

The Lyn Rowe Project



Lyn Rowe was born without arms or legs in March 1962. The worst medical disaster in history made Lyn one of the most profoundly disabled thalidomide survivors on the planet. Watersun homes became involved with the family when they were asked to visit the home with the view to undertaking much-needed repairs.

Photos of The Lyn Rowe Project house courtesy of Watersun Homes.

It was quickly established that, given the dilapidated condition of the house as well as the many difficulties Lyn's parents were dealing with, it would be much better to demolish and build a new house on the site. The task began of understanding exactly what was required and getting some key suppliers involved to assist with materials and specialised equipment.

Middys were approached by Watersun and agreed to sponsor the project and design a Home Automation system that would give Lyn the ability to control lights, blinds, fans, heating, TV, and garden irrigation, things that we take for granted but that people with disabilities sometimes only dream about, and bring added security, convenience, and comfort to the whole family.

The Middys Technology Team spoke to the various stakeholders in the project (Builders, Disability coordinators, and wheelchair suppliers) and then designed a C-Bus Home Automation system, Multiroom Audio, and a Security system that combined the necessary functionality and ease of use.





The automation allows multiple tasks to be allocated to a single button, for example,

- An Evening scene will Close Window blinds, set interior lights to preset brightness levels, and turn on outside lights for security.
- In the morning one button can open 6 sets of blinds, obviously much easier than doing them individually especially when you have very limited movement
- Lyn's parents can also control and monitor all the homes electrical equipment from a simple, colour Touch Screen located in their living area.
- The TV drops from the ceiling when required and retracts when not required allowing Lyn's harness system to slide across the ceiling rails.
- Movement sensors set to operate at set times for auto switching of lights

An A-Bus Multiroom audio system sends music to Lyn's bedroom and study, the main living area, and the alfresco area. Being infra red controlled this again allows Lyn full control from her wheelchair so she can choose from 4 music sources and skip tracks or adjust the volume.

Security cameras located in discreet positions in Lyn's living area and outside allow her parents and carers to check on her wellbeing by simply going to any TV and selecting the camera channels while a security alarm system keeps the home and belongings secure when they are away from home.



Lyn's wheelchair and bed both have controllers that can send Infra Red commands, so the C-Bus switches and Touch Screen are all configured for IR control allowing Lyn to simply control everything by sending the commands straight from any controller.

We are also able to integrate Access Control, Electric door operators, Intercoms, sensors to indicate if a person has fallen, remote & hands free communications, and remote video monitoring.

This Smart Home technology gives disabled people much greater control and independence than can ever be achieved with standard electrical wiring and emerging technology such as Eye Tracking with Tablet PC's is promising to take control and entertainment to another level again.

Contact Middy's Technologies to find out about the latest in disabled living automation and our design services.