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Winter 2010

## New Certification for TZ of Madison

Larry recently earned one of the first Universal Design Certified Remodeler designations from NARI. UDCR is a certification that indicates a contractor's focus on the Seven Universal Design Principles.

**THANK YOU to all the subcontractors who helped make this bathroom project a CotY winner!**

## Second Year Running! 2009/2010 Contractor of the Year Award Winner -Residential Universal Design

In January 2008, we were approached by the homeowner about creating an accessible bath. The homeowner's wife had been staying at a limited care facility for the past few months due to chronic illness. A fully accessible bath would allow her to return home.

We had worked with the couple in the past helping to make other rooms in their home more universal. We opened up their kitchen making it more accessible. They had also installed a ramp so the home could be easily accessed by the wife who uses a wheelchair or electric scooter. This bathroom would be the final piece needed to make their home comfortable for her.

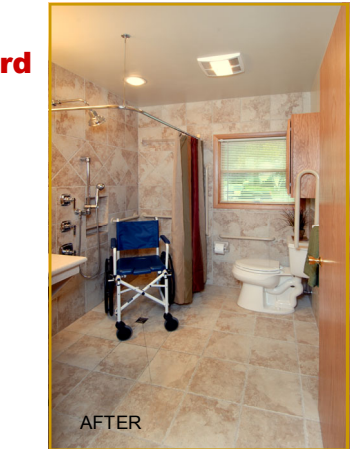
The goal of this project was to create a wide open and accessible bath. Since this was the only bath on the first floor, the homeowners wanted to minimize the medical or sterile look. It would be the main bath for them as well as any visitors to the home. The bath also needed to be flexible

enough to adapt to any future needs.

The owner's had cost concerns, however, when relating the remodeling cost to offsite limited care facilities, they found that in just 3 1/2 months the project would pay for itself.

One of the first discussions with the owners involved eliminating a hall closet and incorporating that space into the proposed main bath remodel. Owners felt they had abundant closets space without the foyer closet and readily agreed it would be better used in the bath. Additional modifications included moving the vanity from in front of a 2' 6" door to the space made available where the closet was located. The bathroom door was increased to 3'0" for wheelchair access. The tub was removed to create a roll in shower. The electrical was updated and lighting increased along with user friendly switching options.

The end result is a beautiful, open main bath that does accommodate all of their current needs. Leaving



AFTER

2009/10 Contractor of the Year Award—Residential Universal Design category



BEFORE

enough flexibility to accommodate any future needs as they may arise. Since the project was completed the wife has been able to move back home. For the past 15 months, they have been able to live comfortably and safely together in their own home. By completing this important upgrade to their main bath, they have made their entire home truly universal.



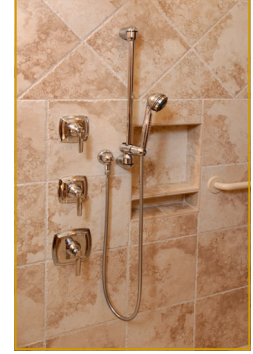
## Taff Honored with 'Fritz' Award

On January 8, 2010 NARI of Madison, Inc. held its annual Evening of Excellence. In addition to winning the CotY mentioned in the article above, there was one more surprise in store for TZ of Madison, Inc. that night. A

very humbled Larry Taff was awarded the NARI of Madison Lifetime Achievement Award "The Fritz"! The award recognizes accomplishments, awards, local community involvement and 20 years of NARI involve-

ment (local/national) in both appointed and elected offices. The award is named for founding member Fritz Seybold.

**Congratulations Larry!**



Project photos from the 2009-2010 NARI of Madison Contractor of the Year Award winning project in category of Residential Universal Design

## Thank You!

All of us at TZ of Madison, Inc. would like to thank our 2009 clients for allowing us the privilege of working on their homes. We enjoyed our experiences and hope you are enjoying your new spaces. Best wishes for a wonderful 2010!

## Energy Efficiency: 2009 Follow up

You may recall other articles in our newsletter about the influx of energy efficient projects we experienced in 2009. Part of this was due to customers who wanted to take advantage of the 2009 energy tax credit. As you may already know, the tax credit has been extended through 2010.

In 2009, TZ did several projects that involved energy updates to homes. We've heard back from a few of our customers and thought their results would be interesting to report.

One client who owns a 1950's two story home, had

new windows installed, and increased their insulation with both dense-pack cellulose and foam. They also added more attic ventilation, new siding and a new, larger size patio door. The result of these improvements netted them a 20% decrease in their energy bills this winter. Wow! And if that wasn't enough good news, we've had another client contact us. They, too, own a 1950's two story and had new windows and exterior doors installed. They also added new siding and both dense-pack cellulose and foam insulation to make their home

more snug. They report a 14% drop in their energy bills this winter.

Needless to say, the message is in the air. Improving the street view of your home is merely a by-product. The real benefit is that utility costs can go down and the federal government will offer tax incentives to boot.

Seems like the time is right to improve your home's energy efficiency!

## Energy Tax Credits—Every Reason to Improve Your Home's Efficiency

**Under the stimulus legislation**, the percentage of the cost and lifetime cap for home improvements have been tripled to 30% and \$1,500, respectively.

The list of eligible improvements has been expanded and the dead-

line for applying has been extended through the end of 2010.

Installing energy-efficient windows, doors, roofing and insulation as well as furnaces, air conditioners and heat pumps all qualified for the credit. Visit [www.energystar.gov/](http://www.energystar.gov/)

[taxcredits](#) for a complete listing of all eligible projects.