

ADPRO

September 14, 2026
By Nicole Gates Andereson

Clients Want to Age in Place. These 8 Innovations Let Them Do So Beautifully

Renovating a home so clients can stay in the place they love is one of the most meaningful projects a designer can take on. Experts share eight thoughtful ways to prepare homeowners for the years ahead



In Seattle, AD100 Olson Kundig principal Kirsten Ring Murray remodeled a family's home for single-level living, a must to age in place. Photo: Aaron Leitz

While downsizing might have once been the default move for older homeowners, many clients want to stay in their homes—and are willing to invest in improvements to let them do so. According to NKBA's 2026 reports, 64% of respondents call [aging-in-place](#) design a trend with mass appeal for bathrooms; the survey also found that 60 to 80% of boomers and Silent Generation members want universal design solutions in the kitchen.

"We are seeing clients who are interested in building their 'forever' home, and aging in place is central to the program," says architect Ray Calabro, a principal at [Bohlin Cywinski Jackson](#) in Seattle. That mindset informs client briefs from day one, says RA Rudolph, cofounder of Los Angeles–based architecture and design firm [Design. Bitches](#). "Our clients are looking to invest in projects that will adapt with them as their needs change, and hold up over time," the architect tells AD PRO.

Here, design pros share eight innovations helping their older clients make the most of their quality time remaining (see [AD PRO's story on QTR!](#)) and continue to enjoy the homes they love.



A stairway illuminated by motion-activated Stealth pathlights by Lucifer Lighting Photo: Bridgit Beyer

Movement and voice now light the way

To help prevent nighttime trips and falls, Murray builds motion-activated lighting—like [Lucifer Lighting's Stealth pathlights](#)—into all high-traffic zones, like from the bedroom to the bathroom. “Remote ceiling-mounted motion sensors provide the most flexibility when selecting minimal low-level lighting fixtures,” says the architect. Baker favors “low path lights that create a very moonlit, elegant walkway throughout the home,” using [WAC Lighting's vertical invisible trim step lights](#) or [picture lights by House of Troy](#), which he automates through systems like [Control4](#) and [HomeWorks](#). Kingston, meanwhile, uses a voice-control option called [Josh.ai](#). “It’s like Alexa for lighting, so you can talk to turn off lights,” says the designer. Sure beats [The Clapper](#).