

Leslie Markman-Stern - Leslie M. Stern Design



First-floor master bedroom and bathroom - this way, you can sell your home to any generation and to those with disabilities. Your home won't be excluded as a potential home for someone to buy if they have senior parents who come to visit, homeowners may be seniors someday in the house, or have a family member with special needs.

Walk-in showers - everyone loves them. You don't have to make every bathroom a walk-in shower, but for a master or others, this is a go-to! One small tub is good for those with little kids, but the rest is desirable.

Good lighting-dark spaces are not desirable. Being able to have lighting options within a room and dimmers is a must. Also, they are safer. Closet lights that are motion-activated when you open the door. Lighting in a shower, over a sink, and near a toilet is a must. That center light doesn't always do the trick. Good exterior light near garage doors, back doors, and exterior stairs. It can be motion detected too, and is good for safety and keeping undesirables away.

Kitchens - make sure there is good lighting, undercabinet lighting, up-to-date appliances, roll-in drawers in cabinets, eat-in areas, adjacent to family room/area near where kids play, etc.

Technology upgrades so one can use their laptop, watch TV, watch movies, etc. Easy care materials that don't require a lot of work to maintain. Pantry in or near the kitchen.

Whole house climate/lighting/technology zone. People like to be able to control their temperature, lighting, security, and electronics when they walk in the door.

Easy-care flooring and materials - wood floors are nice to walk on, good for your back, and easy to clean. Anyone can throw area rugs on top of it for color, warmth, and acoustics.

Neutral palette on the walls. Sells better than color on the walls that those may not be drawn to. Also, it gives off more reflective light if it's a light tone.

Handrails and grab bars. Make sure there are handrails going up the stairs and grab bars in some of the showers. People will thank you later, and can be used as towel bars too in the shower if they don't like the look, but they will make one feel safer.

Mudroom off the garage as you enter the house. What a useful room for storage, changing shoes, animal staging areas, keeping kids' backpacks, and for those who live in wet or cold areas, another transition into the house where you don't bring the undesirable climate in as you walk in the door into other living areas.

Laundry facilities are near the kitchen or bedrooms. It can be a stacked model too, in a closet, as you don't need a laundry room. The new stacked models are now as big or bigger capacity wise then the side by side.