

# Accessibi

*When Marcie Davis and husband, Franz Freibert, built an accessible home in Santa Fe, New Mexico, they stayed true to accessibility and style.*



Single level home built on a flat build site with solid, even rolling surfaces inside and out.

ality



by Marcie Davis

**M** My husband and I had always longed to build our dream home. Building a home that would enable me to live independently and that would provide the space we needed to pursue our career-oriented lifestyle was important. We began our dream home quest by purchasing a 2.5 acre lot that had great views of the enchanting landscape of Santa Fe, New Mexico while providing a flat building site capable of accommodating a one story floor plan.

First, we identified a potential lender who helped us define our building budget. The next step was researching potential builders. It was essential to consider several builders and to have a clear picture of what we wanted and could realistically afford.

With this information, we began talking with different people in the local housing industry including realtors, mortgage companies, and friends to help us identify reputable builders. Before long, the list was narrowed to three local builders.

Knowing that we would be spending a lot of time with this individual, it was important we felt confident in their ability to meet our financial and accessibility needs and their ability to complete the work on time.

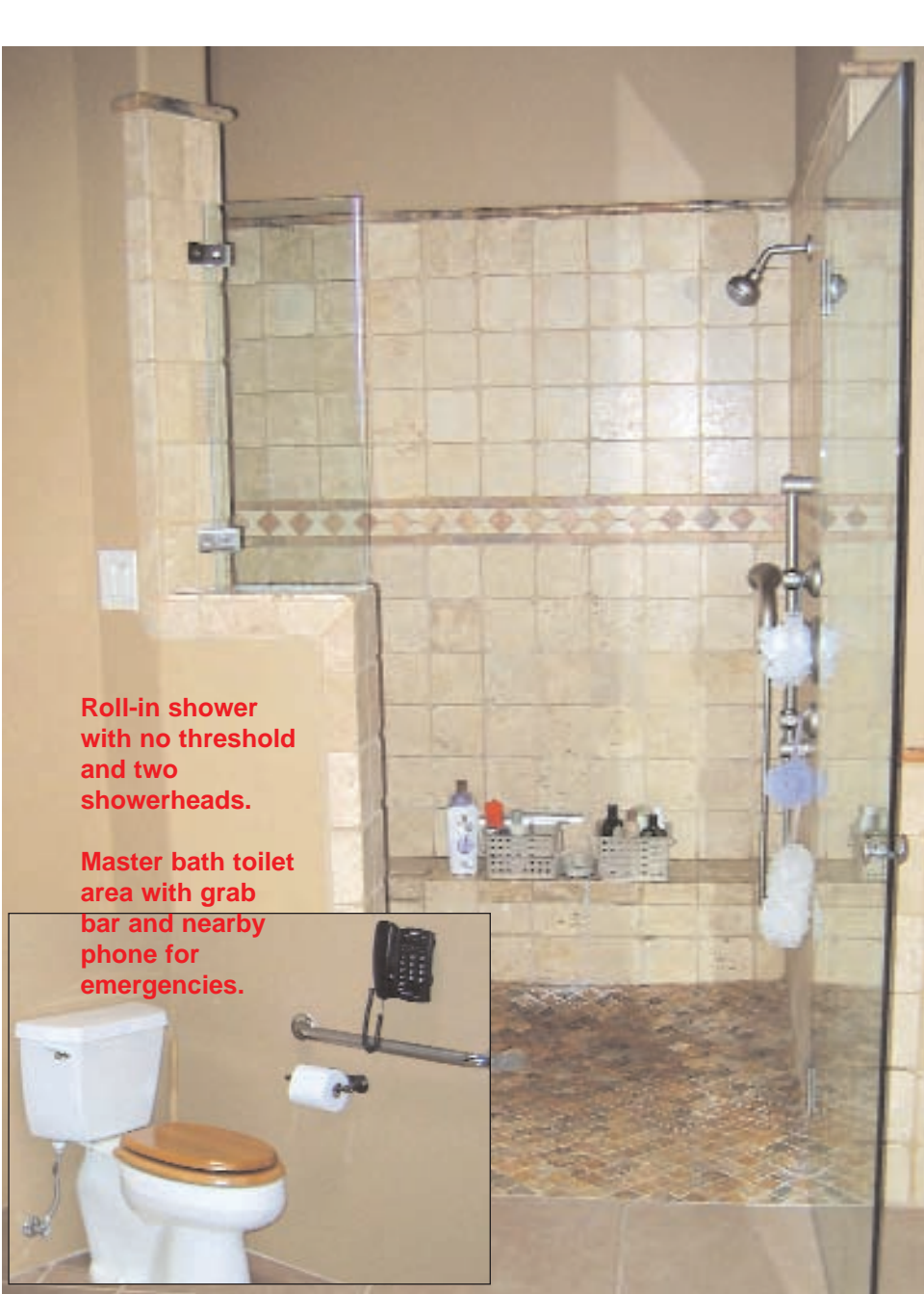
The builder who stood above the rest was Woodstone Custom Homes. Owners Joe and Linda Gammon, a husband and wife team, proudly introduced us to a variety of former clients that they had built





