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Accessibility issues are understood in a way that intellectual disability related environmental needs are not.

# Four Key Principles

1. People enter into relationship with their environment for better or worse.
2. The difference between a problem behavior and a preferred activity are the consequences.
3. You cannot fix a problem behavior in a broken environment.
4. If the environment does not work for you it is not your fault.





Appropriate technology can deliver  
independence and dignity.





Experience has shown that a person-centered home that meets the needs of the individual empowers the person, and reduces stress and workload on others.





“Help me do it myself”

Ask people how they see and feel  
about the world.



Not everyone can talk but everyone communicates.





The difference between a problem behavior and a preferred activity are the consequences.

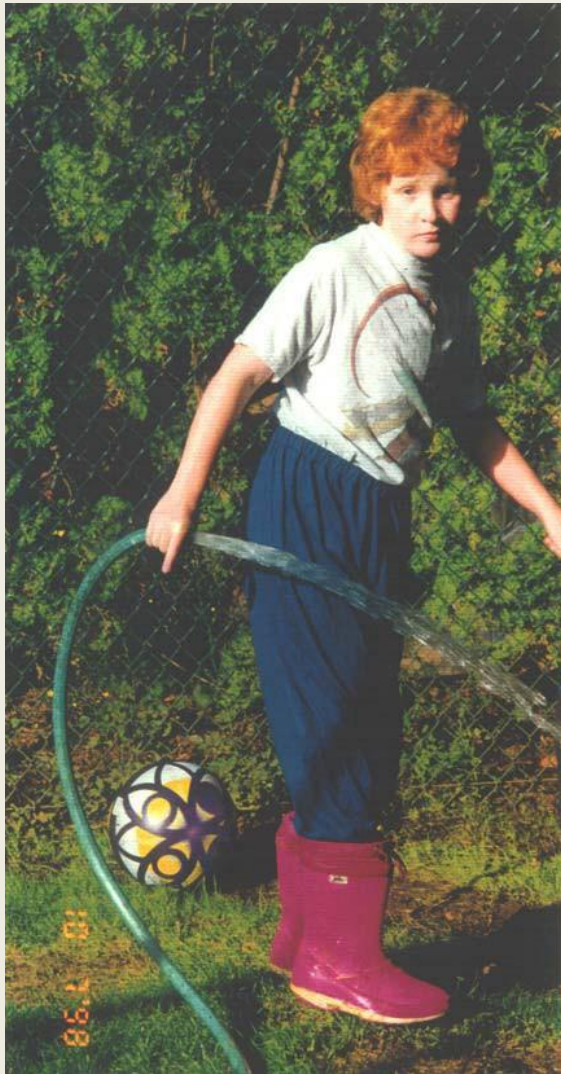




If the environment  
does not work for you,  
it is not your fault.



You can't fix a problem behavior in a broken environment



# **ANNA'S STORY**

**“Vigilance and duct tape  
are not enough  
anymore”**

Families need answers, help,  
knowledge and to know they are  
not alone.



“The bathroom floor is always wet and slippery,  
and Anna does not use the toilet.”





