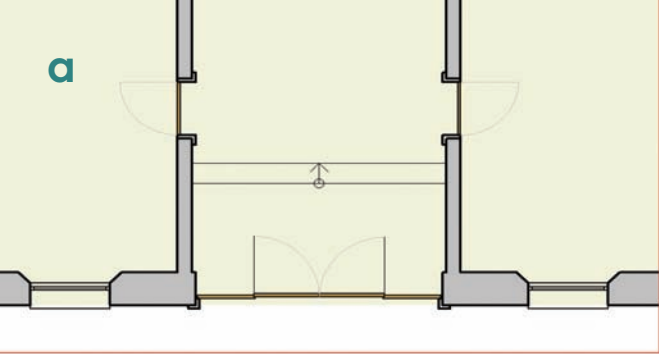
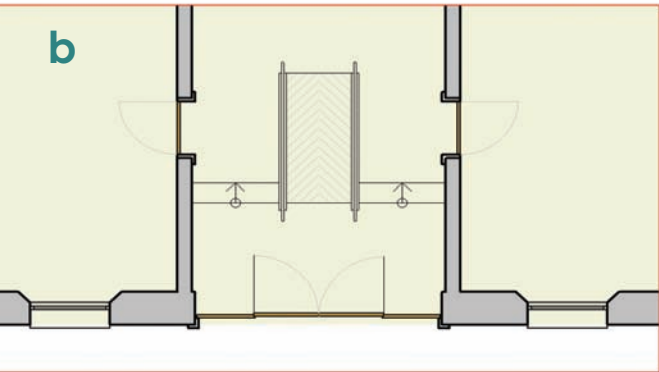


a

*pre-existing
situation before
project*

b

*ramp for
overcoming
differences in
level*

For the request to eliminate architectural barriers for an existing building with entrance steps, some possible solutions could be those proposed in the following illustration. It is useful to point out, however, that for the correct installation of a ramp it is necessary to make reference to the laws and regulations in force in each country. (c.f.r. Country Annex).

For this group of cases one should always respect the fundamental needs indicated in the GL, specifically the following:

Section B THE BUILDING OUTSIDE THE HOME requirements 2a, 2b, 2c, 2e

images of solution b)



b2

the presence of steps inside the building to reach a habitable area

The second group of examples instead, refers particularly to a duplex house on two floors. The most typical recurrent aspect is the necessity to deal with the presence of a single stairway between the two floors. Solutions in this particular case are fairly diverse with regard to the relation between the stairs and the mechanical device chosen to overcome architectonic barriers. The solutions can be reduced to three solutions: a lift, an elevating platform or a stair lift. The technological possibilities on the market are very varied with regard to form, dimension, functionality and cost but they all come down to these three types of electro-mechanic system. From the point of view of the user's needs there is an order of importance between the solutions in that the lift guarantees greater comfort and safety, especially today where one can find them on the market with 220 voltage. As a second option we can safely install an elevating platform which is not very different from a lift. As a final option, when the first two systems are not possible and particularly when there are more than one flight of stairs, one should opt for a stair lift. When one has to install a lift (or an elevating platform) it is preferable to respect the following:

- the lift must be easily accessible from the ground floor open cabin or glass models are to be preferred so as not to interfere too much with the image of the interior of the building;
- cabins are to be preferred which allow for direct and easy exiting on upper floors;
- spaces around the lift exit should be wide enough to allow for the complete rotation of a wheelchair or other similar aids;
- clear indications must be given for any possible variation in floor level between the lift cabin and the floor of the building, particularly for the very poor of sight and the blind;
- anti-slip materials should be used for the flooring inside the lift;



steps inside the home



stairs inside the home



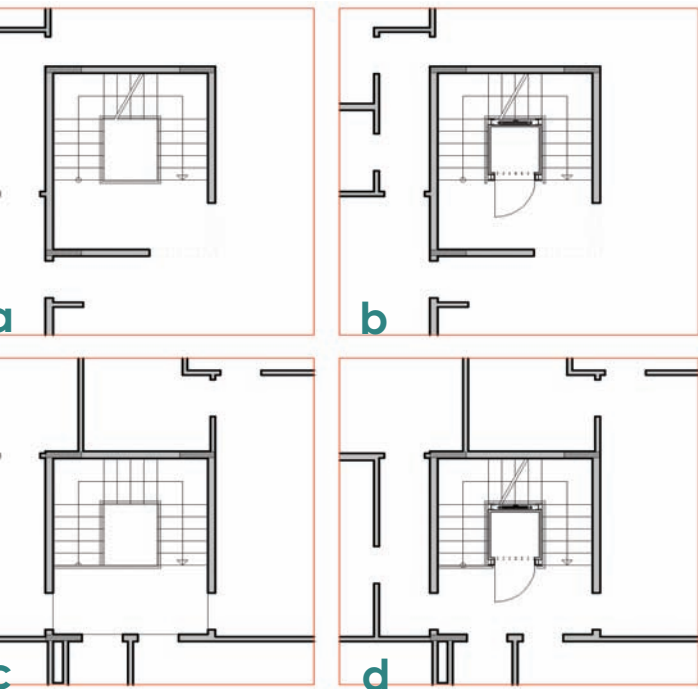
stairs inside the home



stairs inside the home



stairs inside the home



a-b pre-existing situation before project

c-d solution after the project

rendering of solution c-d



chairlift solution



- lifts (elevating platforms) which are not noisy, are to be preferred

In the case of stair lifts it is preferable to respect the following:

- the stair lift must be easily accessible from the ground floor
- spaces around the stair lift exit should be wide enough to allow for the complete rotation of a wheelchair
- models which take up the least stair space are to be preferred;
- stair lifts which are not noisy are to be preferred;
- battery powered models are to be preferred;
- models which do not interfere with the opening and closing of doors are to be preferred.

For the request to eliminate architectural barriers for an existing building with only steps for reaching higher floors, some possible solutions could be those proposed in the following illustration.

It is useful to point out, however, that for the correct installation of a lift (elevating platform) it is necessary to make reference to the laws and regulations in force in each country. (c.f.r. Country Annex).

