

Machens Residence

Columbia, Missouri

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From outside appearances, the Machens' residence looks a lot like the rest of the homes in the neighborhood. Inside, however, this home is quite unique.

Prompted by the needs for their adult quadriplegic son, the parents assembled ideas for living comfortably, both from their lives and from the lives of others with special needs. They wanted a warm, livable home for their son that was accessible as well as practical. The answer was a home that looked like the "typical" neighborhood house but addressed the very specific living requirements of its occupants.



The open floor plan allows easy access and movement for all. Doorways are expanded for wheelchair accessibility.

To be accessible for a person using a wheelchair, this home needed wide doors and walkways, special kitchen and bath fixtures, an open floor plan, and a yard with plenty of sidewalk space.



The back of the Machens home is completely wheelchair accessible.

The home features four bedrooms for the owners and their attendants—each with its own private bath, low windows and a large, easily accessible patio. The large living and dining rooms are bright and comfortably furnished for all living in this home.

Although this project presented several technological and design challenges, the building that emerged is considered the American Dream Home for this client.



All rooms are designed for comfortable living as well as maneuverability.

Photographs by Deanna Dikeman

