

Ron Wickman : Vertical Movement

00;00;00;00 - 00;00;27;00

Karen Brown

Welcome to Real Life Renos : The Podcast. My name is Karen Brown and I am happy to welcome Ron Wickman joining us again as we continue our series on accessible housing. Ron is an architect who specializes in barrier free design and he's joining us from Edmonton. Welcome, Ron.

00;00;27;02 - 00;00;28;12

Ron Wickman

Thanks. It's great to be here.

00;00;28;15 - 00;00;47;24

Karen Brown

We've done a podcast on entry to a home, and in this podcast we're going to look at vertical movement within the home. So to be clear, a bungalow is ideal, but that's just not the situation everybody finds themselves in. A two story home is absolutely modifiable. Walk us through this renovation Ron.

00;00;47;26 - 00;01;12;29

Ron Wickman

Yeah, so it's true. A bungalow is probably your best bet for for somebody, especially somebody who uses a wheelchair. But the reality is, in Canada, we do we still build with basement. So if you want to get into your into your basement you're going to have to think about some kind of vertical lift an elevator or something on on the stairs.

00;01;13;02 - 00;01;43;16

Ron Wickman

So by the time you look at having an elevator, let's say in your house, whether that elevator is doing two stops, three stops or four stops, the cost doesn't really very much. So once you once you commit to a an elevator in a house, then your your options become much greater in terms of, you know, house hunting when it comes to renovation work.

00;01;43;19 - 00;02;02;28

Ron Wickman

One thing I've been talking with my clients about a lot, a lot more lately is, you know, I'm dealing with clients who have already found their house and now I get involved and I try to help them figure out how to make it accessible. Right. But in talking with with some of my clients, they they've told me about their experience looking for a house.

00;02;03;01 - 00;02;33;19

Ron Wickman

So they've they've found you know, they found themselves in this situation where they're they're using a wheelchair. So maybe for 20, 20 some years of their life, they were walking. They were injured through an accident of some sort. And now they have a spinal cord injury, let's say, And and they are using a wheelchair. So they go house hunting and what I've been finding the consistent issue for, for my clients is that they're looking for a house that could accommodate an elevator.

00;02;33;19 - 00;03;03;08

Ron Wickman

So that seems to be the first thing they look for, more so than the entrance way. So they think, well, we can always build a ramp of some sort. That doesn't seem to be the biggest issue for them. The biggest issue is this is this how do I get up and down this in

the house? So they try to find houses, let's say, that have a big foyer at the entrance because they think, oh, we just steal space from a closet, or maybe there's a bigger entrance way we can sort of fit it in with the stairs, that sort of thing.

00;03;03;10 - 00;03;18;01

Ron Wickman

So that's that's interesting to me because I would have never thought about that myself. But that's definitely for somebody that's newly, newly finds themselves with this disability, that that seems to be a really big issue.

00;03;18;03 - 00;03;35;17

Karen Brown

Right? And if they have a bungalow, it's not an issue at all. They need an open floor plan and everything on the main floor, like laundry, not in the basement, for instance. And they're pretty much good to go. But if you've got a two-storey house, and we've got a plethora of two story houses in our stock now.

00;03;35;17 - 00;03;56;13

Ron Wickman

Yeah, that's right. And generally it's more cost effective to build a the same square footage on a two-storey in a two-storey house than it is on a on a on a bungalow. And that largely has to do with the cost of land. So in Edmonton, compared to other parts of Canada, we're probably somewhere in the in the middle.

00;03;56;16 - 00;04;22;25

Ron Wickman

Toronto. Vancouver, the cost of land is extremely expensive. So you start going to our three stories in those areas. Just because you use it will save money that way. When when I when I

personally go into a house, the first thing I do is, is I look for a place for the elevators. I could even in a bungalow could manage the two levels.

00;04;22;25 - 00;04;43;10

Ron Wickman

So is there a spot on the main floor that when I go to the basement, it's kind of free and open down below so that I could build the shaft for the elevator in that spot. So sometimes even in a bungalow with a fairly open plan, it's still an unfinished basement becomes easier to deal with in a finished basement.

