



# BRIDGING THE GAP

Healthcare and Builders

By: Pat Acquisto, CAPS, BAEA

# AGENDA



MY OMG MOMENT!



LAYING THE  
FOUNDATION



HOW TO SEPARATE THE  
“QUALIFIED”  
FROM THE  
“NOT-SO QUALIFIED”  
BUILDERS



HOME MODIFICATIONS:  
TERMS YOU  
SHOULD KNOW



Q & A

# INTRODUCTION

- Builder since 1999.
- Introduced to “Accessible Construction” Industry in 2006.
- Certified CAPS (Certified Aging in Place Specialist) since 2013.
- Certified A+ Accessibility Advantage Contractor with March of Dimes since 2014.
- Certified BAEA (Building Accessibility Excellence Assessor) since 2015.
- Board member of the CHBA (Canadian Home Builders Association) for Home Modifications Canada in 2017.
- Guest Speaker at various seminars across Canada on Accessible Construction.



# MY “OMG” MOMENT!



I'm not just a  
builder.....

# LAYING THE FOUNDATION

It is important to get ALL the professionals involved as early as possible.

- ✓ Occupational Therapist
- ✓ Architects/Engineer
- ✓ Interior Designer
- ✓ Client & Family Members

# “QUALIFIED” VS. “NOT-SO QUALIFIED” BUILDERS



1. How long have they been in business?
2. How the company operates (e.g. using their own staff or subcontractors)?
3. Do they have experience with similar projects?
4. Can we visit one of your current projects?
5. Do you carry Workers' Compensation and Liability Insurance?
6. Will we get a written contract?
7. What warranty do you offer?
8. Do you have any certifications specific to my project (e.g. CAPS) ?
9. Do we require Building Permits?
10. Obtain at least three of the contractors past customers with similar projects.

# HOME MODIFICATIONS

## Terms You Should Know



- ✓ Aging-in-Place
- ✓ Visitable Housing
- ✓ Accessible Design
- ✓ Universal/Inclusive Design
- ✓ Pat's Method

# AGING-IN-PLACE

The ability to live in the same home  
(e.g., house, condo, apartment, trailer, etc.)  
and community  
safely, independently and comfortably  
as one ages.



# VISITABLE HOUSING

The concept of designing and building homes with a basic level of accessibility, including at least:

- (a.) one level, no-step entrance, minimum 36 inches wide (91.4 cm) on an accessible route.
- (b.) wider doorways, minimum of 32 inches (81.3 cm) clear passage throughout.
- (c.) a wheelchair accessible bathroom on the main floor.

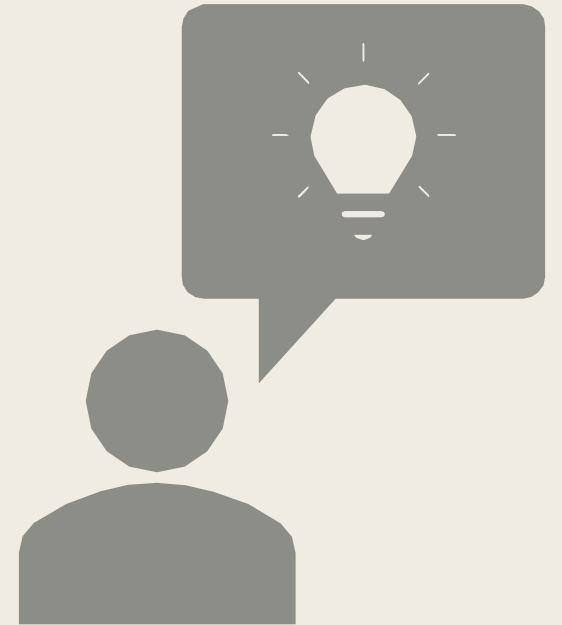
# ACCESSIBLE DESIGN

The construction or modification of housing to enable independent living for persons with disabilities, which often involves the removal of physical barriers that impact people who use a cane, crutches, walkers or a wheelchair.



# UNIVERSAL/INCLUSIVE DESIGN

An approach to design that incorporates building features and elements which, to the greatest extent possible, can be used by everyone, regardless of their age, size or ability.



# PAT'S METHOD



Listen to the individual's needs and wants.



Consult with the treating Occupational Therapist to learn about the individual's limitations.



Consult with a Designer.



Consult with an Architect for drawings.



Put together a plan that fits the individuals' needs, wants and budget. (Be realistic)



Use best practises. (a.k.a. Common Sense)



QUESTIONS?  
COMMENTS?  
FEEDBACK?