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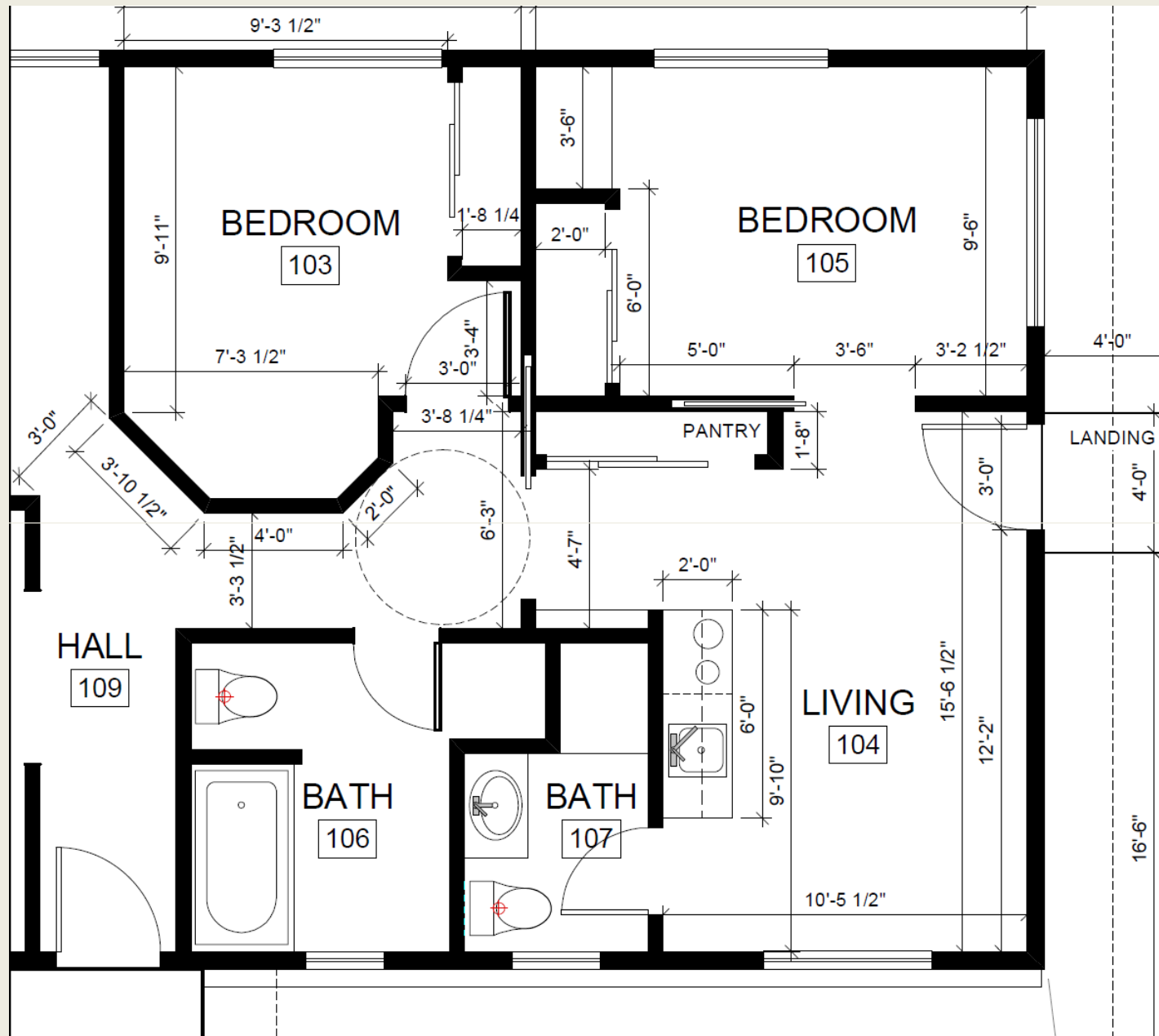
Anna's increased control and choice are the result of progressive opportunity.



The needs  
and lifestyle of  
a person  
change over  
time.







Shared dwelling for Anna and her parents.



# Anna Diagnosed at age 3.5

## Over next 3 years family spent \$12,000 of their own money

- Age 7 Bathroom Remodel \$21,000
- Age 8 Fence \$ 2,350
- Age 9 Entertainment Center \$ 1,100
- Age 17 Baking Center \$ 2,100
- Age 19 Accessibility Remodel \$ 2,700
  - (Anna is by now in wheelchair)
- Age 20 Walkway \$ 2,700
- Age 21 Next step extend the family \$70,000
  - Shared dwelling for Anna and her parents

# Specific challenges

- Elopement
  - Climbing fences, leaving home, lack of safety awareness, opening locks and gates, hiding, wandering away
- Self-Injury and seizures
  - Head banging, biting, eye poking, hair pulling, slapping, seizures
- Property damage
  - Damage to walls and/or windows, broken doors and jambs, exposed wiring, damaged furniture and appliances, water damage
- Aggression
  - Threats to life and safety, involvement with police or authorities, injury to others, assault and violence
- Neighbor Relations.
  - Invasion of privacy, yelling, disturbing the peace, neighbor complaints

# Environmental assessment and action plan

- Step 1:
  - Identify the challenges you face every day in the home as a caregiver.
- Step 2:
  - Involve the individual.
- Step 3:
  - Assess the home and identify what is not working





- Step 4:
  - Learn about common home modifications and strategies for specific challenges.