For this group of cases one should always respect the fundamental needs indicated in the GL, specifically the following:

Section B THE BUILDING OUTSIDE THE HOME requirements 4q, 4r, 4s requirements 5d, 5e, 5f, 5g requirements 7j, 7k, 7i, 7l, 7 m, 7n, 7o, 7 p, 7q, 7r, 7s, 7t)

C

Homes connected by horizontal balconies in multifloor buildings (free stairwell area)

This typology of building is very old (examples can be found all over Europe from the 12 th Century) and they are also present in more recent versions which, however, appear by now to be served with lifts. Usually this typology on a plan metric level is composed of linear buildings which are enclosed around a central courtyard or varying dimension. The examples which we give in the following illustrations (3, 4, 5 and 6) show some typical cases of existing examples and there is a vast amount of literature on the subject. The solutions in this case are relatively simple as few present constraints for the installation of a lift. This is also helped by a change in attitude on the part of those bodies responsible for their upkeep allowing the insertion of external facilities provided they respect the character of the building; something which until lately was not allowed. Those parts which require specific attention in the planning are the following:

- the position of the lift must be easily visible and accessible for those entering the building;
- spaces around the lift exit should be comfortably wide and accessible;
- the opening position of the doors must be on the same side, if possible;
- the lift shaft should be completely transparent (in glass, with the exception of the supporting structure);
- the lift cabin walls should be completely accessible and transparent (but not the floor);
- the technological mechanism must allow for the maximum comfort (pleasant colours, speed of transport not above 0.6 m/sec, as noiseless as possible, safe with good quality finish and a very simple maintenance system).

For the request to eliminate architectural barriers for an existing building with only steps for reaching higher and lower floors, some possible solutions could be those proposed in the following illustration.



tipology of gallery from a 19th Century building



tipology of gallery from a 19th Century building

tipology of gallery from a modern building

tipology of gallery from a 19th Century building





*pre-existing situation
before project*

solution after project

*rendering of
solution b*



cases of lifts installed in a gallery typology



It is useful to point out, however, that for the correct installation of a lift (elevating platform) it is necessary to make reference to the laws and regulations in force in each country. (c.f.r. Country Annex).

In relation to the reduced presence of external limitations which lead to evidently simple solutions, for this group of cases one should always respect the fundamental needs indicated in the GL, specifically the following:
Section B THE BUILDING OUTSIDE THE HOME
requirements 4q, 4r, 4s.
requirements 5d, 5e, 5f, 5g.
requirements 7j, 7k, 7l, 7m, 7n, 7o, 7p, 7q, 7r, 7s, 7t.

D *The case of homes in multifloor buildings with fixed stairwells*

The cases presented in this part belong to those which are usually found in the recovery projects of existing buildings. In a multifloor building in fact it is very easy to find that the stairs is inserted in a defined position which interacts directly with the access spaces of the various homes on the higher floors. In the examples in the present fifth section of the GL we have resorted to three typical cases: A building with the stairs positioned in a wide stairwell; a building with the stairs in a limited stairwell but with room for modification; a building with the stairs in a limited stairwell. The first case is fairly easy to resolve as it only requires the installation of a lift; the second requires the revision of the position or of means of access to the stairs; whilst the third requires the installation in another place, outside the stairwell.

d1 *Building with a wide stairwell*

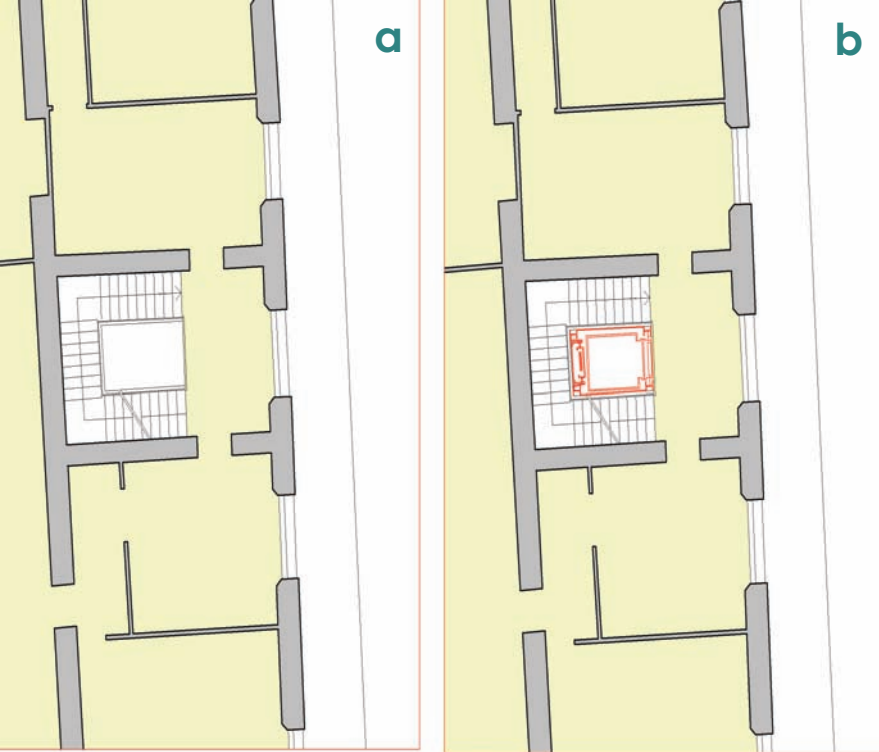
This refers to the typical case of installing an internal lift in the stairwell which allows the presence of both systems for reaching higher floors. The best possible technical solution would be to install a lift in the centre of the stairs, but a lateral installation is also acceptable. Solutions in this case are fairly simple as for a correct installation one needs to follow one's good sense. Those parts which require specific attention in planning are usually the following:

- the position of the lift must be easily visible and accessible for those entering the building;
- spaces around the lift exit should be comfortably wide and accessible;
- the opening position of the doors must be on the same side, if possible;
- the lift shaft should be completely transparent (in glass, with the exception of the supporting structure);
- the lift cabin walls should be completely accessible and transparent (but not the floor);



wide stairwell in which to install a lift





*pre-existing situation
before project*

solution after project

*lift installed in a stairwell which can
accomodate it correctly*



- the technological mechanism must allow for the maximum comfort (pleasant colours, speed of transport not above 0.6 m/sec, as noiseless as possible, safe with good quality finish and a very simple maintenance system).

