

2024 Home of the Month Look Book

 **AIA** Minnesota  **StarTribune**



Photo: Spacecrafting. See **page 54** for home details.

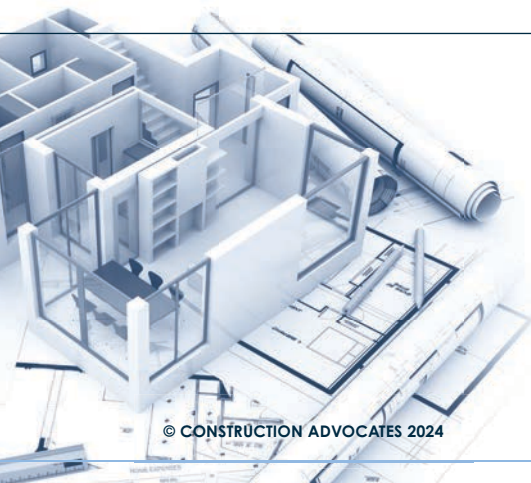


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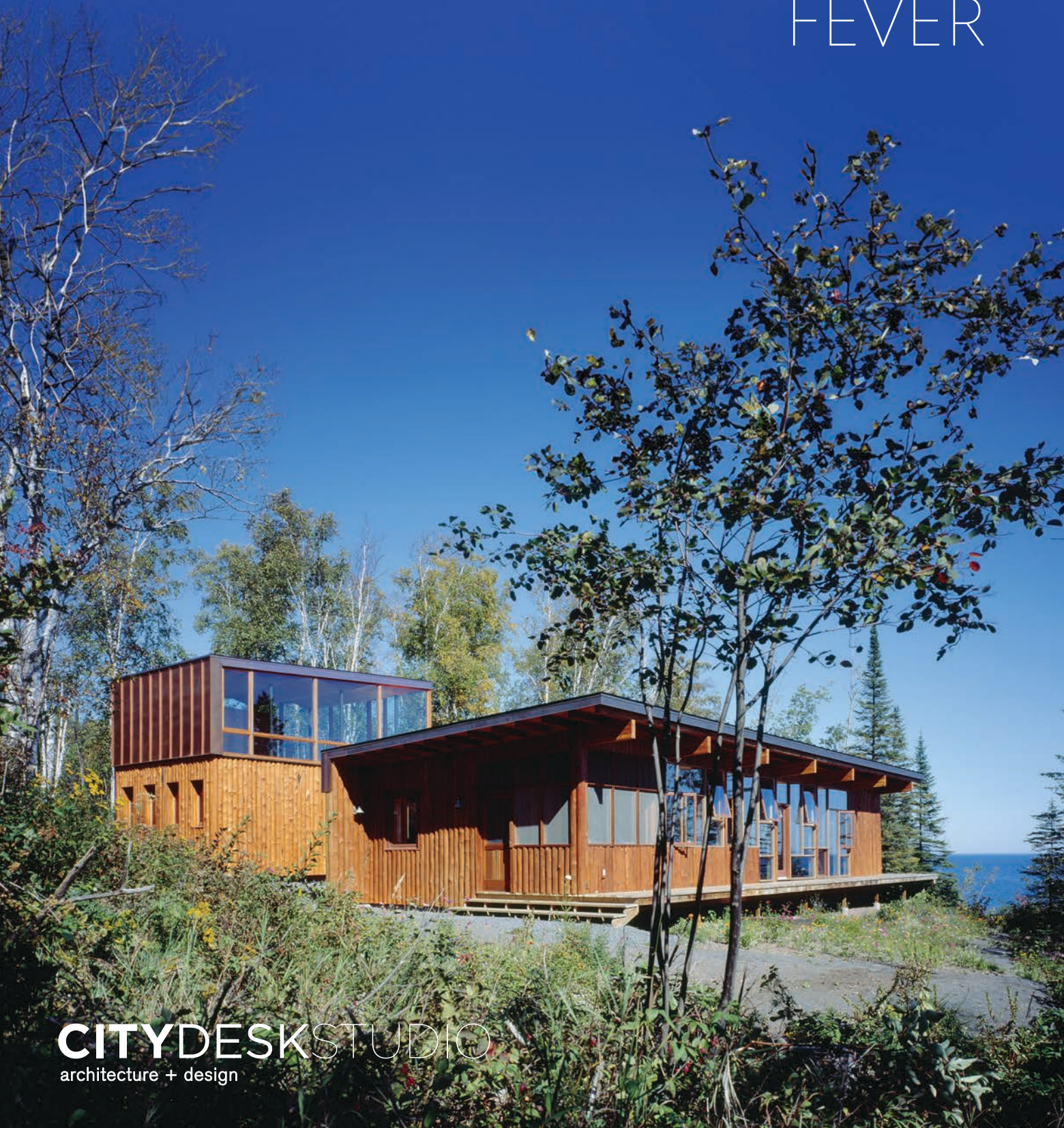


