

GENERATIONS

HAWAI'I'S RESOURCE FOR LIFE

MAGAZINE | DEC·JAN 2014



Maui Mindset

WHY THE VALLEY ISLE
HAS SOME OF THE
HAPPIEST SENIORS

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Vacations Hawaii

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Distribution
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Creating Ageless Kitchens

by Reiko Lewis,
Ventus Design



As we grow older, the need to renovate our home to meet evolving needs grows... but so can the headache from all of the labor involved.

Your home should represent who you are and your lifestyle. It should be a space that has great energy and is a source of pride. And, sometimes simple, strategic changes can make your house a home for life. Enhancing your home, especially the most frequently used room—the kitchen—doesn't have to involve major work to make a major difference.

As we age, everything around us seems to get taller, heavier and out of reach. Some seniors seem to “shrink” and probably have the most problems in the kitchen where they aren't able to reach high shelves. Sore joints can prevent them from stooping down and pulling things out from low drawers. A quick and effective fix to these types of physical limitations could include install-

ing cabinet systems that allow kūpuna to pull down and push up cabinets. Even small changes such as installing single-level flooring and layered lighting can make a world of difference. And with convenience and safety in mind, the placement of appliances should always be reviewed. For example, simply lowering a microwave oven to a reachable surface can prevent spills and burns.

Besides being the place to prepare meals, the kitchen is often the place where friends and family congregate. As such, it can benefit the most from a design update from which people of all ages can benefit and appreciate. ■

Ventus Design
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LIVING IMPROVEMENTS

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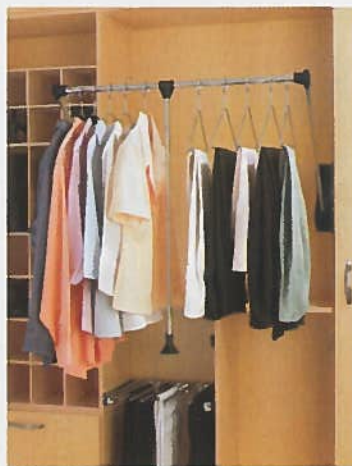
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Your Home For Life

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Virtual images created by Ventus Design

Do you expect your home not just to be safe and functional for all members of your family but a space which expresses who you are?

A 2013 Smart Choice Award-winning interior design agency, Ventus Design specializes in designing senior-living spaces that are aesthetically appealing while still being functional and attractive. With a background in hospitality design and experience in working with ADA guidelines, we are able to bring good qi (harmony) into projects, evoking homes that not only offer a safer living environment, but which subtly incorporate modern and stylish elements.

By actively listening to our clients we are able to take their history and realize design ideas that creates a space which reflects their values and enhances their lifestyle at any age, creating a home that you and your family can be proud of and enjoy safely today and for years to come.

Please call us today at (808) 396 - 5477 or visit us at www.ventusdesignhonolulu.com for a complimentary consultation.

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HAWAII

► The Design Issue

H O M E

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Love
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Inspiring Ideas
FOR DECORATING



50+
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M Modern

Think sleek with undressed windows, polished surfaces, white walls and furniture, and minimalist design concepts that break the mold.

FEATURING: VENTUS DESIGN

PHOTO: REIKO LEWIS

Reiko Lewis of Ventus Design creates modern interior design solutions with aging-in-place features. Trained as a certified aging-in-place specialist, with experience designing hotel rooms that are ADA compliant, Lewis won an award for her computer rendering of this Hokuia condo with universal design features.

Lewis thinks that most aging-in-place features, such as grab bars and handrails, are functional but not aesthetically pleasing from an interior design standpoint. With more baby boomers retiring and wanting to live in their own homes longer, Lewis wants to "increase the chi level of seniors, designing rooms that are aesthetically nice, but still comfortable and safe."

“You can design rooms for seniors with a modern aesthetic that are still comfortable and safe.”

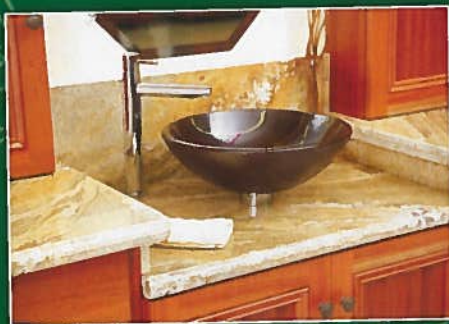
“It was all in my head,” Lewis says, “so I made a 3-D rendering to translate my vision to potential clients.” Working with two Mainland manufacturers, Lewis even custom designed the ADA-accessible furniture in the rendering so it is available for purchase.

The dining table and desk are ADA compliant, with enough room for a wheelchair, so a multigenerational family can sit and dine together. The dining table even extends for larger gatherings. The laminate flooring has SorbaSHOCK underlayment so falls are less likely to break bones.

The media cabinet has sturdy grab rails that are designed within the cabinet itself to reduce the use of a walking cane, while cove lighting was incorporated into the toe kicks to illuminate passageways more safely and add extra light at night for security. The toe kicks are also recessed further so a wheelchair can pull into the space to reach the cabinets. Pull-down cabinets make it easier for the elderly to reach items.

PROVEN HOME PLANS

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GET THE
LOOK!
on page
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The laminate flooring has SorbaSHOCK underlayment, which greatly reduces the impact of falls.

Cooking in Style *with* sears



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