Our Design Story

Thereapeutic lighting helps with alertness

Massage opportunities are desirable

Water stimulates nerve reflexes on the spinal cord

Assisted walking options are great...

Sam’s cat reminds the team that pet therapy can aid progress toward goals in human physical, social, emotional, and cognitive function.
Access a Better Living Environment

Social Integration

- Access a Better Living Environment

Optimize Dependence, Foster Autonomy

Natural Healing Finishes

Generous Spaces Beyond Accommodation of Mobility Equipment

Engaged Positively with Movement, Celebrate Bravery

And In Hand Design and Technology

Obstacles Sensed by Different Sensory Channels

Lifting Universal Design

Strengthen the Ecosphere of Kindness

Embrace the Diversity of Families

Our Design Story

Generous space, minimal projections ... A residential type Interactive IPAD floor came up few times

The Occupational Therapist and Physiotherapist suggested using other senses to stimulate and help with movement. Using attractive colors and creating the motivation to move and embrace the challenge.

All movement programmes which are constructed by the brain are dependent upon tactile feedback.

Promote spinning opportunities to stimulate the vestibular areas of the brain can help develop better balance and coordination.

Lavender and Jasmine have been shown to produce alpha waves in the brain, which produce a relaxed and effortless alertness

Hold standing stimulates the brain to take control of the musculature of the torso.
Backyard Lavender raised garden to stimulate the smelling senses

Exterior Design Approach

Various approaches and materials are implemented in the exterior and landscape to help in stimulating and engaging different senses. And to assist the CP resident in particular and other residents in general for an easy way finding while keeping a pump free exterior environment.

Drive Way

We are proposing a creative design solution, as an alternative for the conventional asphalt. Being two bands of interlocking pavers imbedded between grass strips. The interlocking serves as a way finding for the car path, while the grass forms a soft edge around it. This design offers a tactile surface through variation of materials as well as visual contrast which facilitates the way finding.

Tire Garden Seats

Tire Garden Seats, are a simple and creative pump free idea implemented in the backyard. The idea is based on dual functions for the stools, gardening and seating. This idea eliminates the unnecessary bending involved in gardening and encourages the resident to get engaged with nature easily.

Creative Driveway, offering tactile surface via interlocking paving & grass

Soft fencing at property line

Square Bushes with Trees

Square bushes with trees are used as soft fencing creating visual and texture identification of way finders.

Lavender Raised Garden

Lavender raised garden is integrated in the backyard fencing to provide privacy, and the lavender helps in stimulating the smelling sense. Raised garden eliminate the bending and foster creativity.

Site Plan

Backyard Garden Stool for pump free landscaping

Access a Better Living Environment

Architecture to help create an enhanced way to cope and thrive

Ottawa, Canada, June 19, 2015
REDESIGN PRINCIPLES “TO CREATE AN ENVIRONMENT THAT IS SAFE FUNCTIONAL, ERGONOMIC, AND AESTHETICALLY PLEASING FOR A CHILD OR ADULT WITH CEREBRAL PALSY”

1. EQUITABLE USE OF SPACE BY ALL FAMILY MEMBERS
   - BUMP FREE FINISHES
   - PASSIVE ASSISTIVE WALKING / STANDING ELEMENTS
   - ACCESSIBLE REACH SEATING OR STANDING

2. FLEXIBLE LIVING SPACES
   - CHOICE IN WAY OF USE: GUEST ROOM VERSUS ADDITIONAL COMMON AREA
   - ADAPTABILITY TO ACCOMMODATE VARIOUS STAGES AND TYPES OF MOBILITY EQUIPMENT TOWARDS AUTONOMY

3. SIMPLE AND INTUITIVE USE
   - WAYFINDING WITH COLOURED DOOR EDGING AND FLOORING PATTERNS
   - RECYCLED CORK WALL TEXTURE, THE BRAVERY WALL
   - THE FULL GLAZED SUNROOM AND CHROME GUARD
   - SENSORY CHANNELS TO PROVIDE EFFECTIVE PROMPTING AND FEEDBACK
   - CONTRASTING COLOUR AT BEDROOM ENTRANCE, CORK TEXTURE AT MAIN ENTRANCE
   - GLASS IN SUNROOM

4. PERCEPTIBLE INFORMATION
   - MAXIMIZE PERCEPTION OF OBSTACLES VIA DIFFERENT SENSORY CHANNELS

5. TOLERANCE FOR ERROR
   - MINIMIZE HAZARDS AND OBSTACLES
   - PROVIDE GENEROUS SPACES
   - PROVIDE FAIL SAFE FEATURES ON ALL APPLIANCES