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Home of the Month Look Book

Find Inspiration on Every Page



Photo: Round Three Photography. See page 47 for home details.

AIA Minnesota is pleased to present a look book featuring architect-designed homes throughout the Midwest region that showcase the innovation and skill of Minnesota architects. The projects on the following pages were each submitted for the 2024 Home of the Month program, a 20-year collaboration between AIA Minnesota and the *Star Tribune* that highlights a different architect-designed home each month in the Sunday Homes & Gardens section.

From among the pool of 38 projects submitted this year, a panel of experts selected 12 that best represent the pinnacle of architect-client collaboration and demonstrate the problem-solving, creative design skills, and project management that architects bring to a project. These 12 distinguished homes are marked with a red corner ribbon. Watch for the projects to be featured over the next 12 months in the *Star Tribune*, both in print and online.

We hope you'll find inspiration for ways to make your own living spaces more comfortable, efficient, and beautiful. Contact information for each project's design team is included. Enjoy the beauty found in the following pages, and let inspiration find you.

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Projects by Firm

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Kenwood Refresh | Remodel

A family with three growing teenagers wanted more functionality in their stately 1931 home. The home's existing spaces were carefully reimaged, taking inspiration from the original details and trim. Space for a mudroom and large closet with room for coat and shoe storage was carved from underused cabinets built into the family room.

With the original ceiling's barrel vault removed, the kitchen became bright and open. A kitchen island with seating was important to the family, so room was maximized to allow for island storage while still maintaining enough space for circulation. An efficiently designed pantry rounded out the kitchen's improved functionality.

Upstairs, in the owner's suite, a vaulted ceiling in the bathroom became full height and the space was redesigned to include two sinks, a more functional bathtub space, and realigned shower and toilet spaces. This gracious, nearly century-old home is now ready for the next 100 years.



Photos: Alyssa Lee Photography

Rehkamp Larson Architects

rehkamplarson.com • (612) 285-7275

Design team: Mark Larson, AIA; Laurel Johnston, AIA





Photos: Cook and Kin

Rambler Revised | Remodel

This project breathes new life into a midcentury rambler, seamlessly blending functionality and aesthetics to craft a modern haven for a growing family. Originally a modest dwelling, the rambler underwent a significant expansion in the 1980s. While the square footage doubled, awkward spaces remained. It was the homeowner’s desire to renovate the kitchen that sparked a holistic approach to the entire home.

The once-isolated kitchen was transformed into the heart of the house. Walls were strategically removed, creating a light-filled dining area with panoramic views. The new kitchen echoes both midcentury nostalgia and contemporary chic, featuring locally crafted mosaic tiles and walnut cabinets. Underutilized spaces throughout the home were reimagined. A redundant staircase was removed, allowing for a larger bathroom and hallway that catered to the family’s needs. Sustainability practices were also prioritized. Locally sourced materials minimized transportation emissions and radiant floor heating reduces energy consumption.

Mitlyng Design

mitlyngdesign.com • (612) 200-994

Design team: Katie Loecken, AIA; Ashley Mitlyng, AIA; Eden Garton, AIA





Photos: Round Three Photography

Classic Modern Color | Remodel

The simple shape of the original 1924 home was expanded toward the backyard with an equally simple two-story square housing the kitchen below and the primary bedroom and closets above. Both spaces overlook the backyard where the family keeps chickens. A small back-entry vestibule with a covered stoop completes the addition.

The original kitchen was converted into a mudroom, pantry, and half bath, while, upstairs, one of the small bedrooms was converted into the primary bathroom. The kitchen and pantry use fresh colors on the trim and cabinets, keeping the mood fun and lighthearted. The original stained birch windows, trim, and doors were retained and extended in the new construction, blending with the new colors.