**Appliances are environmentally friendly and accessible. Sinks allow for roll under access and spray heads are on flexible hoses.**

**Kitchen island has multi-level work spaces with nearby receptacles and a sink with pocket doors for easy access. Stacked ovens accommodate users with various heights and reaches.**



Roll-in shower  
with no threshold  
and two  
showerheads.

Master bath toilet  
area with grab  
bar and nearby  
phone for  
emergencies.



homes for over the past ten years. When they were greeted by each former client with adoration, we were convinced that they were the builders for us and that this would be a positive experience rather than the conflict ridden relationship between some clients and builders.

Santa Fe, New Mexico has a unique and beautiful architecture. It was our goal to capture that style while creating a home that was accessible without looking institutional. Joe and Linda worked with us to customize every aspect of our new home while honoring our budget, accessibility needs, and time constraints. Together, we created a single level floor plan with no steps and low thresholds at each door. Accessibility features included:

#### Kitchen

- Wider work aisles.
- Various counter top heights with electrical receptacles nearby.
- Two sinks.
- Pocket doors under each cabinet creating access to the sink, stove burners, and island.
- Pantry with appliance garage, accessible work space and electrical receptacles.

## PARA DRIVING AIDS



**MEETING THE  
NEEDS OF THE  
PHYSICALLY  
CHALLENGED**

### Mobility equipment and vehicle modification

- Certified mobility consulting
- Free consultation and evaluation
- Service after equipment is delivered

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- Side by side refrigerator.
- Built-in lower microwave shelf.
- Multiple drawers instead of under counter cabinets.
- Double ovens.
- Three level island providing work and eating space.
- Mobile cutting board and food preparation cart with shelves.
- Accessible light and fan switches and hidden electrical outlets and switches in the kitchen island.

#### Master bathroom

- Five foot turning radius.
- Grab bars in the shower and toilet areas.
- Telephone in the toilet area for



**Bathrooms include-pedestal sinks (accessible) with large turning radius and grab bars where possible.**

emergency use.

- Roll-in shower with no threshold;
- Full length mirror.
- Standard level shower head and hand held shower head with separate controls.
- Higher toilet that was hidden with plenty of room for wheelchair access.
- Customized vanities that accommodate a wheelchair user and a tall person.
- Accessible split closet area.
- An additional washer and dryer in the master bedroom closet.



#### **General features**

- Tile and even rolling surfaces throughout all indoor and outdoor



living spaces;  
• Accessible controls to rocker light switches and receptacles.

- Large, five foot hallways.
- Wireless internet access in and outside of the home.



**Marcie, Franz and Morgan in the living room.**

- Full security system including carbon monoxide, smoke and fire alarms, motion detectors, alarmed doors and windows, and a personal alarm.
- Exercise room with a Murphy bed that provides an additional bed for guests without losing space for exercise equipment;
- Customized garage that provides parking space ample enough for my van and extended ramp.
- Telephone in the master bathroom

toilet area and intercom system throughout the house for emergency use.

Linda and Joe introduced us to an array of well-respected local subcontractors including plumbers, electricians, security installers, landscapers, painters, etc. who could assist us with the long-term maintenance and care of our new home. They also provided us with a useful notebook that included all of the professionals' contact and product warranty information.

We were thrilled with Linda and Joe's willingness to listen to our needs and their ability to help us create an accessible environment that celebrated Santa Fe's traditional architecture.

Joe stated, "Innovation was a priority when working with Marcie and Franz to create an accessible home design that responded to their individual and lifestyle needs. Linda and I had to pay extreme attention to detail with a determination to provide a completely accessible environment that preserved the traditional Santa Fe style. We approached each obstacle as a challenge and were successful in providing an amazing array of accessible features while staying competitive with market rates." \*

*Marcie Davis is the author of Working Like Dogs: The Service Dog Guidebook available from SpecialLiving, see pg. 76.*

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