

kbbreview

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The voice of the independent kitchen, bedroom and bathroom retailer since 1984

Why is it so hard to predict the market?

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MERRY CHRISTMAS
& A HAPPY NEW YEAR



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a huge range of finishes available."

It's important to also consider the layout and how a person might access the basin and the WC. If the client uses a wheelchair or mobility aid then there has to be adequate access to the sink. It's also important to consider the height of the sink and of the mirror behind, if it's to be useful.

Sanitaryware

For the WC, you'll need to consider grab bars, or preparing the wall for installation of grab bars in the future – ensuring the wall can support the weight of a person. In addition, Instil Design's Landhed recommends using wall-mounted toilets at comfort height (47cm) and if budget allows, a shower toilet. "Add night light on PIR for safety and comfort," she says.

The basin may need access for a wheelchair beneath, and again, grab bars, where appropriate. Some basins, such as those from Moreability, have grab bars built in, so this could be an option. Additionally, Nick Colyer, managing director for Independent 4 Life and Gronberg UK, notes that it's also possible to get basins complete with rise-and-fall mechanisms, and an illuminated mirror which can rise and fall at the same time. This, he says, is great for those who might be on their feet sometimes and in a wheelchair at others.

If your client would like a bath, there's a few accessible options available, including tubs with panels which allow the user to step in, however, the drawback of these, according to Colyer, is that it means the user has to wait in the bath as it's filling and emptying, so it may not be ideal. It ultimately will depend on who is using the bath, and might be the case, in a multigenerational home, that it's mainly the kids using it, and so few considerations may need to be made.

If the user faces a number of mobility challenges, then Colyer says you could consider installing a powered, seated bath, which sometimes come complete with underwater music, air spa functionality, and chromotherapy lighting features.

Showering

In multigenerational and accessible bathrooms, showers or wetrooms can be the preferred option, and it's what most of our contributors recommend.

Shower spaces should be level access, again, with enough space for a wheelchair. Think about whether you need to include grab bars and a shower seat, or whether they might be needed in the future. Like previously mentioned for WCs, it's important to reinforce the walls to prepare for these adaptations.

Craig Anderson, managing director at Fitzroy of London recommends opting for fixtures that can be easily upgraded or modified, such as removable shower seats and grab rails.

For shower controls, our contributors recommend voice activated, or app-activated options, or a simple-to-operate lever control. It's also important to consider safety here and ensure water temperature can't get too hot and pose a scalding risk, and ideally can be pre-heated to ensure the water isn't too cold.

Looking to the future, all of our contributors agree that multigenerational living is only going to become more relevant and mainstream. Therefore, it makes sense to refresh the core principles of design. **AIM**



above Scavolini's Utility System has different elements that transforms a kitchen into an accessible space for all



left Zip's HydroTop Classic and Classic Plus are available with either a touch free remote or push button remote for ease of use

below This accessible design features Fitzroy of London grab rails, hinged support rails, back rests, showering and accessories