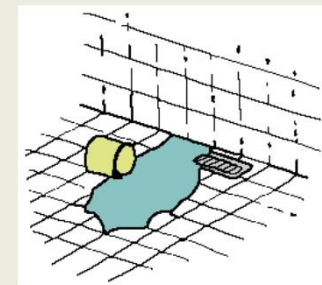
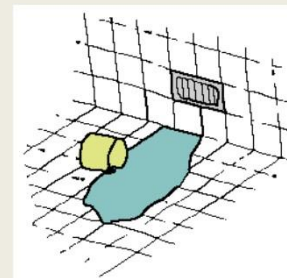
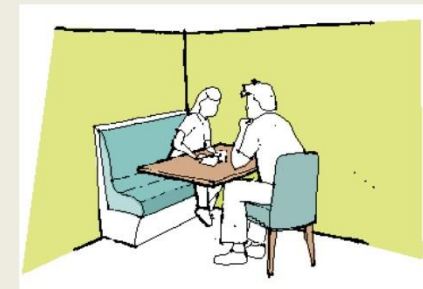
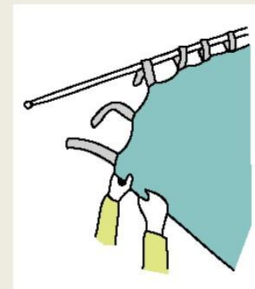
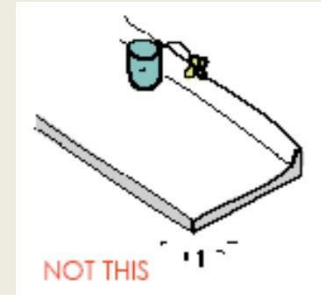
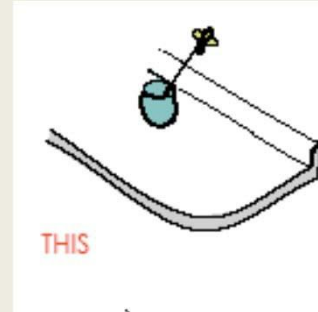


- Step 5:
  - Make an action plan that is appropriate to your unique situation and circumstances.



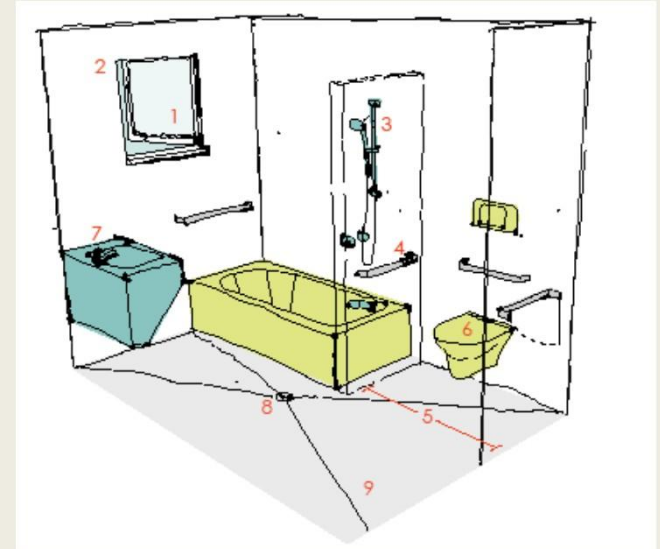
# A safe and supportive environment

- Eliminate obvious hazards
- Install finishes that are durable and easily cleaned
- Anticipate unconventional use
- Anticipate water play
- Address problem doors
- Select appropriate furnishings



# Solving the most common challenge

- Enough space
- Address safety
- Install a floor drain
- Use commercial or institutional grade fixtures
- Anchor fixtures and grab bars
- Operable windows and natural light
- A secondary heat source
- Eliminate registers and other floor openings