The half bath and primary bedroom feature colorful wallpapers, and the primary bath brings a bit of whimsy in with a patterned floor tile. The addition's vertical board-and-batten siding contrasts with the stucco of the original home—a modern, cost-saving solution.

Albertsson Hansen Architecture and Interior Design

aharchitecture.com • (612) 823-0233

Design team: Christine Albertsson, AIA; Ian McLellan, AIA; Sarah Hughes, Allied ASID





Photos: Page Photography

Ten Trees | New Build

For decades, the homeowner reimagined life at the lake, which she nicknamed “Ten Trees.” The design team collaborated with the homeowner to transform the cabin and its natural setting into a year-round sanctuary.

The home’s shallow footprint, designed to maximize light and lake views, offers glimpses of the water from most rooms.

Super-insulation and high-performance windows ensure year-round comfort. Wide stairs, one-level living, and a dumbwaiter prioritize future accessibility, which will allow the owner to age in place. Sustainability is woven into the home: Recycled materials reduced environmental impact, low-water landscaping minimizes resource use, and solar panel readiness offers the potential for future energy independence. A landscape architect designed extensive landscaping, another passion of the owner. The result is a nature-filled, park-like setting.

This is a home designed to grow old with its owner, a testament to meticulous planning and a deep connection to the land. Thoughtfully crafted details ensure longevity, while native plantings and preserved trees creates a harmonious environment, blurring the lines between the house and the natural world.

McMonigal Architects

mcmonigal.com • (612) 331-1244

Design team: Rosemary McMonigal, FAIA; Kyle Thrapp, AIA; Nick Dellwo





Photos: Corey Gaffner

Blue Finn | New Build

Perched on a Northern Minnesota lake bluff, this whimsical one-bedroom cabin celebrates nature's splendor with a sleek black metal exterior and brilliant blue accents reminiscent of fish fins, infusing playfulness and delight into the design. Inside, thoughtfully placed windows bathe the cozy spaces in natural light. The heart of the cabin is the kitchen, which provides a sense of hospitality and radiating warmth that invites relaxation and appreciation for life's simple joys. The spacious screen porch extends the snug living space, offering panoramic

views of the woods and serving as a versatile area for relaxation, contemplation, and gathering. This serene retreat exemplifies the architecture firm's dedication to creating spaces that tread lightly on the planet while providing unparalleled comfort and beauty. The cabin's small footprint, super-insulated walls, and smart siting reduce energy consumption. Local basswood, harvested in the northwoods and installed by the owners, finishes the interior, and also minimizes carbon emissions. Much of the living space is on the unconditioned screen porch, which also lowers the energy consumption of the cabin. Thoughtful design and orientation optimize natural heating and cooling, ensuring comfort year-round. In harmony with its surroundings, the cabin exemplifies a holistic approach to sustainability, embracing innovation while honoring environmental responsibility.



SALA Architects

salaarc.com • (612) 379-3037

Design team: Jody McGuire, AIA; Marta Snow, AIA

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Scott Amundson Photography



LakeLight Photography | Scott Walker

Lakeview Shingle Style | New Build

When the owners acquired this rare lake lot on historic Manitou Island in White Bear Lake, they knew that they wanted a home for modern living with a classic, traditional feel that fit into the historic nature of the neighborhood. Respecting the island’s character, the design features a “fan” shape, spreading out toward the lake. This maximizes space within setbacks and offered stunning lake views from key living areas. The “seven gables” design adds complexity, requiring 400 unique truss profiles and meticulous detailing. Full-length porches and a shingle-style exterior create the classic feel the homeowners

desired. The fan shape allows for distinct outdoor living areas: a quaint front porch and a spacious lakeside porch perfect for grilling, dining, and relaxing. Open floor plans with two-sided cabinets ensure light flows throughout the home, offering glimpses of other rooms and the surrounding beauty. Transoms above windows and an all-white interior maximize natural light, creating a sense of airiness despite the extensive porches. White millwork and details add depth and texture while remaining light and inviting, contrasting beautifully with the long stretches of windows and breathtaking views. Sustainable features like high-efficiency systems complete this modern classic, a seamless blend of comfort, beauty, and environmental responsibility.