00;04;43;10 - 00;05;08;26

Ron Wickman

But, you know, it becomes it could become a challenge. The smaller the bungalow is, the harder it is to find a space within the bungalow for the elevator. So often we have to look at adding, adding on the elevator. And so a lot of times all add add a small addition to the house which allows you to get in at ground level, get in the elevator.

00;05;08;26 - 00;05;18;27

Ron Wickman

It takes you up to the main floor level or and also down to the basement. And if it's a two storey house, then that same elevator would get you up to the second floor as well.

00;05;19;04 - 00;05;20;18

Karen Brown

So that's an option.

00;05;20;21 - 00;05;53;25

Ron Wickman

So so that's an option. That's a more expensive option. But, you know, again, the elevator itself, think about it taking up six feet by six feet of space. So it's it's something that within an existing house that might be stealing a lot of space. So it's finding that spot where it's the least intrusive to the flow of the home and and sort of the most cost effective as well.

00;05;54;02 - 00;06;22;09

Ron Wickman

So it's tricky when the house has a front car garage, then I'll often look for the elevator location to be alongside the wall that the garage in the house share. So when you're in the garage lower than the main floor level, you could enter the elevator from the garage and then get in to get into the elevator up to the main floor or down into the basement or again, a second floor.

00;06;22;09 - 00;06;52;02

Ron Wickman

You get up to the second floor as well. Otherwise, if the elevator is located somewhere else in the house, then you still have to figure out a way to get from the garage floor level to the main floor level, which which may mean an additional porch lift. So a porch lift is different than an elevator. A porch lift is just an open air platform that people might might have seen them at the front fronts of houses.

00;06;52;04 - 00;07;10;16

Ron Wickman

So beside your main stairs to the front door is this piece of machinery that you will on to and it takes you vertically up to the main floor level and then you can enter the house that way. Then they're not very pretty to look at, but they do get you up to that. To that level. So sometimes you need that in the garage.

00;07;10;16 - 00;07;24;15

Ron Wickman

But then they that takes up space and so you effectively could eliminate a car stall. And so you might make a two car garage into a one car garage by having this lift as well.

00;07;24;17 - 00;07;46;00

Karen Brown

And that chairlift that you talk about is used inside of homes, usually called a platform lift. And there are some pretty nice looking ones in there. They still take up space, but for for people who are maybe listening to this and getting a bit spooked, that, oh, my gosh, an elevator is our only option. It's not. There are other options.

00;07;46;06 - 00;08;01;02

Karen Brown

There is a platform lift and we'll get into talking about prices in a little bit. But there are also some lifts that people are probably more familiar with, especially if they watch TV, chairlifts or stairlifts. Right. Can you talk about that a little bit?

00;08;01;04 - 00;08;25;28

Ron Wickman

Yeah. So so just for clarity, for for for people listening, there's there's four types of let's call them lifts or mechanical devices. So the first one I'll say is the elevator. And that's the best. If you if, if you make the elevator work, that's your best option. That can do multiple levels. And it's like one one space that they can do with these multiple levels.

00;08;26;01 - 00;08;51;03

Ron Wickman

The elevator is one option. Secondly is what they call a platform lift, a vertical platform lift. So that's something that generally can get you from the ground up to one level, usually less than six feet above the ground. So so your vertical porch lift, which is far cheaper, far less expensive than the elevator is limited in what it can do.

00;08;51;03 - 00;09;18;03

Ron Wickman

It can only get you from ground to two, like a deck level, let's say, or two main floor level. Then then the other two pieces of equipment are the types that can get you up and down stairs. So there is the chair lift, as you were mentioning, and that's the kind that we often see in commercials where somebody would sit on a chair and it would go up the up or down the stairwell, the stairs.

00;09;18;05 - 00;09;36;18

Ron Wickman

It's always easier to do that if the stairs are a straight run, but chairlifts can do 90 degree turns, 180 degree turns, they can do curves, and basically that chair would either sit at the top or the bottom of the stairs. When not in use.

00;09;36;21 - 00;09;37;18

Karen Brown

Right.

