

Few people can say they had a good experience after spending five months living in a house while it underwent remodeling that touched every room. I would have begun this project years ago had I known how easy it was to work with Cayenne to get such a marvelous result.

My initial plan was to add a second bathroom – one that I could navigate in my wheelchair. I worked with an architect to design space that gave me this bathroom, ample closet space, and a bedroom opening to a small screen porch. It would have been wonderful had I gotten only that. However, after living in the house for 28 years, I wanted more than that. I wanted, at the end, for the entire house to work together.

I interviewed – and got estimates from – half a dozen contractors. Only Cayenne heard my goals. Only Cayenne provided estimates on all of the items I included in my specifications. The rest did not look much beyond the architects' design. I decided as a result of the interview process to select Cayenne based significantly on the fact that I believed she would be able to help me through all of the "field decisions" that would arise during construction. While I was clear about what I wanted to achieve, I knew I needed help in understanding how to achieve it. She went far beyond my already high expectations.

Cayenne's hallmark is the personal attention she pays to the project throughout. She went shopping with me on numerous occasions. She listened to what I wanted – and helped me find products that met those wishes. We went tile shopping together. And, when I loved decorator tiles but just couldn't justify them on the screened porch, she designed a tile floor pattern using inexpensive ceramic tiles. My screen porch floor is an amazing tile "rug".

When I proposed a very expensive linoleum floor for the kitchen, she found a granite floor that could be installed for the same price and was far more striking. She worked with the squares until they formed a beautiful, flowing pattern.

I spend most of my time using a wheelchair. Every detail in construction was measured against this need. When she built bookcases in the hallway, she carefully measured where I could reach. The same was true for closet racks and shelves. When she installed grab bars in the bathroom, she carefully worked with me to make sure they were at the right height. When an off the shelf grab bar wasn't available to cover the full expanse of the tub, she had one constructed.

While following the architects' plans, Cayenne looked for opportunities to make improvements. After vaulting the ceiling in the bedroom, she added trapezoid windows to the screen porch – and repeated the trapezoids in screen on the porch.

As I would walk through and admire the work for the day, Cayenne would be making a list of all of the things she wanted polished and tightened and straightened. She can be my quality control officer anytime!

In addition to all of the design and remodeling work, my plan called for re-plumbing, rewiring, re-roofing, repainting interior and exterior – and much more. As a professional project manager, she amazed me in her intuitive ability to manage her resources and the subcontractors – and meet her schedule and budget. Needless to say, they also met her quality standards.

Cayenne is extraordinary in her ability to manage to both form and function. Her attention to design detail throughout made all the difference. It's not often that a homeowner hates to see a construction crew finish the project. But this crew was so respectful of my space – and so attentive to my needs – I truly hated for the project to be finished. And... while it has been more than a year since construction finished, I still smile each time I walk in my back door.

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