For the request to eliminate architectural barriers for an existing building with only steps in a wide stairwell for reaching higher floors, some possible solutions could be those proposed in the following illustration.

It is useful to point out, however, that for the correct installation of a lift (elevating platform) it is necessary to make reference to the laws and regulations in force in each country. (c.f.r. Country Annex).

In relation to the reduced presence of limitations one should nearly always respect the fundamental requirements indicated in the GL, specifically the following:

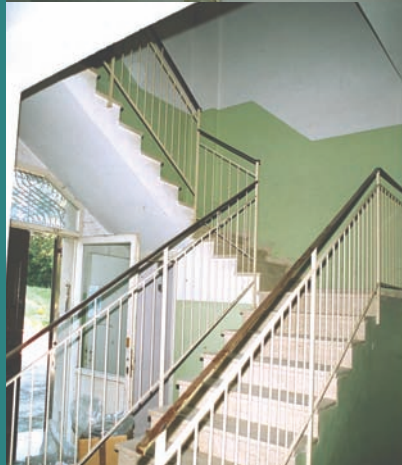
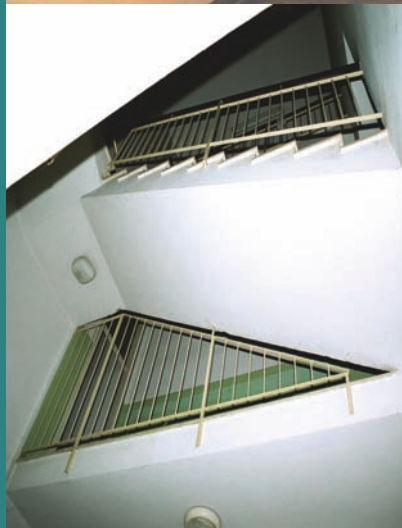
Section B THE BUILDING OUTSIDE THE HOME
requirements 4q, 4r, 4s.
requirements 5d, 5e, 5f, 5g.
requirements 7j, 7k, 7i, 7l, 7m, 7n, 7o, 7p, 7q, 7r, 7s, 7t.

d2 *building with a modifiable stairwell*

This is a fairly recurrent case but not easily resolvable as it entails the need to radically change the pre-existing stairs. It is favored therefore when one has to carry out considerable restructuring work which also regards the communal areas of the building; it requires large economic investment, obviously, for the number of floors which have to be reached, inasmuch as both systems have to be installed (in addition to the demolishing of the existing one). Solutions in this case are fairly simple as for a correct installation one needs to follow one's good sense. Those parts which require specific attention in planning are usually the following:

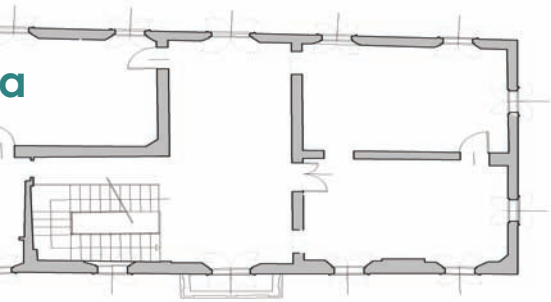
- the position of the lift must be easily visible and accessible for those entering the building;
- spaces around the lift exit should be comfortably wide and accessible;
- the opening position of the doors must be on the same side, if possible;
- the lift shaft should be completely transparent (in glass, with the exception of the supporting structure);
- the lift cabin walls should be completely accessible and transparent (but not the floor);
- the technological mechanism must allow for the maximum comfort (pleasant colours, speed of transport not above 0.6 m/sec, as noiseless as possible, safe with good quality finish and a very simple maintenance system).

For the request to eliminate architectural barriers for an existing building with only steps in a modifiable stairwell for reaching higher and lower floors, some possible solutions could be those proposed in the following illustration. It is useful to point out, however, that for the correct installation of a lift (elevating platform) it is necessary to make reference to the laws and regulations in force in each country. (c.f.r. Country Annex). In relation to the reduced presence of limitations one should nearly always respect the fundamental

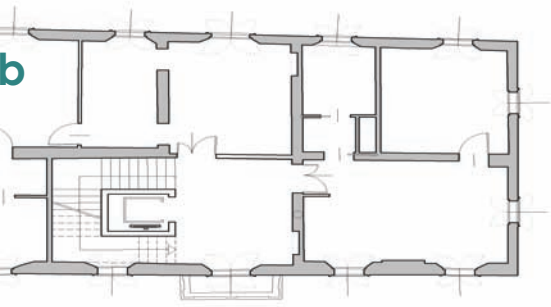


stairwells which require a complete remodification of the stairs in order to allow the installation of a lift




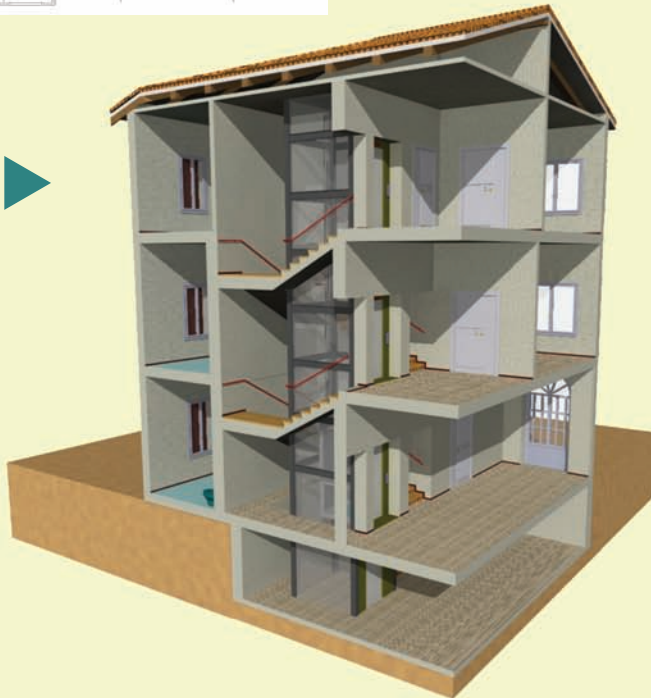


*pre-existing situation
before project*



solution after project

*rendering of
solution b* 



images of a solution similar to that indicated in b



Requirements indicated in the GL, specifically the following:

