Design Principles

Accessible Design
What is accessible design & why do we believe that design should be inclusive for everyone.

What is accessible design?
When we talk about accessible design, we refer to the design of living spaces which are tailored to people of all abilities including those with disabilities or limited mobility. The goal is to make spaces as accessible as possible, being safe & comfortable environments for the whole family to enjoy.

At Day True, ‘we don’t sell boxes, we sell spaces’, challenging traditional design and avoiding clinical white plastic accessories in the home to support living. We believe inclusive design should be for everyone as great design gives you a better life.

What does accessible design look like in the kitchen?

- Dropped countertops – Dropped countertops are perfect for wheelchair users or those who have difficulty standing up for long periods of time as they do not restrict or provide barriers when using the space. It allows users to prepare food whilst seated, being a great solution whilst keeping the ergonomics of the space. Counter tops can also be curved at the edges to enhance safety.

- LeMans corner unit storage – LeMans corner units are soft self-closing mechanisms which slide out from the inside of kitchen cabinetry units to the main kitchen space- making items easier to reach. They make the best use of the space, providing solutions for trickier areas to access (such as corner units).

- Drawer dishwashers – Functioning like a normal dishwasher, these can be pulled out like a regular drawer and built into the cabinetry. Thanks to its more ergonomic design compared to a standard dishwasher, it makes it easier to load and unload as you do not have to bend over to access.

- Non-slip flooring – It is preferable to use anti-slip tiles or those with natural grip to prevent accidents from occurring. This provides extra friction to avoid slippage, giving confidence to those who may have difficulty walking. **Top tip:** When designing an accessible kitchen, stay away from any shiny or polished surfaces.

- Lighting – Provide adequate lighting to improve visibility in the kitchen, including around the cabinetry and worktop surfaces.

Our Smufhouse project was designed to be accessible for everyone by combining a mix of tall and low kitchen units, a dropped island countertop, lowered appliance heights and wider entryways for wheelchair users. With this, the design ensures that everyone is included, being independent whilst maintaining safety.
What does accessible design look like in the bathroom?

- **Grab bars** – Grab bars provide support for the user, typically placed near the shower, bath and toilet to improve independence and confidence in the bathroom.

- **Wet room** – A wet room provides a seamless waterproof space for showering, which is level with the rest of the bathroom floor. It is easy to navigate as there are no steps or barriers.

- **Shower bench** – A shower bench creates seating for the user, providing a comfortable showering experience for those who have difficulty standing for long periods of time. They also provide an area to house hygiene products without having to bend down to the floor. Alternatively, a niche works great as they can be positioned at the perfect height for the user – hidden away neatly.

- **Adjustable hand shower & thermostat** – The goal of this is to provide a showering experience personalised to the user, which maximises the enjoyability. With an adjustable hand shower, the height can be adjusted for the whole family to enjoy too- making it an inclusive and curated space for everyone.

- **Toto toilet** – A toilet specialised to improve the users experience, with different functions to clean whilst maintaining independence.

- **Flooring** – It is preferable to use anti-slip tiles or those with a natural grip for flooring and a bench seat to avoid slippage. There are lots of fun tiles available, without limiting design possibilities.

Our Smurfhouse bathroom was designed to be beautiful yet functional for all. With brass ironmongery, the design has been elevated whilst creating a safe environment which creates an enjoyable experience for the user. With clever tiling, we created a seating area to match the flooring to harmonise and blend the design together. Versatile in design, the bathroom is a timeless space which can be adjusted for any user thanks to removable grab bars. This makes it futureproof too.

View our full Smurfhouse portfolio here.