TEA2 Architects

tea2architects.com • (612) 929-2800

Design team: Dan Nepp, AIA; Tyler Hillger, AIA

Home of the Month
Selected Project



Röd Stuga | New Build

Designed for a widowed grandmother who wished to live closer to her son's family, this 1,600-square-foot house is set in the Lake Harriet neighborhood of South Minneapolis. Embracing her heritage, the homeowner's long desire was to have a Swedish red cottage with white trim. The home accommodates age-in-place living on the main level while a loft serves as a skylit playroom for the grandkids. Sliding glass doors open the dining area to a southern-facing deck, perfect for family gatherings, and a welcoming front porch greets guests. Röd

Stuga is a testament to heritage and a model for sustainable living in the city.

An open floor plan fosters togetherness while tucked-away nooks offer privacy. The main bedroom features a vaulted ceiling for a touch of grandeur, while a guest room has easy access to a shared bath. Laundry and mudroom facilities streamline daily life. On the exterior, the owner's initials are subtly woven into the porch railing. Inside, a modern twist on the Scandinavian palette includes richly stained wood tones and painted walls, with a blue-tiled fireplace adding a pop of color. Reusing a vacant urban lot and building a smaller home minimized the environmental impact of this house. Clever design maximizes southern exposure, while high insulation and efficient systems reduce energy consumption.

SALA Architects

salaarc.com • (612) 379-3037
Architect: Paul Buum, AIA





Gray House with a Greenhouse | New Build

This modern home, infused with a touch of whimsy, prioritizes energy efficiency and year-round citrus cultivation. A spacious greenhouse attached to the south side allows the residents to relax or dine amidst their flourishing indoor garden. The home offers a playful blend of design elements and cutting-edge technology. The 1,700-square-foot floor plan, divided into two stories with a mudroom, provides ample living space with three bedrooms and two and a half baths.

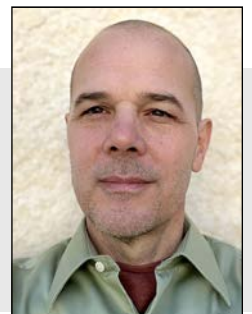


Photos: Spacecrafting

Sustainability is paramount. The exterior walls, framed with T-studs for enhanced insulation, boast an impressive R-value of 36. Additional features like a heat pump, hydronic in-floor heating, and triple-pane windows contribute to the home's HERS score of 38, showcasing its exceptional energy efficiency. This achievement earned the home a Master Certified designation within Minnesota's GreenPath Homes program. It also holds certifications under the US EPA's Energy Star and Indoor AirPLUS programs. Sustainability extends to the greenhouse as well. A ground-to-air heat transfer system and phase change material walls regulate temperature, while the south-facing exposure optimizes solar gain.

PAF Architecture

pafarc.com • (612) 226-6064
Architect: Patrick Freet, AIA



Home of the Month
Selected Project



Photos: Spacecrafting

Mirror Lake Midcentury | Remodel

When the young family discovered this midcentury Edina rambler, they knew they wanted to maintain the home’s distinctive profile and casually luxurious character.

The design team turned wasted space into a sprawling owner’s suite and an open living, dining, and kitchen area. Two home offices and a mudroom enhance functionality. The most dramatic change involves the staircase, originally dividing the main level. Its relocation creates a seamless flow. Vaulted

ceilings and exposed beams bathe the living room in light, while the kitchen’s new street-facing position fosters a connection to the neighborhood. A lower-level family room with an adjoining patio and pool completes the inviting atmosphere. A calming palette of pale neutrals unifies the space, accented by custom rift oak cabinetry and a sleek white European range. The bar area boasts custom brass and glass shelves adorned with handmade Portuguese tiles, a nod to the owner’s favorite destination. Custom shelving showcases the owner’s vintage vinyl collection. The exterior, finished with classic cedar shakes and a welcoming double front door, reflects the home’s perfect blend of past and present.

PKA Architecture

pkarch.com • (612) 353-4920

Design team: Carl Olson, AIA; Kristine Anderson, Assoc. AIA; Peter Atkins, Assoc. AIA



Home of the Month
Selected Project



Flower Valley Homestead | New Build

Conceived as a modern country home, the house is designed to fit and frame its stunning natural surroundings. Set on a former apple orchard in southern Minnesota, the residence is a forever home designed with aging in place in mind, while the walkout lower level accommodates guests with both a fun and functional bunk room and a bedroom suite.