00;09;37;21 - 00;10;05;19

Ron Wickman

And that's great for somebody who has mobility. They they walk. But stairs might be quite draining on them physically. So they just don't want to do stairs that much in their day. If you use a

wheelchair permanently. The fourth piece of machinery is called a stair platform lift. And the stair platform lift is one that follows also follows the incline of the stairs.

00;10;05;21 - 00;10;29;22

Ron Wickman

But it's a platform that somebody in a wheelchair would wheel on to, and from your wheelchair you would go up or down the stairs and that really needs to be a straight run. That has to be a stair that is wide enough for the platform to fit in and straight run. You need at least five feet at the top of the stairs and at least ten feet at the bottom of the stairs.

00;10;29;24 - 00;10;49;27

Ron Wickman

So most houses that I go to visit for the first time that are existing rarely have that kind of stair that has that, you know, space of the top space at the bottom, straight run and wide enough. All those things have to come into play. Otherwise major modifications are required to to the stairwell itself.

00;10;50;03 - 00;10;52;19

Karen Brown

Right. So it's a levels of complexity.

00;10;52;21 - 00;10;53;04

Ron Wickman

Correct.

00;10;53;04 - 00;11;06;15

Karen Brown

What kind of roadblocks would people be expected to encounter when they're looking at all of these options? You've talked about some of the roadblocks for an elevator. What about the stairlift.

00;11;06;18 - 00;11;07;18

Ron Wickman

The stair chairlift?

00;11;07;18 - 00;11;10;01

Karen Brown

Yeah, yeah.

00;11;10;04 - 00;11;32;19

Ron Wickman

There's there aren't too many roadblocks for the chair. The chair lift itself. And that's why, you know, that's probably the most common commonly used item for people and that generally the audience that's targeted for that are seniors. So so again, people that they can, you know, once they're on a floor level, they can they can walk around in and get to the kitchen bathroom.

00;11;32;19 - 00;11;53;28

Ron Wickman

You know, all that kind of stuff. But just getting up and down the stairs all the time could be could be rather taxing on their energy levels. So the chair lift is a is is a great option there. It can it can usually do almost anything. There's lots of there's lots of different types of chair lifts too. There's ones that sort of fold fold up against the wall.

00;11;54;00 - 00;12;14;08

Ron Wickman

So they take up less space. The platform, the stair platform lift is the platform folds up against the wall when it's not in use. So it would either be housed at the top or the bottom of stairs when when not in use. So you'd still have the ability to walk up and down the stairs without without the platform getting in your way.

00;12;14;11 - 00;12;20;24

Karen Brown

Okay. And do the stairs have to be any particular width to accommodate either of those?

00;12;20;27 - 00;12;49;01

Ron Wickman

So yeah, the, the, the platform lift dimension needs to be wider. I actually just found out very, very recently. I have to have to say that I do very few stair platform lifts. So for any of my clients that use wheelchairs, 99.9% of the time we go to the elevator. So just every once in a while, like maybe once every ten years, I do the platform lift.

00;12;49;01 - 00;13;15;18

Ron Wickman

And so I just happened to have one right now. And I just found out that the existing stair, which is 36 inches wide, is no longer wide enough for the current type of stair platform lifts that exist here in Canada. So the last time I did a Stairlift 36 inches would have would have worked, but it doesn't seem to be as easy to do now.

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Ron Wickman

There's new, more rigid code standards out there. The Canadian Standards Association has has certain codes and standards that

that make it very difficult to to work with an existing 36 inch wide stairwell, which is what you'd most commonly see in houses built, you know, before the nineties for sure.

00;13;38;15 - 00;13;39;04

Karen Brown
Right.

00;13;39;06 - 00;13;48;24

Ron Wickman

And and, and even today, rarely do we build stairs that are that are wider than 36 inches unless they're you know more luxurious homes.

00;13;48;27 - 00;13;53;26

Karen Brown

Right. So what width would this stairlift need to be according to the new standards?

00;13;53;26 - 00;14;15;07

Ron Wickman

Yeah. 42 inches is what I'm being told. Right. So okay, so if you're designing a new house, then you just I always in new houses. I was always designing 42 inch wide stairwells just because I wanted that wiggle room. But now I realize that, you know, I might even make them four feet wide today. Now, if I was doing a new house.