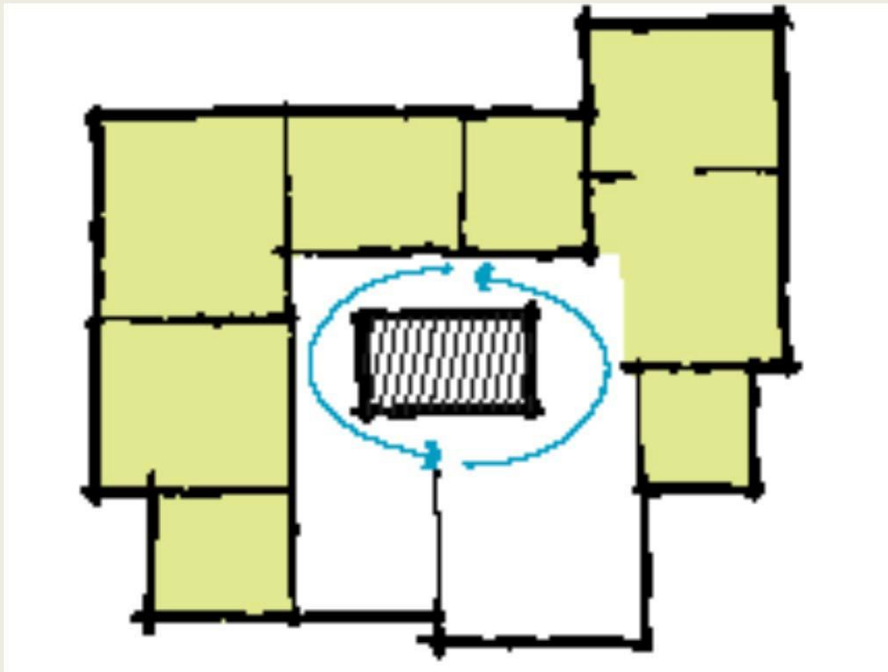


The Essential Bathroom

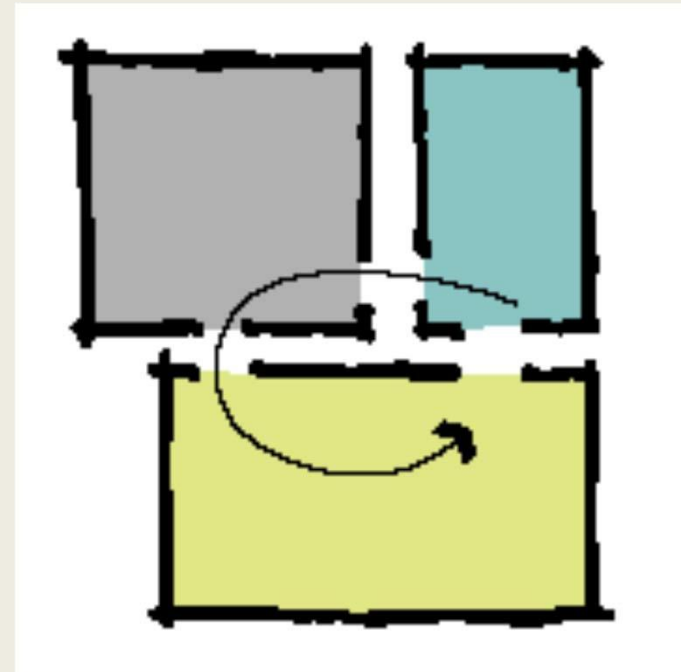


# Supporting vestibular disorders, pacing, running, social avoidance.

Center Mass Loop



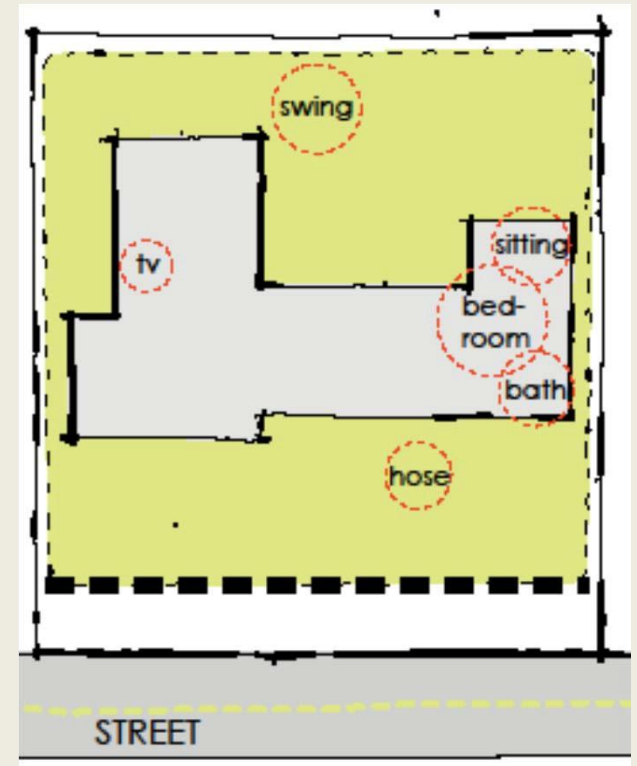
Connected Room Loop



Walking Loop

# Provide choice and options for engagement

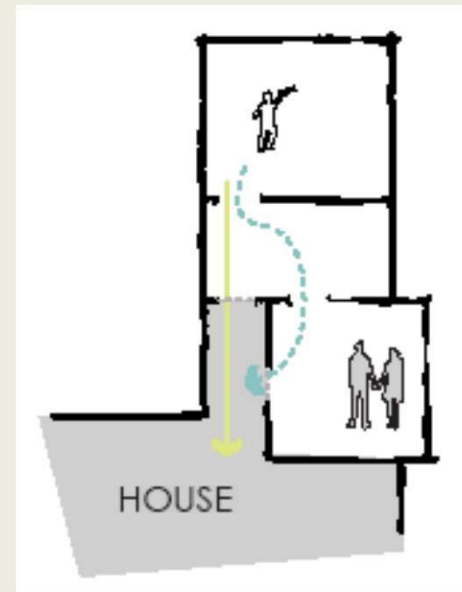
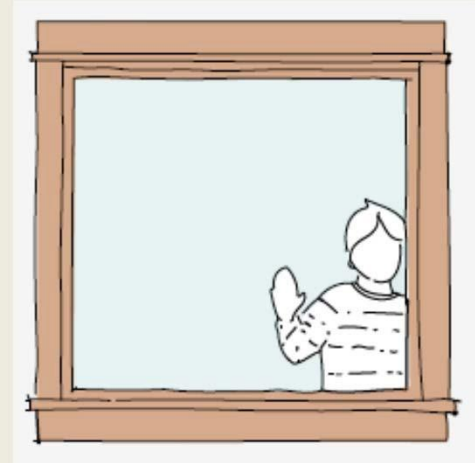
- Safe places and predictability
