

THE GOOD LIFE

The diverse needs of people in various stages of life can be a daunting challenge. With the limited space in Bellingham neighborhoods, this ADU design aims to accommodate everyone and offer "The Good Life". Designed completely ADA and wheelchair accessible, this 978 sq. ft. dwelling delivers a comfortable and familiar environment while simultaneously offering a degree of autonomy and independence. This smaller, self-contained unit is designed to accommodate the changing mobility and healthcare requirements that come with aging. Features such as removable stability bars can be added and removed depending on the tenant. Thinking simple, this living space provides an open floor concept with kitchen and living room. While optimizing both indoor and outdoor spaces, this open floor plan, multi-functional rooms, and clever storage solutions make the most of every square foot.

With this relatively simple design, constructability and cost will also be reduced. Panel siding and single pitched roofing are some design features this ADU utilizes to reduce costs in addition to offering sustainability and resilience to PNW weather. In 2023, sustainable building materials have emerged as the cornerstone of environmentally responsible construction practices. Designers, builders and homeowners increasingly prioritize materials that minimize their carbon footprint, reduce energy consumption, and promote resource conservation. Innovative options such as recycled steel, engineered wood products, and low-impact concrete alternatives have gained widespread adoption, not only for their eco-friendliness but also for their durability and cost-effectiveness. As society continues to prioritize sustainability, these materials are paving the way for a greener and more sustainable future in the construction sector.

Sustainability is a key consideration in any modern house design, especially in environmentally conscious regions like the Pacific Northwest. A well-designed ADU should integrate sustainable practices and materials. Features such as energy-efficient insulation, solar panels, rainwater harvesting systems, and low-flow fixtures can help reduce the environmental impact of the house. The large living areas provide ease of passage in addition to a modern, yet timeless aesthetic. Moreover, thoughtful placement of windows and skylights can harness natural light and heat, reducing the need for artificial lighting and heating. Sustainable design not only benefits the environment but also lowers long-term operating costs for homeowners.