Living In Place Designs
for All Homes

Program Eligible for 0.1 NKBA CEUs

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PHOTO OPPORTUNITY

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Toni Sabatino
Certified Living In Place Professional™
Member Living In Place Institute Business Advisory Panel
Living In Place Institute Ambassador
NKBA Star Chapter Award Winning President – Manhattan Chapter
Toni Sabatino Style
toni@tonisabatinostyle.com
516-972-5455
Presenters

Jennifer Bertrand
Certified Living In Place Professional
Living In Place Institute Ambassador
Winner HGTV “Design Star” / Member Military Makeover
Kitchen & Bath Design News Top 50 2019 Innovator
jblovesdesign@gmail.com
913-481-5182

Louie Delaware
Co-Founder of the Living In Place Institute
Certified Living In Place Professional
Louie@LivingInPlace.Institute
303-726-6828
Thoughts on Designing for a Better Future

What if you could make the world a better place one space at a time?

What if people naturally and gracefully live and age in their own space because it was planned to promote dignity for all?

What if you could promote dignity for all by creating spaces that were more accessible, more comfortable and safer for people of all ages and abilities?

Well...YOU CAN!
Designers are important. We impact how people live.

Understanding the needs of our clients is important. We must keep ourselves informed about the most current design thinking and products to further the human condition.

We have the opportunity and responsibility to help clients make the best long-term investment in what may be their most financially valuable asset, while at the same time making an investment in their most important asset, their lifestyle.

We are better humans when we design with compassion for people of all ages and abilities. It is our opportunity to demonstrate our humanity and promote the human condition.

A space that is well designed and easy to live in will decrease stress and promote wellness for everyone.

YES! Designers ARE important!
1. **The Solution to Your Common Problems**
2. **Understand the Importance of Designing and Remodeling for Safety**
3. **Managing Projects With New Designs & Products**
4. **Making Money While Helping All of Your Clients**
2. The Solution To Your Common Problems

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The Problem... *Our homes are not safe.*

✓ Falls are the leading cause of fatal and non-fatal injuries among older adults.
✓ If unchecked, by 2030 there will be 59,000 deaths per year or about seven older adult (65+) deaths per hour.*
✓ 45% of all childhood deaths occur at home.
✓ 33% of all child related injuries are due to falling downstairs, out of windows, off decks or balconies.
✓ Every two weeks a child dies because of a piece of furniture or TV fell on them.
✓ Over 90% of all home injuries to children are preventable, with appropriate safety in the home.

*https://www.cdc.gov/mmwr/volumes/67/ww/mm6718a1.htm
Attempts at solving safety issues led to the development of Universal Design and the Aging in Place concepts and Certified Aging in Place Specialist (CAPS).

Let’s delve into these and how the need for a better approach to more accessible, comfortable and safer living became evident.
Universal Design... *What was that?*

Universal Design was a university project that created seven principles intended to be the solution for all housing.

They don’t mention any specific designs or products.

Universal design is perceived most often as institutional and only for persons with disabilities in public, hospital or rehab settings.

The industry embraced the need but was forced to guess at how to interpret the confusing and often conflicting principles.

Let’s examine just the first principle – Equitable Use
# Universal Design Principle #1 - Equitable Use

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Guidelines</th>
<th>Problem</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Provide the same means of use for all users - <em>Identical whenever possible; equivalent when not.</em></td>
<td><em>Identical &amp; equivalent in one design or product?</em></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Avoid segregating or stigmatizing any users.</td>
<td><em>Universal design (and aging in place) are terms that segregate and stigmatize!</em></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Provisions for privacy, security, and safety should be <em>equally available to all users.</em></td>
<td><em>All users are not the same!</em></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Make the design <em>appealing to all users.</em></td>
<td><em>Is that really possible?</em></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
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Aging in Place in Housing...

Started in 2002.

Because aging in place addresses only older individuals, it excludes 80% of the population (and business markets).

Ageism, (aging in place) like racism and sexism, is a form of prejudice or prejudgment that shapes perceptions.*


...Did that work?
NO… Home Safety Is Actually Worse Since Aging In Place Started!

✓ Fall death rates have increased 30% from 2007 to 2016. (US Centers for Disease Control and Prevention)

✓ Less than 0.9% (down from 1% in two years) of the current housing stock have zero-step entrances, single floor living, wide hallways & doors, electrical controls, reachable by everyone, and lever-style handles on faucets and doors.*

✓ Less than 3.5% (down from 4% in two years) of current single-family homes have three of the most critical accessibility features (zero-step entrances to the home, single floor living, wide hallways and doors).

