom remodel, this door was custom designed and fabricated to meet the whole family's needs. It features solid pine construction with a paneled archway pattern and is painted gloss white to compliment the homes other fine painted woodwork.*

Joseph Irons, CGR GMB CAPS CGP, President of Irons Brothers Construction has been a certified aging-in-place specialist since May 2004. He also currently teaches aging-in-place and universal design courses for the National Association of Home Builders (NAHB). Irons Brothers Construction has a proven track record of successful aging-in-place and child safety projects that have helped their clients stay in their homes and avoid relocation.

Aging-in-place modifications involve thoughtful planning and design by an expert in the field. As a Certified Aging-in-Place Specialist, Joseph Irons has been trained in the unique needs of all populations including the aging and children. As a father of a toddler, Joseph has the hands-on knowledge and education needed to assist his clients with the design and implementation of needed home modifications and solutions to common barriers faced by the youngest and oldest members of the family.

**For more information about Irons Brothers Construction and the services they provide visit [www.ironsbcb.com](http://www.ironsbcb.com) or call 206-306-7767.**