00;14;15;10 - 00;14;22;04

Ron Wickman

Right. But again, like I said, I my my go to is the elevator rather than the the stair platform left.

00;14;22;07 - 00;14;44;01

Karen Brown

Right. So in terms of, you know, watching TVs and looking at the stairlifts, I think we're all familiar with Acorn Stairlifts and , we're not sponsored by anybody, so these companies that we're throwing out there don't even know we're talking about them. So definitely do your research. But in terms of elevators, are there companies that you particularly find yourself going to?

00;14;44;04 - 00;15;18;25

Ron Wickman

Yes, the elevators have become really interesting, and I think one thing that's really, really worth mentioning is in my 30 year career now doing this kind of work, accessibility, the elevator is the only product and construction item that I'm aware of that has not gone up in price. Actually, when I when I first started working, elevators were around \$20, \$25,000, depending on what you were doing today.

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Ron Wickman

They haven't changed really. And there's a lot more options out there now. So that's that's very telling to me that 30 years ago I didn't have a lot of options. You know, there were maybe one or two vendors that would supply these elevators. Forklifts, Stairlifts Now, there's many, many options out there, and you can get all kinds of different features as well.

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Ron Wickman

So I, I associate it to being similar to going and buying a car so you can go and get your economy model and it'll get you from A to B, or you can do it with a bit more style and, you know, pay a

little bit more money and you're not going to get heated seats in a in an elevator car.

00;16;04;27 - 00;16;27;06

Ron Wickman

But, but you can get, you know, nicer finishes inside, nicer lighting. I still haven't seen one with the Muzak in it, but it's coming probably. You could probably get that, too, if you wanted to. So so yeah it's it's interesting and you can get power door operators so you know again you just hit the button for the elevator and the doors automatically open for you.

00;16;27;07 - 00;16;54;08

Ron Wickman

You wheel in, you hit a button, they automatically close for you, those sorts of things. They just add a little bit of cost to to the basic model and, and to companies that I can mention that again, I've used them both. They're both good products, both bigger companies. So there's one, I guess, Garaventa, Garaventa. American Company and Sevaria is also an American company.

00;16;54;08 - 00;17;25;29

Ron Wickman

So those two suppliers of lifts have have got into the residential market and are taking advantage of of higher demand for four lifts and in a good way, especially a new in new construction. So that's that's something that's a real plus I think, because in time we'll have a housing stock that will provide more options for people when they're looking for an existing house to move into.

00;17;26;01 - 00;17;37;21

Ron Wickman

Right now, you know, your option is to find something that then you have to spend hundreds of thousands of dollars to to renovate, try to get a house. Overall can accommodate you now that you're in a wheelchair, let's say.

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Karen Brown

Right. We will put links to these companies in our show notes. I can imagine that some of our listeners right now are thinking back a few moments ago when you mentioned the price of an elevator, \$25,000, and they're just slapping their foreheads and thinking, oh, my gosh, that's a lot of money. Let's compare that, though, to the potential costs of a stairlift, because as we've already discussed, there are levels of complexity and each time you need to make a modification or there's an additional run, the price goes up.

00;18;11;17 - 00;18;33;09

Ron Wickman

Right? Right. So so again, the I made mention of the for mechanical devices that can get you up and down levels, right? So starting at the exterior or interior porch lift. So again that's that's something that's limited to about six feet. So that's something that can get you from point A to point B in less than six feet.

00;18;33;16 - 00;18;45;20

Ron Wickman

Okay. And so that's kind of why they call it a porch lift, right? Because it's getting you from ground level up to the porch level. Right. Those those are those are about \$6 to \$8000.

00;18;45;22 - 00;18;48;06

Karen Brown
And then installation on top of that.

00;18;48;09 - 00;18;49;11
Ron Wickman
That's supplied, installed.

00;18;49;14 - 00;18;51;13
Karen Brown
Supply and install. Okay, that's pretty good.

