

Design Construction Concepts Wins Award for Bathroom Redesign

Northbrook, IL – October 26, 2006 Design Construction Concepts (DCC), a Northbrook-based architectural design and construction management firm, has received the Key Award from the Home Builders Association of Greater Chicagoland. The award is for a bathroom they designed and remodeled in a Northbrook condominium.

“This is one of the most prestigious awards a firm like ours can receive,” said Michael Menn, DCC principal. “But it was truly a team effort, including our clients, and the trades-people we worked with.”

According to Menn, the clients – a senior couple - had lived in the condo for years, and they did not want to move. “So they presented us with two key requirements. First, they wanted us to make the bathrooms more contemporary. Second, they wanted us to include “aging in place” functionality so they could use the bathrooms without difficulty, as they grew older. As Baby Boomers age, this is becoming increasingly prevalent.”

DCC remodeled both the master bathroom and a hall bathroom. In the hall bathroom the existing shower stall was only four feet wide. Rather than try to find a tub that would fit that space, DCC borrowed an extra 1'-0" from the entry closet that backed up to the bathroom and installed a standard size tub that would be more functional and more economical. Instead of a shower curtain or a sliding tub door, DCC used a frameless heavy glass-swinging door so that when entering the bathroom one can see directly to the back wall of the tub.

DCC also opened up the ceiling and moved the ductwork, gaining another six inches of height. DCC then designed a rounded vanity base with a framed mirror. This eliminated the need for a bulky rectangular (typical) cabinet, and opened up additional space. “These changes made the bathroom appear larger than it really is, and gave it a more contemporary look,” Menn noted.

The master bathroom was also gutted. The tub and soffit above it were removed, creating the perception of a larger room. To dampen the sound from the adjacent apartment, DCC added additional insulation underneath the drywall at the common wall.

DCC also did three things in the bathrooms to help address the aging in place requirements:

- Plywood was added to the shower walls in the master bathroom so that when and if the clients wanted to install grab bars they would not be confined to a certain location.
- Vanity bases were installed that were 36 inches high so that the owners would not have to bend over.
- The toilet in the master bathroom was installed at “comfort height” instead of regular height, making sitting and getting up easier.

This is the fourth Key Award DCC has won. DCC also won an award from the association earlier this year for “Best Contemporary Kitchen.” That honor was for a kitchen DCC redesigned for a Northbrook home built in the 1970s. The home was featured in “Remodel Chicagoland,” A Tour of Remodeled Homes sponsored by the Home Builders Association of Greater Chicago.

Design Construction Concepts, Ltd. is a full-service architectural design and construction management company specializing in custom residential and commercial projects. Their contact information is:

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