- Layers of freedom
- Eliminate fear triggers
- Control access and define boundaries
- Make home a preferred place



Places of control / layers of freedom

# Increasing visibility and connections

- Visibility and openings between rooms
- Connections for needed caregiving
- Using technology to monitor safety, increase independence

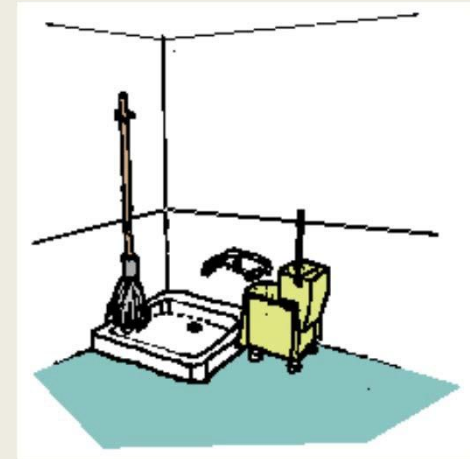
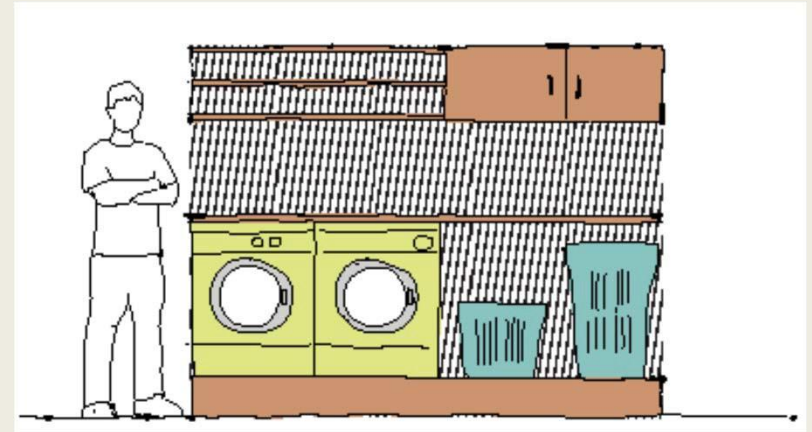