Section B THE BUILDING OUTSIDE THE HOME requirements 4q, 4r, 4s.

requirements 5d, 5e, 5f, 5g.

requirements 7j, 7k, 7i, 7l, 7m, 7n, 7o, 7p, 7q, 7r, 7s, 7t.

d3 *building with a stairwell in a limited space*

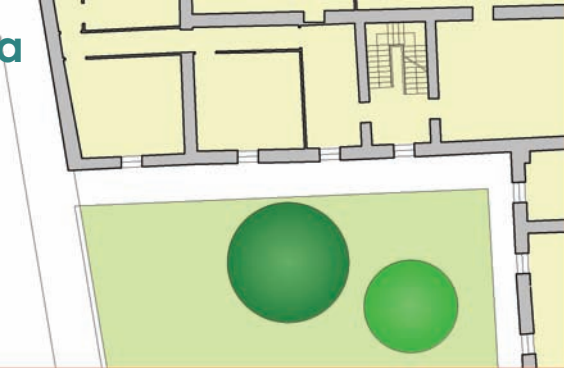
This is a fairly recurrent case but not easily resolvable as it entails the presence of diverse constraints. When it is not possible to install a lift in the stairwell it is necessary to find another place of exit on the different floors which is not always in position to the entrances to the homes. In the event that one chooses to install a lift one has to find a position that favors a satisfactory access to the homes which are not always on the same level as the various floors; very often the entrances are found in positions which do not allow for easy access from the existing stairs, particularly when one places them on the exterior of the building. Such projects require large economic investment, obviously, for the number of floors which have to be reached, indeed when carried out inside the building it is necessary to demolish a substantial amount. Solutions in this case are fairly simple as for a correct installation one needs to follow one's good sense. Those parts which require specific attention in planning are usually the following:

- the position of the lift must be easily visible and accessible for those entering the building;
- spaces around the lift exit should be comfortably wide and accessible;
- the opening position of the doors must be on the same side, if possible;
- the lift shaft should be completely transparent (in glass, with the exception of the supporting structure);
- the lift cabin walls should be completely accessible and transparent (but not the floor);
- the technological mechanism must allow for the maximum comfort (pleasant colours, speed of transport not above 0.6 m/sec, as noiseless as possible, safe with good quality finish and a very simple maintenance system).

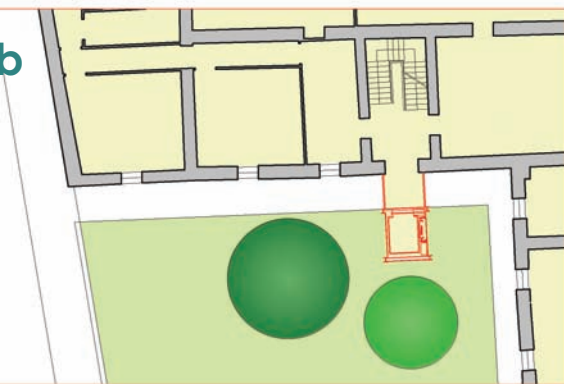
For the request to eliminate architectural barriers for an existing building with only steps in a limited stairwell for reaching higher floors, some possible solutions could be



images of buildings with insufficient stair wells for the positioning of lifts



*pre-existing situation
before project*



solution after project



images of lifts positioned on the outside of the building



those proposed in the following illustration. It is useful to point out, however, that for the correct installation of a lift (elevating platform) it is necessary to make reference to the laws and regulations in force in each country. (c.f.r. Country Annex).

In relation to the reduced presence of limitations one should nearly always respect the fundamental requirements indicated in the GL, specifically the following:

Section B THE BUILDING OUTSIDE THE HOME requirements 4q, 7r, 7s.

requirements 5d, 7e, 7f, 7g.

requirements 7j, 7k, 7i, 7l, 7m, 7n, 7o, 7p, 7q, 7r, 7s, 7t.

2. Some solutions for resolving the qualitative and quantitative deficiencies of a bathroom

Resolving the problems of the accessibility and usability of an area destined for use as a bathroom represent one of the most important questions for the elderly who wish to continue living in their own homes. Especially in older homes the bathroom area has for a long time been considered a service space, usually introduced after the construction of the building. At first considered a simple area for only bodily functions, the bathroom has slowly become a place for the upkeep of one's own body and one's sense of well being. Beginning between the two World Wars of the last century all the Western countries began to purposely plan the layout of their bathrooms. The comfortably well-off classes immediately took the necessary space whilst the lower social classes made do with spaces which were little less than holes. The situation got better with time and now it is easy to find homes with two bathrooms. Conversely, older buildings keep these initial limitations, due to renovations which came about after the initial construction or to their limited space. Moreover, these buildings are often inhabited by less younger people and it is much more probable to find the elderly in them. Finding solutions for improving the quality of residential life in buildings without suitable bathrooms appears to be an interesting one. Also, because (at least in Italy) it has been proven that the majority of domestic accidents occur there. We will start, therefore, by posing a question we often asked ourselves in the course of this project; what is the minimum space required to suit the needs of an elderly person? The answer is not as obviously easy as it may first seem, even the minimum dimensions for the basic functions would appear to be very limited, not to mind uncomfortable for an elderly person. There exists, in fact, a well known example in Italy of a bathroom measuring only 1.0 x 1.2 m designed by F. Vescovo (see illustration) which satisfies all functional needs. However, this is not a proposable solution, though somewhat particular. Normally, therefore, it is opportune to evaluate other criteria other