* 2018 Joint Center for Housing Studies of Harvard University
Living In Place

Living In Place is a simple solution to make all homes accessible, comfortable and safe, regardless of a person’s current or future needs or age.
You are part of the solution and the growing community of professionals in our industry that promote dignity for all with positivity, education and networking.

You can help your clients make the best possible long-term investment in their home and their lifestyle with designs that promote the dignity of all.
Living In Place…Is *The Solution*

- Education programs that train and network all professionals.
- Only program to be endorsed by the National Kitchen & Bath Association. Also, the co-founders were recognized by Kitchen & Bath Design News as two of the Top 50 Innovators in 2019.
- **Home Accessibility and Safety Assessment Checklist™ (HASAC™)** An app-based platform to quickly provide recommendations for any area of a home, prioritizing needs as **Now, Soon or Future**.
- **How to Live In Place™** A consumer book with practical solutions for every home. The book is an awareness tool for consumers and a significant lead generator for Certified Living In Place Professionals™ (CLIPP), Living In Place Associates™ (LIPA™) and Home And Trade Specialists™ (HATS). Book release in 2021.

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2.

Understand the Importance of Designing and Remodeling for Safety

Happily surprised by this well-designed bathroom encountered at an AIRBNB in Bali!

What emotions DO YOUR designs inspire?
The discussion and the ice breaker - how does it all begin?

I like to let clients know that I design spaces with as many elements to promote human dignity as possible. I discuss having worked with a young skier healing from an injury that was grateful for a hygienic toilet, or clients with visiting relatives that may be recovering from sort of operation and a conversation with develop.

People have a sense of comfort in sharing with someone that will compassionately address any concerns. The concerns could be a special needs child, an amputee, an aging parent or they may be realistically looking at their own long-term future. The conversation gets easy once you break the ice.
3. Managing Projects With New Designs & Products
A discussion of family needs led to modifying some plans to include a main floor guest suite that could be used with ease and comfort by visiting aging parents, a convalescing family member or the clients themselves as they age.

Our enhancements include:
Wide entry points
Zero threshold shower
Wall mounted vanity with ample foot space below
Hygienic toilet
Bathroom door that does not swing into the room
Radiant floor heating
A fun kitchen with some accessibility solutions for a couple who love to cook.

The counters here are actually 33” high. They work for both the challenged and non challenged in the family.

What could I improve? We could have non reflective counters (see the beauty of the material) and a less busy backsplash for future aging eyes.

Food for thought – Make the clients aware of options and guide them to a solution they love for the best possible outcome.
Contrasting eye level feature – A personal fav

An eye level contrast feature not only looks great and makes a room feel bigger…is also a cognitive aid!

Steady the eye, steady the brain, steady the body! Good to know and part of my bag of good design tricks!

New construction spec house with many features for accessibility, comfort and safety that have great eye appeal

Job in progress Long Island NY
Toilets! So Many Options For Good Looks And Great Hygiene!

Tip – Install an electrical outlet behind the toilet so a personal hygiene (bidet-type) seat or toilet may be installed later.

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A 5’ X 8’ Bathroom Designed By Over 250 Living In Place Graduates

The Remodeling Magazine’s study Cost vs Value reported that this bathroom cost about the same as a “standard” bathroom to remodel and the investment return value was within 1% of a “standard” bathroom.

Illustrations courtesy of Remodeling Magazine
TEAM BUILDING

New designs and products require new expertise. Consider just technology. There are so many new products available to enhance our lifestyles.

Team building is essential for the client to make the best possible investment and have the best possible outcome.

Who do you need on your team and whose teams do you want to be on?

Is your client under medical care?

Are there any special considerations requiring unique expertise?
Making Money While Helping All of Your Clients
Let Living In Place Be Your SUPERPOWER!

What does talk about flush shower thresholds and grab bars, motion lights and thermostatic scald guard valves do for me?

It helps my clients help themselves and their loved ones and it gets me great jobs!
1. The Solution To Your Common Problems

2. Understand the Importance of Designing and Remodeling for Safety

3. Managing Projects With New Designs & Products

4. Making Money While Helping All of Your Clients
We **THANK YOU** for your time today and your interest in designing to better the human condition and promote the culture of kindness with dignity for all.

We encourage you to **think** about our objectives and make Living In Place one of your design **SUPERPOWERS**.

Please contact the Living In Place Institute or reach out to Louie **today** for more information.

Remember **your value**. Through your work, you positively impact how people live. Be a better human and be part of…

The Solution!
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