6. LOW PHYSICAL EFFORT
   - OPTIMIZE CIRCULATION
   - OFFER PLEASANT OPPORTUNITIES TO PHYSICAL ACTIVITIES.
   - BEDROOM CORRIDOR OFFERS GREAT WALKING PRACTICE OPPORTUNITIES.
   - EASY TO USE HARDWARE WITH LOW OPERATING FORCES REQUIREMENT

7. SIZE AND SPACE FOR APPROACH AND USE
   - CLEAR LINE OF SIGHT PROVIDED THROUGH OPEN SPACE CONCEPT
   - VARIOUS HAND AND GRIP SIZE PROVIDED
   - ADEQUATE SPACE FOR THE USE OF ASSISTIVE DEVICES

Access a Better Living Environment

Floor Plan

Architecture To Help Create An Enhanced Way To Cope And Thrive

Ottawa, Canada, June 19, 2015
Different shades of Cork are used as flooring throughout the space, as a springy material underfoot, and also serving the purpose of guiding circulation between living space and sleeping spaces.
Architectural design to help create an enhanced way to cope and thrive

**Sunroom**

**Sheep Skin:**
Sheep skin provides an extra layer of comfort that minimizes pressure, prevents friction and helps with blood flow and circulation.

**Jute:**
The golden natural fibre is considered for all built-in seating areas to create a feeling of safety and comfort in addition to its softness, visual interest and texture.

**Wood Planks:**
Rich wood planks are used on the underside of the roofs for visual interest and to provide the feeling of warmth and cosiness within the open spaces.

**Turf:**
Natural turf is placed in the sunroom to provide a soft, interesting texture underfoot as well as to provide a link to the exterior for house-bound persons.

**Seating:**
Soft, squishy furniture shaped like river rocks provide fun places to lounge in the warm solarium.

Access a Better Living Environment

Architectural design to help create an enhanced way to cope and thrive
KITCHEN:

SLEEK ACCESSIBILITY AND SMOOTH, ROUNDED SURFACES DROVE THE CONCEPT FOR THE KITCHEN. INTEGRATED SEATING NEAR THE ACTIVITY OF THE KITCHEN ALLOWS FOR PARTICIPATION BY ALL MEMBERS OF THE HOUSEHOLD HERE IN THE NEXUS OF FAMILY LIFE.
Kitchen Appliances:

Easy to grasp, pull, reach and use, all appliances chosen for the kitchen are easily accessible for a wide range of mobility and ability.

Lighting:

Programmable LEDs allow for active light therapy while giving interest and focus to the space.
Creating a clean, barrier-free environment for the bathroom was key to a successful sponge house.
Felt:

In addition to the softness and warmth of felt, we see the central felt column as a way for a child with CP to engage with the building element and be able to identify the space with themselves by sticking other pieces of felt onto it and creating art. The column can also act as bulletin board centrally located for the older members.

Guardrail
As a protective aide, a rounded chrome guardrail is placed along the glass in the sunroom. This can be leant on while standing or help a person walk around the room. Similar handrails in felt are installed around the corridors of the home.

Bravery Feature Wall:

Pidgeon-holes in the corridor wall provide colourful spaces for families to record their achievements, their fears, their affirmations and their strength.

Cork Feature Wall:

Large cork blocks stick in and out of the entrance hall, creating shelving, niches for lighting, and comfortable interest along this main stretch of circulation.

Access a Better Living Environment

Architecture to help create an enhanced way to cope and thrive

Ottawa, Canada, June 19, 2015
Bedroom:

The bedrooms are all about comfort, warmth and self-sufficiency. Sliding furniture and doors make putting things away easy, while bright attractive light fixtures create an atmosphere of ease and bliss.
It is beautiful. (And clearly has been a lot of work!)

First comment is that I would love to live in this bungalow you have designed! I love how your design is appealing and attractive and comfortable for all family members while integrating features which also enhance accessibility for any and all family members who have mobility challenges or who are, for any reason, especially susceptible to pain, bumps and bruises. Congratulations, I hope you win!

-Kathleen Stephenson, Citizen Advocacy

J'ai regardé votre projet attentivement et ça me semble incroyable comme concept. Bravo et bonne chance!
(I looked at your project carefully and it seems incredible to me as a concept. Congratulations and good luck!)

-Pierre Beaudin, EAD, M.Ed. - deaf blind consultant, with family ties to cerebral palsy

What a terrific effort. Regardless of how you do in the contest I think the proposal deserves much wider attention. I would approach CMHC to see if they will build a prototype.

-Don Henning
Retired Accessibility Specialist at National Research Canada

Note: CMHC stands for Canada Mortgage and Housing Corporation