images of bathrooms without the minimum conditions of quality required





images of bathrooms without the minimum conditions of quality required



and ease of use. We remind one, in fact, that 'Universal design' leads us to consider the needs of everybody without attributing minimum standards of any kind. Moreover, inside the bathroom there are articles (the bidet) which only belong among certain cultural habits, whose introduction or absence represent a minimum quite diverse between one culture and another. This part of the fifth section of the GL takes into consideration three topics which are considered to be among the most important to satisfy when restructuring a bathroom in an elderly person's home: These are certainly not the only topics worthy of consideration, but they appear among the most common and therefore are the most representative from an operational point of view, which is how we have decided to approach this new section. We voluntarily leave aside the theme of hydro-sanitary fittings, which are more and more becoming the subject of building restructuring. Unfortunately, in an increasing number of cases, one notes repeated dissatisfaction with respect to the correct functioning of recently serviced equipment. This is not attributable however to the quality of the materials used, which have notably improved over the last decade. The biggest problem appears instead to be divided in two, both linked to labor; the lowering of average professional ability and the use of skilled labor from other sectors not always up to date with the latest standards. The parallel fragmentation of the productive processes in the last few years has led to an ever increasing number of people involved in a project, often accompanied by a lack of cohesive organisation. This often produces a lowering of quality even in the minutest aspects, creating acute vexation for the elderly person and their family. This occurs even for the correct functioning of secondary appliances (siphons, discharge pipes, water leakages, badly functioning taps, etc...) Which, exactly because they are not put right, often cause disturbances in the delicate psychological makeup of the individual.

A

Facilitating access to the bathroom

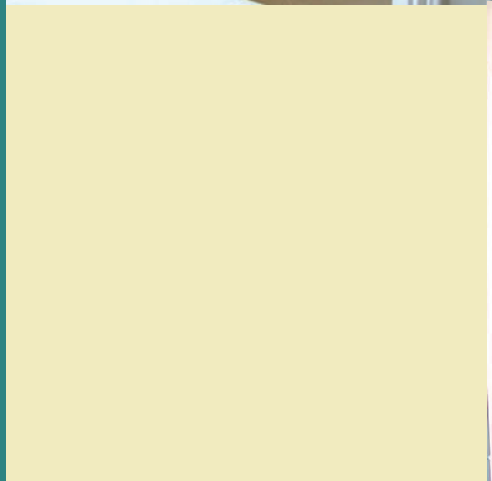
The entrance to the bathroom constitutes one of the fundamental conditions for the quality of its use although this is often undervalued. In fact, there cannot be a safe, comfortable and healthy bathroom without a friendly, easy to use access. **The most important aspect is the dimension of the door**, which must allow easy transit in and out of the bathroom, also for those who use walking aids. In order to resolve these problems of access one should take into consideration all three spatial elements: the space immediately outside, the door and the doorway; and the space immediately inside. Only when all three aspects have been satisfied can access for the elderly be considered completely adequate and satisfactory. Beyond the correct dimensions for the door, one must verify the real space both inside and outside the bathroom. Above all one must insure that the door does not have any protuberances that may reduce the transit space, thus avoiding any future problems in the utilization phase. An outwardly opening door appears to be the best solution, because in the case of obstruction inside the bathroom, due for example to the user falling over, it is the safer option. In this case, in addition to the dimensions already mentioned, it is necessary to take note of the following details:

- the space in front of the door must allow for its complete opening
- the space in front of the door must have a suitable dimension to allow a person with a walking aid to pause during its opening and closing;
- Opening and closing must be easy (the door should open without the need of excessive force)
- the lock must allow for the possibility of opening even from the outside for safety reasons;
- the area directly inside and outside the doorway must have a flat floor with no steps

A sliding door is an equally favourable solution for everyone, though more taxing. Such a system can be installed with relative ease as long as, apart from its



images of bathrooms with unsuitable entrance



suitable dimensions for transit, the following requirements are met:

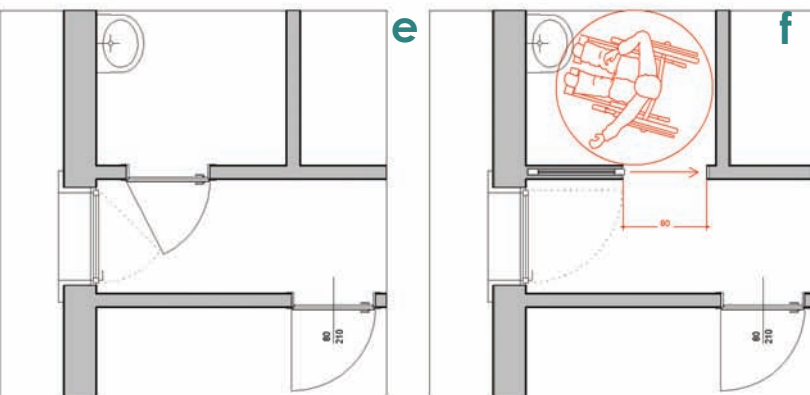
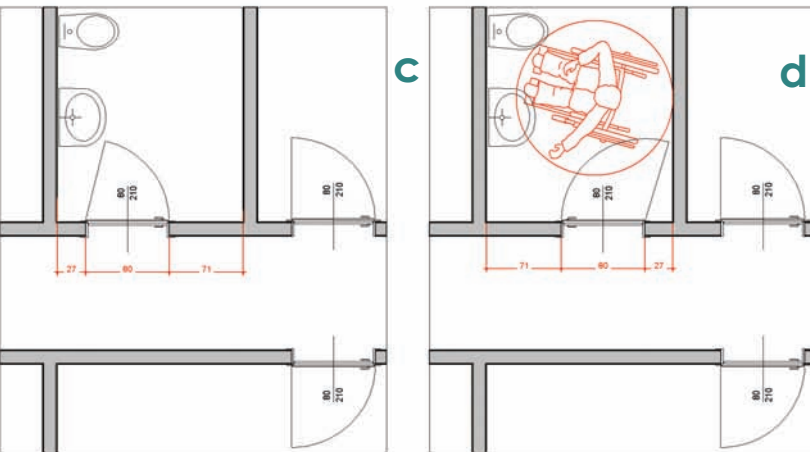
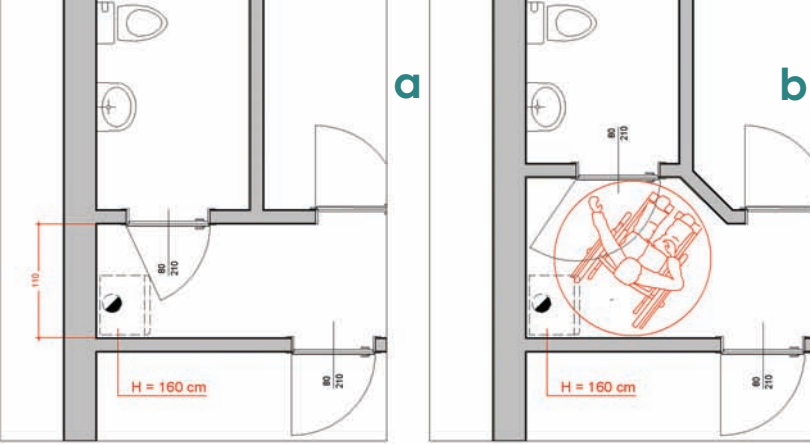
- the depth of at least one part of the wall containing the door must be such as to allow its complete housing in an open position (inside or outside the wall);
 - it must be easy to open or close (without excessive force);
 - the lock must allow for the possibility of opening even from the outside for safety reasons;
- the area directly inside and outside the doorway must