00;18;51;13 - 00;19;11;13
Ron Wickman
Install is about six \$8,000. And then depending on your situation, you know, you do want concrete on the outside. If it's on the outside, you want a concrete base on the bottom and you probably have to have a sidewalk that leads to it and that sort of thing. So there's there's there'll be some added costs likely to to all of that.

00;19;11;13 - 00;19;34;19
Ron Wickman
But in the realm of things, you know, you're thinking in that kind of terminology, okay, The elevator, like I said, is the lowest I've ever heard of is \$20,000. And that's your very basic model. And and it can go up to about \$40, \$40,000, which would have just about everything that, you know, you could wish for in an hour.

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Karen Brown
All the bells and whistles.

00;19;36;21 - 00;20;01;06

Ron Wickman

Yeah. And then the with the stairs, the chair lift is quite modest, typically around maybe \$4,000, again, depending on if it has to make turns, follow a curve, that sort of thing. But again, it's it's relatively inexpensive. So similar to the porch lift, you know, maybe maybe around \$4,000.

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Karen Brown

Is that for, is that for one run, though? I mean ...

00;20;03;25 - 00;20;06;00

Ron Wickman

That's for one. That's right. That's for one run.

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Karen Brown

So if you have to do a 90 degree turn, that's another run. So that's another 4000 or whatever. And and if you want to go down to the basement, I mean, that's that's right. That can add up to the point where an elevator is actually more cost effective. So let's just acknowledge that.

00;20;22;00 - 00;20;45;23

Ron Wickman

That's exactly the point. That's exactly the point. And and even more so, again, the chairlift, you have to think about somebody with. Yes, mobility issues, but not in a wheelchair. That's the chairlift. The stair platform lift is. Yes, I'm I'm in a wheelchair. And if you're in a wheelchair, you don't want a chairlift because you have to transfer from your wheelchair on.

00;20;45;24 - 00;21;12;19

Ron Wickman

And I, I live this with my dad. He had a chairlift at one time and he would have to transfer over the stairs in his wheelchair. So if he slept, made up, you know, one false move, he's just tumbling down the stairs. So he's trying to transfer onto a chair. That chair takes him down to the basement level, where then somebody has to either bring his chair down stairs or he has to have a second wheelchair downstairs to transfer into.

00;21;12;19 - 00;21;18;14

Ron Wickman

So he he had it for less than a month and just got rid of it because he realized it just wouldn't work for him.

00;21;18;20 - 00;21;19;19

Karen Brown

Right.

00;21;19;21 - 00;21;49;24

Ron Wickman

The the platform lift again, I'm just working on one right now, so I just got a price of 20, \$25,000. So a flat, austere platform lift, which just gets you from one level to the other. So only one set of stairs is \$25,000. So for sure, if you had a two-storey house and you wanted to go up the stairs, main floor to basement or main floor to second floor, you're talking to stair platform less.

00;21;49;24 - 00;22;14;12

Ron Wickman

So you're you're in the \$50,000 range for those two lifts, whereas the elevator is still going to be under, under 40 for sure. Right. Even if you get all the extra features. So yeah, the elevator just becomes, becomes the way to go. So the strategy, like I said, is

to find the elevator location that eliminates the need for any other kind of lift, even the porch lift.

00;22;14;14 - 00;22;36;12

Ron Wickman

Like I said, if you could have the elevator so you can get right in from the garage, then you eliminate any kind of porch lift needed as well. Right. So it that's where you have to, again, have some experience in in doing these kinds of renovations and working on these projects to start to you start to see similarities.

00;22;36;12 - 00;23;09;24

Ron Wickman

So I you know, I kind of know what 1950 houses look like. They generally are bungalows 26 feet by 42 feet. And then you get into the sixties, seventies, the eighties tend to be two story. That's when you start getting to two story houses with sunken living rooms and they're a nightmare right? And and nineties and and 20 and and today what's interesting is in a lot of our suburban areas at least in Alberta here Calgary and Edmonton you're starting to see a greater variety of houses.

00;23;09;24 - 00;23;35;01

Ron Wickman

So you're starting to see big homes, smaller homes. You're even seeing the introduction of lanes again, back lanes that, you know, were almost obsolete in the eighties and nineties. They're coming they're sort of coming back in some neighborhoods. Our tall, skinny houses are becoming really popular, which again really forces you into looking at some kind of lift of some sort to get multi levels.