The kitchen provides panoramic views of the valley landscape. Windows above the sink and the stove and a lack of upper-level cabinets provide unobstructed pristine views. The home's vantage point allows the owner to spot approaching guests. Three workstations accommodate communal cooking sessions when the adult children come to visit.



Photos: Farm Kid Studios

In warm weather, dining on the main-level screened porch is a must. Open to the landscape on three sides, with easy access from the kitchen and living room, the screened porch is the perfect calm spot for morning tea, lively lunches, breezy afternoons, and sunset dinners. The home's spacious garage affords ample storage for outdoor gear and vehicles, and when the day's activities are done, a soaring living room with a fireplace and windows overlooking the valley creates space for calm reflection.

Shelter Architecture

shelterarchitecture.com • (612) 870-4081

Design team: Beth Halstenson, AIA; Kurt Gough, Assoc. AIA; Jackie Colpaert; Lisa Antenucci; Jen Wojtysiak, Assoc. AIA





FAIRFAX MODERN

Constructed in the early 1950s, this home had seen previous renovations but was ready for a fresh look and expanded square footage by adding an entire second floor. The new version of

this home introduces a modern, bold design, that brings daylight into every room. Our designers created a concept that not only met the homeowner's needs but embodied their vibrant personality.

New Layout, New Look

Our team rearranged the main-level floor plan by moving the living room to the back of the house and installing double sliding glass doors for easy backyard access. This layout allowed our client to keep an eye on her four-legged roommates. The back entrance now includes a mudroom and full bathroom, with custom built-ins, fun wallpaper, and functional yet fashionable light fixtures. A home office tucked in the front corner of the home combined with low-maintenance exterior material, makes this home functional on multiple levels.

Every Element Inspired

Keeping our client's favorite things as our inspiration, we curated spaces she would love just as much. Her love of spa experiences and artwork translated into serene spaces that foster relaxation and creativity. And her passion for nature paired perfectly with our construction approach that puts energy efficiency and sustainability first. Our designers were also able to bring the outdoors in with rift cut white oak millwork and other earth-inspired elements – and of course, plenty of natural light.



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ARCHITECT:

Joy Architecture + Interior Design
612-616-9472
joyarchitecture.com

DESIGN TEAM:

Joy Martin, AIA; Allison Landers;
Laura Cayere-King, Assoc. AIA;
Kayla Holzhauer

PROJECT TYPE:

Remodel & Addition

AIA FRAMEWORK FOR DESIGN EXCELLENCE:

- Design for Integration
- Design for Well-being

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Sidocar | New Build

This home was initially designed to be one of two spec houses on a split lot. A 39-foot lot width and challenging sloped site required an efficient layout and creative design solutions, such as a sunken living room and strategically placed trees to create a sense of refuge. The happy buyers of the spec house contacted the architect later for a “Phase II” addition: a workspace. By reuniting the Phase I lot with its partner, which had ultimately never been developed, the architecture team created space for a “mini-me” addition mirroring the main house. The workshop, clad in dark gray to contrast with the original white, connects through a glass link and sliding barn door. An L-shaped footprint emerged, creating a private courtyard with a pizza oven. Sustainability played a key role in the design development. Mature trees provide privacy and shade, while a rain garden manages water runoff. Dry wells capture rainwater, slowly releasing it back into the ground. The efficient design minimized materials and maximized natural light. What began as a vision for two spec homes is now a single home customized to its owners, all within a walkable urban neighborhood.



Photos: Alyssa Lee Photography

Christopher Strom Architects

christopherstrom.com • hello@christopherstrom.com
Design team: Chris Strom, AIA; Brett Biber, Assoc. AIA



Builder: Advanced Construction & Remodeling
Photo: Scott Amundson



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Photos: Jasper Lazor

Diamond Lake Renewal | Remodel & Addition

This home seamlessly blends contemporary aesthetics with practical functionality to create a sanctuary for a family of five. Every element is meticulously crafted, from the sleek kitchen that boasts state-of-the-art appliances and smart storage solutions, to the thoughtful upstairs bathroom remodel, to the spacious mudroom that helps keep the family organized.