In the case that neither of the solutions indicated before are possible one must opt for an inwardly opening door. In such a case the opening mechanism, in addition to

- the space in front of the door must allow for its complete opening
- the space in front of the door must have a suitable dimension to allow a person with a walking aid to pause during its opening and closing;
- Opening and closing must be easy (the door should open without the need of excessive force)
- the lock must allow for the possibility of opening even from the outside for safety reasons;
- the area directly inside and outside the doorway must have a flat floor with no steps

For the request to improve access to the bathroom in an existing home, some possible solutions could be those proposed in the following illustration. The solutions we have indicated are only some of the possibilities; also in these examples we have not made reference to the most important and well known, but only those which are the most usual. It is useful to point out, however, that for the correct installation of a lift (elevating platform) it is necessary to make reference to the laws and regulations in force in each country. (c.f.r. Country Annex). In relation to the reduced presence of limitations one should nearly always respect the fundamental requirements indicated in the GL, specifically the following:

Section A THE HOME
 Requirements 5a, 5b, 5c, 5d, 5e
 requirements 19i, 19j, 19 m
 requirements 20i



pre-existing situation
before project

solution after project

a restructured
bathroom
entrance

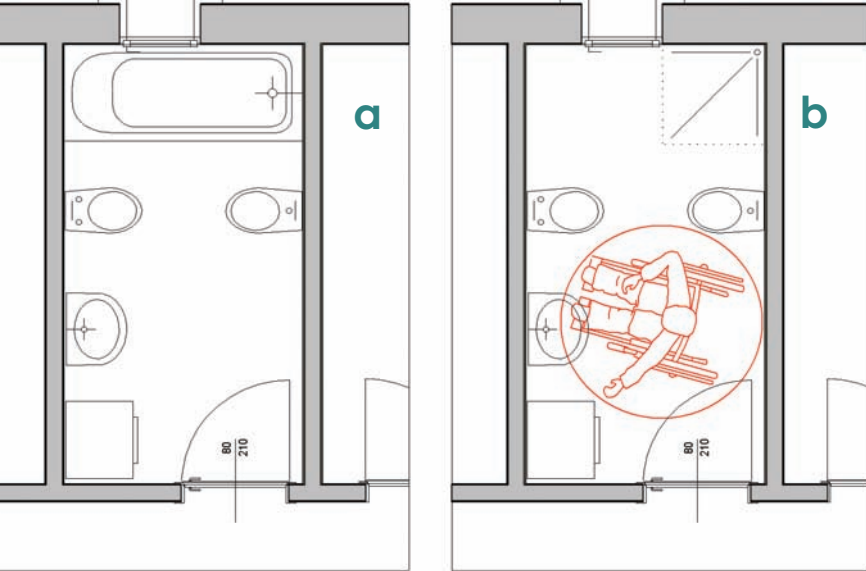


B *Substitute a bathtub with a shower*

Substituting a shower for a bathtub is one of the fundamental operations to carry out inside a home when trying to improve the quality of life of an elderly person. This is an operation which resolves an important point linked to personal safety, as entering, leaving and laying in a bath pose some of the most dangerous moments, especially in the presence of wet surfaces which can cause slipping. Every fall or even collision against the surface of sanitary articles, taps and furnishings, can cause major physical problems, especially for those elderly people who already have problems with balance and vertical stability. The bathtub is the source of some of the most serious domestic accidents. Beyond the elevated number in itself, one must also note the seriousness of accidents caused by wet surfaces in restricted areas with an elevated number of protuberances. **The bath tub is not safe and must be replaced by a shower** is not only a slogan for improving the lives of the elderly, but it is a fundamental requirement for their independence. To satisfy this specific need there are no intermediary conditions and as the physical space occupied by the bathtub is always more than that occupied by a shower the operation is nearly always less problematic. The shower however must be installed taking into account the following indications:

- the shower base must be placed on the floor with the smallest difference in level (max 1,5 cm);
- the shower drain must be on the same level as the base and must eliminate excess water in the shortest time possible;
- the material of the base must be anti-slip or it must be made so via an anti-slip method (such as a footboard);
- the showerhead must be moveable in height;
- the tap handles must be easy to reach and use, but must not interfere with the erect position of the body of the person using the shower;





pre-existing situation
before project

solution after project

- on one side of the lateral wall there must be a folding stool to carry out washing from a comfortable position. If possible it should be positioned on the same wall as the taps;
- if possible, the stool should have two folding sides in order to avoid lateral sliding of the body;
- on the other lateral side of the wall there should be a horizontal handrail to help maintain a seated position and which is easily reachable;
- in order to avoid the lateral overspill of water from the shower base it is advisable to place a conduction system (glass, curtains, mixed system, etc...). should curtains be preferred their length should be considered so as to avoid overlaps. Should one opt for a syste using glass this must be of ample size such as to allow the eventual addition of another person to help in washing.



images of restructured bathrooms

For the request to substitute a bathtub for a shower in an existing home, some possible solutions could be those proposed in the following illustration. The solutions we have indicated are only some of the possibilities; also in these examples we have not made reference to the most important and well known, but only those which are the most usual. It is useful to point out, however, that for the correct installation of a shower it is necessary to make reference to the laws and regulations in force in each country or region. (c.f.r. Country Annex).

