

# around the HOUSE

## Living Inside Out

**Smooth viscous flow** throughout the inside and outside of the home makes for a healthy, comfortable and gracious habitat.

Without even realizing it, we don't always think of our home only as the house itself. We think of it as the entire habitat and surrounding living area. We may even perceive our homes to include the views, vistas and even our neighbors yards and personalities, whether we get along with them or not.

The goal is to consider how all of it combined can meet or even exceed our short- and long-term living needs and desires.

Conscientiously interconnecting the inside of your house with its natural environment can greatly increase the true livability of your habitat.

Melding inside and out with an open floor plan that encourages free-flowing spaces maximizes usable area and can make the outdoors actually feel like they're part of the interior.

Designed exterior areas can be made to feel like actual rooms. This can increase not only the perceived size of the home, but add to its practical and pleasurable use as well. These



IRINA88W/STOCK/THINKSTOCK

Combining the inside and outside of your home helps make for a more livable space.

spatial connections may possibly increase its long-term value.

### Deconstructing the Box

The open floor plan was originally invented by Frank Lloyd Wright when he wrote of “the destruction of the box” within the home.

Homes were, until his Usonian homes of the 1920s, traditionally a series of rooms separated by hallways. “Cookie cutter homes” were still being

built and sometimes still are today. Open web pre-fab trusses and other technical advances in construction have made wall removal within the home possible. Until then, walls were needed for structural support.

The open floor plan allows

for less obstructed human flow as well as smoother wheelchair navigation and makes it easier to integrate with the outside at various locations.

Sorry to say, Wright's home designs in their entirety were anything but inclusive, at least as far as my research goes.

Nonetheless, they were designed to bring the outdoors in and capitalize on the unique and indigenous nature of the site. The spaces flowed into the outdoors and that's the lesson we want to discuss and ultimately implement.

For this seamless flow to be most effective, a genuine connection needs to transpire with smooth floor thresholds and overhead cover that mitigate the realities of the elements. This is done more easily in new construction, but all homes can potentially be retrofitted to successfully connect with the outdoors.

### Utilizing Landscape

When initially designing the new home, visit the site at different times



MOODBOARD/THINKSTOCK

A seamless flow going inside makes a stronger outside connection.

Special vistas, views, patios and paths offer opportunities to create another “node” or connection with the exterior.



COURTESY OF CHARLES SCHWAB



COURTESY OF CHARLES SCHWAB

of the year and day, and note the special features of the yard and area.

Pay attention to not only your property but beyond into the landscape and as far as the eye can see. When it comes time to conceptualize your plan, any place where there will be seating arrangements or private areas, there are opportunities to emphasize or frame the views and special site features that you observed during those visits.

These special vistas, views and places are also an opportunity to create another “node” or connection with the exterior. These can take the form of portals intertwined with paths to form a sense of place and can be designed for free-flow within and without.

When contemplating exterior construction, it may be a good idea to phase the construction of the exterior so as not to be overwhelmed with options as well as additional cost at the same time you are building the house.

You don't want to cheapen the exterior details and new rooms in haste.

In fact, it may behoove you to settle in and get a feel for all those views and vistas, as well as sun, shade and shadows at different times of the day.

### Building Virtues

If you are using stone as a home building material, you may request to contract the exterior work along with the house's stonework, making sure the house stone matches and compliments the future yard work. In essence, you are putting off the actual work until later but actually including it as part of the total project now.

Inside and outside relationships in the life-span designed home are all about continued wellness and independence. Those home living virtues should not stop as one enters or leaves the house but continue throughout the special place we call home.

For more information, visit [universaldesignonline.com](http://universaldesignonline.com). ■

## THERE'S NO EXCUSE FOR STAYING HOME

Nuprodx builds the most portable shower / commode and tub / slider systems available. Strong, yet lightweight with modular, all-aluminum construction, they quickly pack down into easy-to-handle cases, and the 3000Tx and 4000Tx easily meet FAA requirements for carry-on luggage. When it comes to giving you the freedom to travel the world, Nuprodx systems are the *only* way to go!



**MULTICHAIR 3000Tx**

16 lbs. including standard transfer bench



**MULTICHAIR 4000Tx**

Carry-on w/ wheels for easy handling



**MULTICHAIR 6000Tx**

The best portable tub / slider system

**nuprodx inc**

(855) 220-5171

[www.nuprodx.com](http://www.nuprodx.com)