00;23;35;04 - 00;24;05;16

Ron Wickman

So there's there's more variety out there. But, you know, I'd say the real problem is rarely is is anything designed or built with what I would call an accessibility lens. So that means the designers and builders aren't thinking about the fact that maybe somebody in a wheelchair needs to use this this home. So it's still a constant need to look at things that you then have to adapt to or renovate.

00;24;05;17 - 00;24;08;19

Ron Wickman

Right? Right. Which is which is unfortunate.

00;24;08;21 - 00;24;33;17

Karen Brown

A couple of caveats here. When we're talking about pricing, I want to make sure our listeners understand that we are recording this at the end of June in 2023. So the pricing is is only as good as today's date is. And the manufacturer that you may choose as well as the contractor who installs it for you. So, you know, we hope to give you some sort of guidance around pricing, but do your research.

00;24;33;19 - 00;24;59;10

Karen Brown

The second piece I want to mention is that no matter what you choose, whether it's an elevator or a chairlift, it doesn't really matter. They will require maintenance. So that's a cost that you have to factor in. And I know that one of the one of the things that you might want to consider for safety reasons is also the use of an external battery of some sort in case the power goes out in your house, particularly if you are somebody who is in a wheelchair

00;24;59;10 - 00;25;19;01

Karen Brown

24 / 7 you don't want to be caught in an elevator when the power goes out or caught on one level when you need to be on another level. So that's an option that is probably worth considering as well. Or do you even consider it an option? I don't consider it an option to have that backup battery. I think it's essential.

00;25;19;08 - 00;25;49;23

Ron Wickman

Yeah. Yeah, it is. And they're generally speaking, the elevators do come with a battery backup and it's somewhat limited. So it'll if you're in the basement and the power goes out, you'll be, you'll definitely be able to get up to the main floor and out of the house. You could probably chance it by doing that again, you know, five, ten more times then, then you're, then you're flirting with potentially with potential disaster.

00;25;49;28 - 00;26;16;14

Ron Wickman

You can you can then get us like a secondary backup, which would give you greater, greater flexibility. But they do, they do come with battery backups. But your point about research is really important. I was thinking about this too, and just working on a project right now where the builder mentions they were marking up some drawings that we're working on.

00;26;16;14 - 00;26;38;18

Ron Wickman

So I'm working with this builder. They've done, they've done a house before with an elevator, and they just made a note on their, on their, on the drawings for, for our drafting person that

we have to make sure we have a sump pump in, in the elevator pit. So in the basement you need to have a pit for the elevator to sit in.

00;26;38;21 - 00;27;03;16

Ron Wickman

And the the elevator platform has like a thickness to it. So when, when it so for it to be level with the basement floor, it, there has to be a pit for the platform to sit in. Right. And yes it's true that the the old style of elevator needed a sump in the pit because any water that could get in that area would be a problem.

00;27;03;19 - 00;27;27;29

Ron Wickman

They do make elevator shafts and elevators with what they call a pit, kind of a pit less shaft. So you you don't need the the some. Right. So it's really good to do your research and talk to the manufacturers, the suppliers of the elevators so that they much like shopping for windows. They can tell you the subtle differences between their product and the competitors.

00;27;27;29 - 00;27;53;09

Ron Wickman

Right. So maybe theirs is more expensive by a thousand or \$2,000, but you get all these extra features, these safety features that that, you know, make you want to go there. Right? If you can if you can afford it. And I go back far enough that the original residents elevators were all of the type that you actually had to hold the button the whole time you were.

00;27;53;09 - 00;28;08;05

Ron Wickman

So if you're on the main floor in the elevators in the basement, you have to hold the button on the outside for the whole time until it gets up to the level. And then you go inside the elevator shaft and you have to hold the button the whole time. It's moving up or down. They don't have those anymore.