One should nearly always respect the fundamental requirements indicated in the GL, specifically the following:

Section A THE HOME
requirements 5a, 5b, 5c, 5d, 5e.
requirements 19i, 19j, 19m.
requirements 20i.



C

satisfying the requirements for movement inside the bathroom on the part of a person in a wheelchair

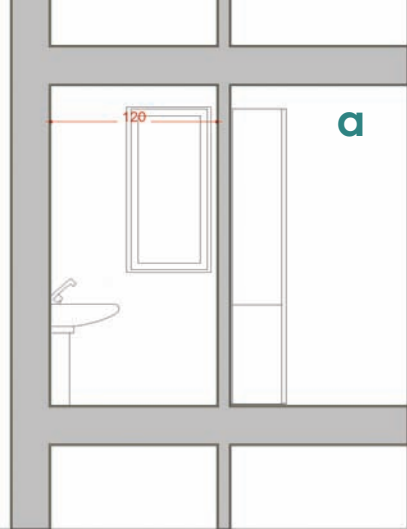
Taking into consideration this particular aspect in restructuring means returning to a topic which we have considered previously, research into the minimum dimensions of a bathroom, not so as to make additions to things already said, but only to examine the topic from a particular point of view perhaps little known and worthy of some investigation. It regards, in fact, examining a fairly typical bathroom to see the possible development of space in order to meet the needs of someone in a wheelchair in order to give them the most autonomy and independence. In so much as was said on the previous page, regarding this question, it may appear necessary to consider the age of the building the elderly person has been resident in. The more a building is old the more it usually presents problems, such as the limited physical space in the first place. Such characteristics should find solutions only through the enlargement of existing spaces.

We remind one, in fact, that **the minimum requirement to be satisfied is that which allows one complete revolution (360°) of the wheelchair without additional manoeuvres** considering the presence of sanitary articles. A need which requires a free space of at least 1.5 metres. The solution to this particular type of problem therefore requires neither a numerical approach nor one that is immediate and foregone. In effect, anyone would be able to resolve it by simply enlarging the bathroom by removing a wall in order to allow for the whole rotation of a wheelchair. A completely different approach is required however if for example a widening was impossible due to some obstacle or to a limited space. Such a possibility, moreover, represents the majority of cases encountered in restructuring. In this situation one needs to find other solutions which are less obvious or evident. For example one possible answer might be to make the space under the washbasin completely accessible: it is known, in fact, that the



some bathrooms with multiple defects and reduced internal spaces

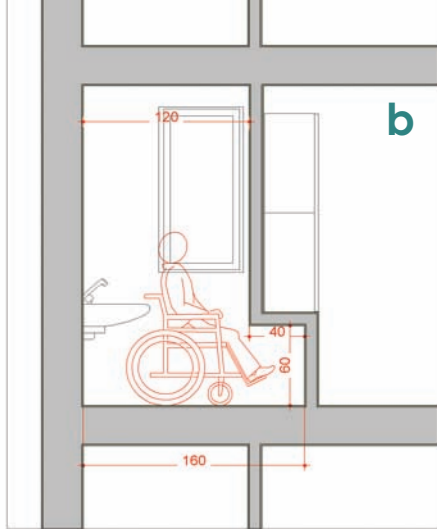




*pre-existing situation
before project*



some solutions for restructured bathrooms



solution after project

footboard of the wheelchair, which represents its furthest protuberance, does not reach beyond 30 cm from the floor even with the person seated. It is not necessary therefore to have a complete circle of rotation of the wheelchair for the entire height of the bathroom: it is sufficient to have it for at least 30 cm from the floor. Another solution is that of moving only the base part of a side wall creating a break which widens the internal part of the bathroom in order to allow the complete rotation of the wheelchair. With such a solution moreover one can obtain a seating position which increases the space for socializing in a room of small dimension.

For such a case one should nearly always be able to respect the fundamental requirements indicated in the GL, specifically the following:
Section A THE HOME
requirements 5f, 5r



3. improving the kitchen/living room area

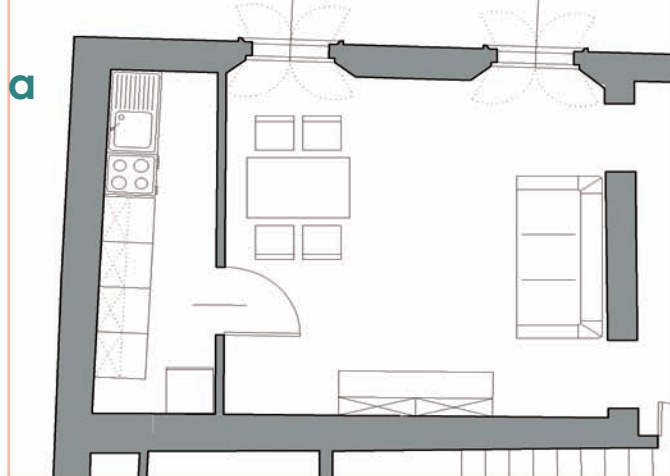
In a room in which elderly people live it is quite common to meet with problems bound up with the space equipped for the preparation of meals (kitchen and kitchenette). Those elements which must be most faced regard principally three types: the dimensions and the characteristics of the available space; the characteristics of the furnishings; the technology installed. For each of these aspects it would be most opportune first to review the principal advantages of each single detail. One starts however from an overall consideration in order then to consider the most important elements to be restructured. **The particular typology of the home under consideration in the GL must possess a specific space for food preparation:** its definition is almost a foregone conclusion, but the presence of this space is quite unique in a home made specifically for the elderly. The presence of a space suitable for the preparation of meals, in fact, if on the one side it offers a considerable opportunity for autonomy, in contrast to an external service, on the other, it requires only a few particularities to be carefully highlighted so as not to move towards solutions of a highly specialized nature and not indicated for the elderly. Photos and illustrations of existing kitchens which are uncomfortable belonging to the homes of elderly people. The space for the preparation of meals is thus indispensable, but it is not evident that it must be clearly subdivided and clearly separated from other daytime areas. For example, it is not obligatory to impose fixed walls between this space and the living room or the area dedicated to the consumption of meals (dining area) which may be present or absent depending on geographic-cultural practices. In order to respond to the specific need to contain odours, or to hide provisions yet to be washed and laying on visible work surfaces or sinks, it is possible to insert a moveable system between two areas in order to conceal them. Such a solution, desirable moreover, tends to satisfy an individual psychological need and must be considered principally for that need and for improving the quality of an elderly person's life. In this part we have dwelt carefully on the