Connected Home

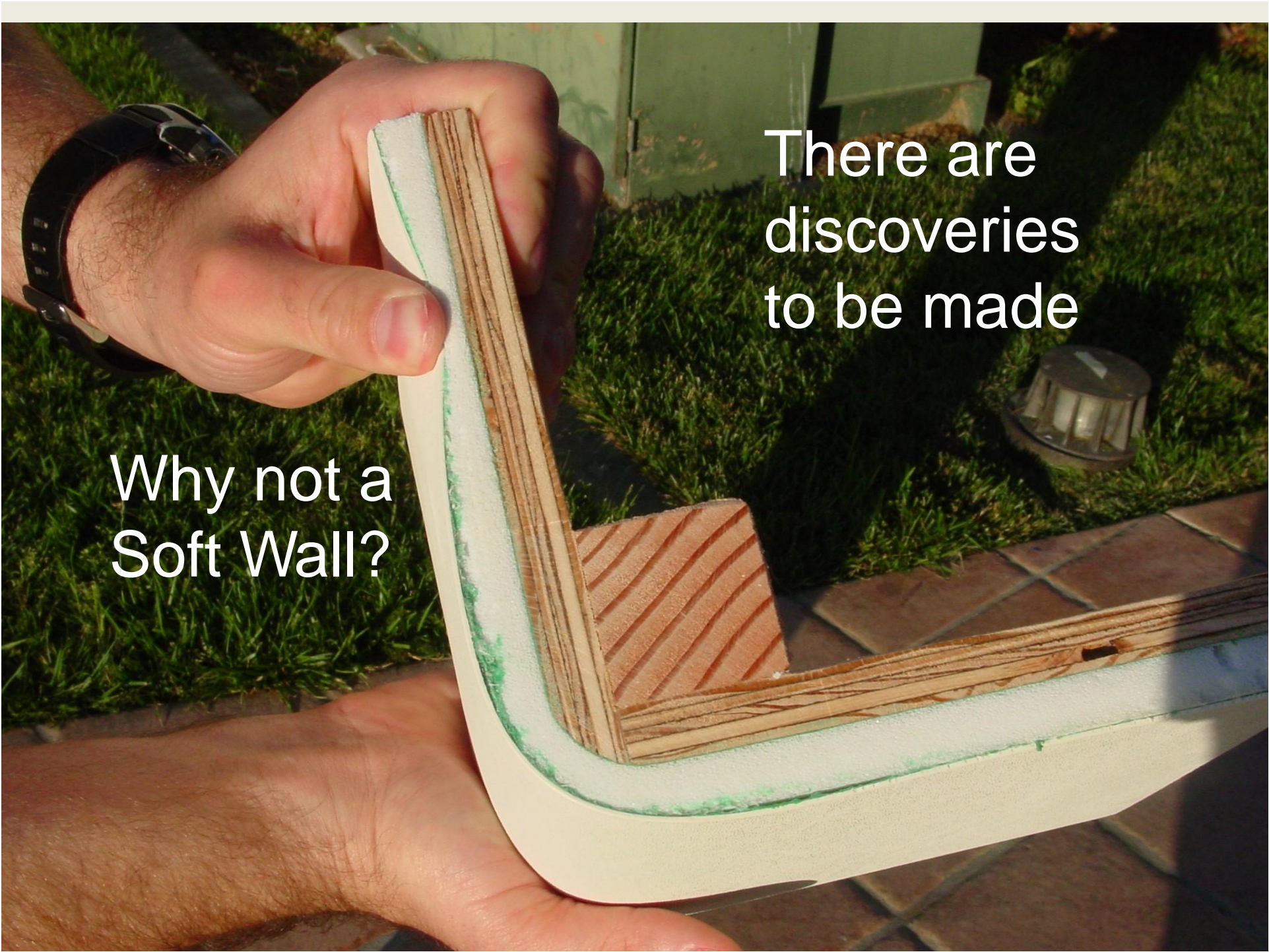


# Keeping things clean, tidy and smelling good

- Adequate storage
- Limit the opportunity for clutter to migrate
- Building in routine
- Bad smells
- Flooring
- Negative air pressure or air seals
- Provide a changing area



Tools for housekeeping

A photograph showing a person's hands holding a cross-section of a wall assembly. The assembly consists of multiple layers: an outer white layer, a thick green foam insulation layer, and a core of plywood. The person is wearing a black wristwatch. The background shows a grassy area, a brick wall, and a metal vent cover.

There are  
discoveries  
to be made

Why not a  
Soft Wall?





More than a home – a place in the community.