00;28;08;08 - 00;28;34;27

Ron Wickman

So that's also those are the ones that were like \$25,000. So not only do you get an elevator for \$25,000 today, but you get one that actually functions truly like an elevator that you'd see in an office and office space. Right? So so the not only is it the same price, but it's just a much better product, which again, says a lot about the fact that more and more people are demanding and wanting to see these elevators.

00;28;35;00 - 00;29;00;21

Ron Wickman

And here in Alberta and I don't I can't speak of elsewhere in Canada, but even in terms of getting inspections, the the elevator itself, the piece of equipment generally didn't get looked at by an inspector like a city inspector. They would come and look at the shaft and make sure that it meets structural standards. But the elevator itself really didn't get looked at.

00;29;00;21 - 00;29;25;19

Ron Wickman

It was just assumed that whoever supplied it would be building something that's safe. But there have been some and we don't need to get into this. But fair to say there's been some issues in the states, especially where there's a bit more of a culture of, you know, suing where little children have been able to kind of get

their get their way into elevators and get stuck in areas that they shouldn't.

00;29;25;22 - 00;29;50;19

Ron Wickman

And so there's been some much stronger standards now and regulations created to to eliminate these potential issues. So I think you can safely say today that elevator and this is, again, just like automobile culture, right? We we continually make cars safer to drive in and especially in cases of accidents. And that's that's the way the elevators are going as well.

00;29;50;19 - 00;30;07;24

Ron Wickman

So you you can't really be in a situation where somebody could open the door in the basement, get in the shaft and then have the the elevator cab sort of crush you. Right. It just can't happen without like a bomb or something blowing up the door to get it open or something. But, you know, it's just.

00;30;08;00 - 00;30;08;06

Karen Brown

That's dire!

00;30;08;13 - 00;30;32;21

Ron Wickman

The safety net. Safety, the safety features are there. So but that is something that I find. I do have to make sure I talk to my clients about because they'll ask me, well, I have small children. I'm really nervous about this elevator. And and I'll say my piece, but I'll definitely get them to talk to the manufacturer because they can see and demonstrate in a far better way than I can about their product and how, you know, how it improves safety.

00;30;32;21 - 00;30;46;12

Ron Wickman

And again, that might be the reason why you choose one supplier over the other is because they speak about safety in a much more vigorous way than maybe their competitor. Right. And that's very important to you. It should be important to everybody, Right.

00;30;46;14 - 00;31;05;16

Karen Brown

Well, we've given our listeners lots of options here and lots of language around the options that are available and terminology that can be used. We've also talked about pricing, so that's really good. And some caveats do your homework and so forth. Is there anything else you want to add before we wrap this up?

00;31;05;19 - 00;31;31;20

Ron Wickman

You know, we talked we talked last time about the no step entrance. And I often mention when I talk to people about myself as a designer and getting the sort of the emotional rewards like I hear about how much something like something like no step entrance or an elevator can improve one's life. And so often I do hear from clients that say, you know what?

00;31;31;20 - 00;31;54;06

Ron Wickman

I got my elevator installed in my house and I have been in my basement in 20 years. Like I haven't seen my workshop that I spent hours and hours in every day building doing things. I haven't seen it in 20 years. And now I'm down there and I'm back

at it. And I don't know how much more reward you can get than that for for, you know, for me as a designer, it's amazing.

00;31;54;06 - 00;32;14;06

Ron Wickman

But for the person who actually gets to experience that right and get to tinker around and build things and and be down in a space that they once really loved and, you know, had to spend so much time away from. \$20,000 or \$25 or \$40,000 seems like a small, small bit of money to to have that experience.

00;32;14;06 - 00;32;20;10

Ron Wickman

Right. So I don't think people should lose sight of that. It's it's a very important thing, in my opinion.

00;32;20;12 - 00;32;42;01

Karen Brown

Gives them back their life. Well, that's a that's a really good spot to end this podcast. So my thanks to Ron for joining us on this. Stay tuned for our next podcast. We're going to talk about something that everybody uses, everybody wants, and you will like this podcast. We're going to talk about bathrooms. So until then, I hope you'll join us for that.

00;32;42;01 - 00;32;44;11

Karen Brown

But thank you for joining us today.

00;32;44;12 - 00;33;23;11

Speaker 1

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