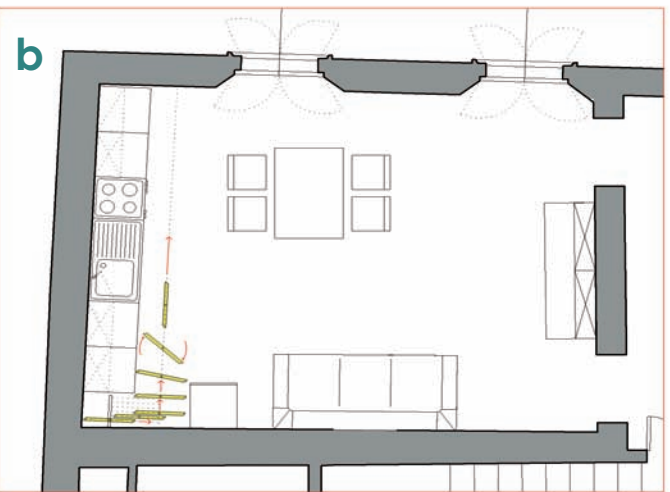
images of unsatisfactory kitchens



pre-existing
situation before
project



solution after
project



some solutions for restructured kitchens



herent questions which should be considered with regard to those areas inside the home destined for the preparation of food, leaving aside more the part relative to the size of such an area. With respect to this let us indicate only a few measurements (due to specific needs), as in general terms correct values do not exist in themselves; values which may be justified as requirements. In this regard we will quote firstly the minimum depth of the available space such as to guarantee the complete rotation of a wheelchair (1.5 ml). This may be obtained by leaving enough space between the furniture and fittings, but it could also be made in a better way (perhaps not a whole rotation but a partial one) by leaving space under work surfaces; free of drawers and cupboard doors. With regard however to the dimensions and the characteristics of the furniture as well as the technological fittings, we refer entirely to the requirements made in section A of the GL as it is very detailed on this topic. For the request to improve the space destined for the preparation of meals in the home some possible solutions could be those proposed in the following illustrations. The solutions we have indicated are only a few of the many possibilities; in these examples too we have not referred to the most important or well known ones, but to some of the most usual. It is useful to point out, however, that for the correct realization of a kitchen/ kitchenette space it is necessary to make reference to the laws and regulations in force in each country. (c.f.r. Country Annex).

In particular one should pay special attention to safety equipment as preparing food involves an array of instruments in the home which increase the risks and dangers to elderly people in their daily lives. The following requirements should be considered:

Section A THE HOME
requirements 6a, 6b, 6c, 6d, 6e, 6f, 6g, 6h, 6i, 6j, 6k.
requirements 7a, 7b, 7c.
requirements 11a.
requirements 17a, 17b, 17c, 17d, 17i.
requirements 19g, 19s, 19t.
requirements 20b.

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PARTNER PROFILE WEL_HOPS EUROPEAN PROJECT

ERVET Emilia-Romagna Territorial Economic Development S.p.A. - Team Leader (Italy)

Founded in 1974, the agency is the principal representative of the Emilia-Romagna Region. From 2003 it has operated as the principal agency for territorial development with the aim of promoting a sustainable economy, solely for the upkeep and qualification of welfare levels for the population, in line with the programmes and plans of the regional authorities and with the system of local institutes. ERVET provides its services to the Emilia-Romagna Region on the basis of a special agreement, and to other public and private institutes through specific projects

Blekinge Institute of Technology - Karlskrona University (Sweden)

The Blekinge Institute of Technology is a university specialized in teaching in the field of advanced technical applications and social sciences. Its interest today is focused particularly on the elderly. Indeed, in cooperation with the School of Engineering, Department of European Spatial Planning and the Solvesborg community, it has developed research projects on how to build and manage elderly housing: Seniorliving.

FAMCP Federazione Aragonesa di Municipalità, Comarcas e Province (Spain)

FAMCP - Federazione Aragonesa di Municipalità, Comarcas e Province collaborates with IASS, the Aragonesa institute for social services. On the basis of this collaboration it has supplied a list of services "à la carte" adaptable to the needs of everyone.

This offer includes help for disabled elderly people and economic help for the needy, as well as services for free time activities

Brighton and Hove city Town council (Great Britain)

The housing board of directors is responsible for the development of strategies inherent in the field of housing, and the supply of services for the elderly.

The municipality has carried out the Senior's Housing Choices Survey, investigations into the needs of the elderly on which it has implemented its strategies. The housing board of directors is trying to optimise the availability of housing for the elderly in such a way as to adapt its services to the needs of the elderly citizen in the 21st Century

Győr city council (Hungary)

The housing board of directors for social services and welfare is responsible for the level of healthcare and assistance for elderly citizens in the municipality. Particularly, it is concerned with elderly citizens who live in conditions of need and aims to apply the Guidelines developed by the Wel_Hops project in order to better the conditions of both the elderly and the population in general

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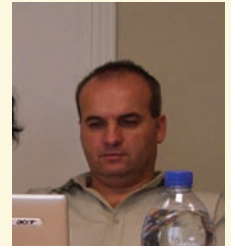
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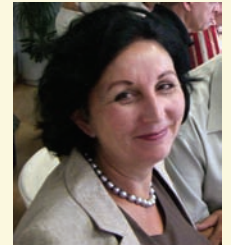
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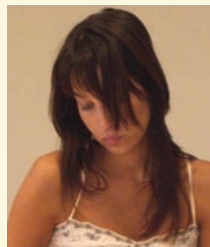
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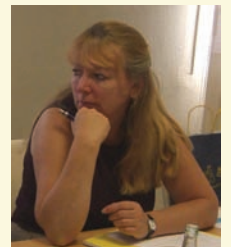
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