

**For Immediate Release**  
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**GINSBURG DEVELOPMENT CUSTOMIZES NEW HOME**  
**FOR BUYER WHO USES WHEELCHAIR**

*Cabinets, wiring among features modified at Harbors at Haverstraw condominium*

**VALHALLA, N.Y.** (June 8) – Buying a house is never easy, but it was an especially big challenge for Magdalena Truchan, who uses a wheelchair and wanted to find a home that was readily accessible.

Many existing homes and apartments, especially ones that are more than 10 or 20 years old, have narrow doorways, steps or small bathrooms that make them ill suited for people in wheelchairs, said Truchan. Even some new buildings are poorly designed and have obstacles that hinder access.

But Truchan found the home – and community – of her dreams in the Harbors at Haverstraw, a luxury townhouse and condominium development on the Hudson River waterfront in Haverstraw, N.Y., where hundreds of residents already live. The buildings, gym and park-like grounds at Harbors are all wheelchair accessible, Truchan noted, and the developer was also able to make modifications inside her condominium to accommodate her.

“The building is ADA compliant in terms of everything,” said Truchan. “Every doorway is wide enough. Everything is flat. Even the access to the pool is flat. It will be a wonderful change and make my life a lot easier.”

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*Ginsburg Development Companies: Customizes home: 2*

Truchan said the ability to customize her new home's interior to make it easier for her to live in was what sealed the deal. Truchan was a pre-construction buyer, so Harbors at Haverstraw's builder, Ginsburg Development Companies of Valhalla, N.Y., could make changes such as modifying the kitchen and bathroom cabinets to accommodate people in wheelchairs before traditional cabinets were installed. GDC also installed grab bars and special plumbing fixtures in the bathroom.

"Meeting with the interior designers has been very helpful," Truchan said. GDC's designers suggested a number of subtle changes such as raising electric outlets and lowering light switches so they would be easier to reach – something Truchan admitted she probably wouldn't have thought of herself. "Ginsburg's people made the process a lot easier."

Martin Ginsburg, the principal of GDC, one of the Northeast's largest development companies, said his company enjoys assisting buyers like Truchan whenever possible.

"It's wonderful to be able to do something you know will improve the quality of someone's life," said Ginsburg. "Sometimes small changes can make a big difference, and if you're able to plan for them in advance the additional cost – if any – can be minimal. The biggest challenge is being able to plan the changes in advance and avoid having to make changes to a home that has already been completed."

All of GDC's multi-family buildings, clubhouses and common areas are handicapped accessible, said Ginsburg.

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*Ginsburg Development Companies: Customizes home: 3*

“A lot of the features required for disabled people are also helpful for other residents,” said Ginsburg. “Curb cuts for wheelchairs, for example, are also helpful for people with children in strollers or pushing a cart filled with groceries. Wide doorways able to accommodate wheelchairs are also just plain convenient.”

Truchan believes she probably saved thousands of dollars by purchasing a brand-new home that includes the modifications she needs instead of renovating an existing home. “Let’s say I moved into a house, then I would need to spend thousands of dollars on modifications,” said Truchan, who moved into her new two-bedroom flat on June 3. “It’s very cost effective. We had a budget and were able to do everything we wanted.”

Truchan also said she appreciated avoiding the stress and disruption of hiring contractors to renovate an existing home. “I didn’t have to work with contractors for hours and days,” said Truchan.

Truchan had some tips for people who use wheelchairs and are considering buying a home:

- Get hard, smooth floors such as hardwood – they’re easier to keep clean and to move around on;
- Remember to consider parking and to request an assigned space as close as possible to your home;
- Whenever possible, get agreements to make modifications from standard plans in writing in case there is confusion later on.

“Mr. Ginsburg and his people made the process of buying and customizing a home a lot easier for me,” said Truchan. “I’ve really appreciated their help.”

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*Ginsburg Development Companies: Customizes home: 4*

Current GDC communities include Riverbend in Peekskill, N.Y., The Fairways at Wallkill (N.Y.), Harbors at Haverstraw (N.Y.), Hudson Pointe in Poughkeepsie, N.Y., Ichabod's Landing in Sleepy Hollow, N.Y., Marbury Corners in Pelham, N.Y., Liberty at Newtown (Conn.) and The Greens at Gillette Ridge in Bloomfield, Conn. To place your name on GDC's priority list for future communities, log on to [www.gdc-homes.com](http://www.gdc-homes.com), click on to "future communities" and then "name of development" or call 1-866-GDC-4-HOMES.

Ginsburg Development Companies (GDC), established in 1964 and based in Valhalla, N.Y., is one of the nation's premier full-service real estate design, development and management companies. Martin Ginsburg is the president and chief executive officer. GDC has developed more than 10,000 residential units during its 40-year corporate history. GDC's residential sales Web site is [www.gdc-homes.com](http://www.gdc-homes.com). Information about GDC's commercial ventures, corporate activities and charitable foundation is available at [www.ginsburgdevelopment.com](http://www.ginsburgdevelopment.com).