

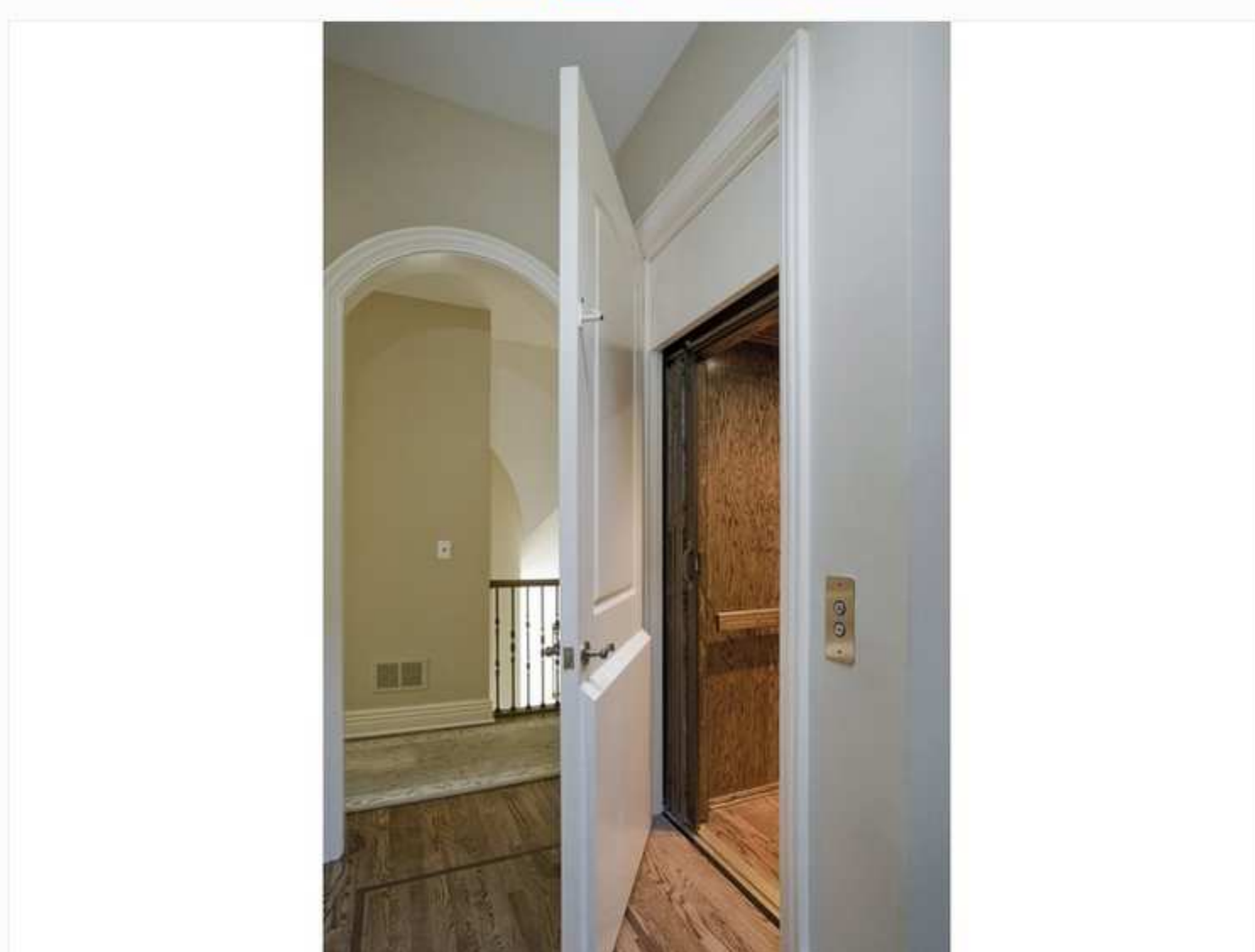
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Residential Elevators Get a Big Lift on the North Shore

Home elevators aren't just for the super-rich. They're great for Baby boomers who want to stay in their homes (& don't like stairs)

By LESLIE LEVINE (Open Post)
 July 1, 2015



More and more homeowners—particularly boomers—want to stay in place and live out the rest of their lives in their current homes. Here are some tips from Orren Pickell of [Orren Pickell Building Group](#) on what homeowners should consider before installing an elevator in their homes:

If homeowners do decide to stay, many boomers will choose to move their master bedroom to the main floor so they don't have to navigate the stairs (although, truthfully, many of my boomer customers attribute their good health to climbing up and down the stairs each day!). But some will choose to build a master bedroom addition on the second floor or combine two bedrooms into one. Either way, if they decide to remain in their homes, homeowners may opt for an elevator in order to avoid using the stairs either for health reasons or because they simply want to make their movements around the house easier to navigate. This applies to future caregivers as well; elevators can ease the load for those tasked with caring for people aging or convalescing from an illness and/or surgery. Conditions like arthritis, a common, but manageable condition, can become easier to live with by simply installing an elevator.

I truly believe where there's a will, there's always a way. And if people want to stay in their homes as they age there are solutions in order to do so. Our Home Remodeling division has worked with many "boomers" throughout the years to make renovations that allow them to remain in their homes for the remainder of their lives. Homes—versus caregiving facilities while appropriate for certain situations—provide comfort and reassurance, which research has shown can accelerate or at least sustain one's health. Installing an elevator can be a simple yet effective solution.

In addition, some of our clients who want to downsize aren't necessarily moving out of the suburbs into an apartment or a community limited to ranch-style homes. They may purchase smaller, two-story homes and retrofit those with an elevator or opt for a smaller custom built home that includes an elevator in its design. Incorporating state-of-the-art mobility shouldn't necessarily be viewed as a luxury. For many families, specifically aging couples or singles, an elevator may be absolutely essential. Design options vary from glass to wood doors and panels. The key, aside from enhancing quality of life, is to create an elevator design that blends well with the home. It should be aesthetically pleasing *and* functional.

Plus, I always recommend that customers plan for the future. When they are in their 40's, for example, they should think about living in their home 20 or 30 years down the road and then plan accordingly. They may not need an elevator today, but if they are building a new home or remodeling a current one, they should think about making a space for a possible elevator. After so many years, people become very comfortable in their homes. They don't want to move. And, if they plan ahead, they may not need to and can, therefore, "age in place," an appealing option for more and more people. No one especially likes to think about getting older and those pesky health issues, but if people are willing to plan, they give themselves more potential to enjoy their later years.

Some homeowners who want to stay put also opt for elevators to accommodate other family members like grandchildren with special needs or other relatives who visit frequently and require additional—and more convenient—accessibility. Plus, elevators can be designed to reach a second floor as well as a basement. It all depends on what a client needs as well as any budgetary restrictions.

Orren Pickell's name has become synonymous with outstanding design and quality construction from forty years of innovative methods and demanding attention to detail. Throughout his career, Orren's philosophy has remained unchanged: provide customers with the highest level of service in all areas and work diligently to offer the greatest value for every project. Orren has assembled a dedicated, experienced team of professionals who share his enthusiasm for this industry and he has been honored with more awards for design creativity and construction excellence than any builder in the Midwest. He enjoys a well-deserved reputation as a premiere custom homebuilder, with satisfied customers and magnificent projects throughout Illinois, Wisconsin, Indiana and Michigan. Visit www.pickellbuilders.com to learn more.

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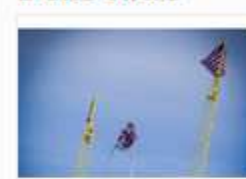
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