Client collaboration ensured the design reflects the owners' lifestyle. The updated kitchen, clever storage, and mudroom provide practical solutions while the backyard connection and remodeled bath add luxury and comfort. This project goes beyond functionality to fostering a connection with nature. Large windows and strategically placed glass doors create a seamless transition between the indoors and lush backyard, flooding the home with natural light and inviting the outdoors in. Through innovative strategies such as adaptive reuse and the integration of energy-efficient products, the design team also worked to ensure the house has a minimal environmental footprint. Meticulous attention to detail and a deep understanding of the client's needs resulted in a home that not only delights the senses but also enriches the lives of its inhabitants.



AWH Architects

awharchitects.com • (612) 558-5383
Architect: Alex Haecker, AIA



Modern Ramsey Transformation | Remodel & Addition

The owners of this home purchased it for its rural location and wooded views, but the existing house lacked the “wow” factor they desired and did not support the way they wanted to live. Transforming the nondescript 1960s-era home involved a dramatic exterior overhaul. Gables, small windows, and vinyl siding were replaced by shed and flat roofs, composite panels, shiplap siding, and panoramic windows. The interior layout saw a complete shift. Reversed stairs and an enclosed porch created space for a primary suite on the main level. The former living room became the new primary bedroom. A shed roof allowed for a vaulted ceiling in the new living room, adding a touch of grandeur lacking in the original house. This transformation utilized the existing foundation, avoiding extensive demolition. New windows, siding, insulation, and HVAC systems significantly improved energy efficiency. Remodeling the home instead of building new was a sustainable and budget-friendly approach, and exceeded the owners’ goals in giving them a modern haven that reflects their lifestyle and blends seamlessly with its natural surroundings.



BEFORE



“After” photos: Chuck Carver Photo

Chris Doehrmann Architect

doehrmann.com • (651) 639-0469
Architect: Chris Doehrmann, AIA





Photos: Ryan Siemens

Minnetonka Modern Revitalization | Remodel & Addition

Despite prior renovations, this 1952 Minnetonka midcentury home lacked flow and functionality, and the layout and energy use needed a refresh. The answer: an 18-foot western addition.

This expansion brings a kitchen downstairs and the primary suite upstairs, while the original home was smartly reconfigured

for three bedrooms. Timeless materials offer warmth. Vertical cedar adorns the upper level, while cool gray stucco finishes the lower portion. Expansive windows blur the lines between indoors and the breathtaking views.

Inside, a white oak cube anchors the addition, housing kitchen utilities and extending to form the primary suite's wall. Polished terrazzo floors flow throughout the lower level. Interior finishes echo the exterior, with natural wood complementing the oak and cedar. Natural light was maximized. Large windows upstairs and floor-to-ceiling windows downstairs ensure a bright, airy feel. A 12-foot folding glass wall connects dining to a new patio, creating a seamless indoor-outdoor experience. This renovation celebrates midcentury modern design's enduring appeal. It honors the home's past while embracing modern comfort and sustainability. This light-filled fusion of past and present is ready for future generations.

Timothy Dufault, FAIA, with Everson Architect

everarch.com • (952) 210-9845

Design team: Timothy Dufault, FAIA; Tommy Everson; Jason Briles; Kevin Bohl





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Home of the Month
Selected Project



Photos: Spacecrafting

Ski Hill Cabins & Saunas | New Build

The homeowners were passionate about all the North Shore had to offer—charming towns, historic parks, and endless trails. In 2012, they stumbled upon a classic 1968 A-frame near Lutsen Mountains. Their love for the area deepened, and by 2019, Lutsen became home. The A-frame’s location was originally planned for a chalet village. Taking inspiration from this vision, the homeowners hired the architect to design four modern cabins, each with a private sauna and firepit, creating a retreat nestled in nature that is reminiscent of a colorful Scandinavian village.

Clever design elements ensure privacy between units and define indoor-outdoor spaces. Clustered together and elevated on piers, the cabins have a minimal footprint and respect the natural topography. Inside, a compact entry with a built-in bench leads to a large living area with soaring windows framing the boreal forest. Colorful kitchen backsplashes and CNC-cut plywood screens add a playful touch. A sleeping loft with a stunning mountain view sits above. Two bedrooms and a bathroom offer privacy in a separate wing. The primary bedroom boasts a vaulted ceiling, expansive windows, and a private deck. The cabins use durable materials, in-floor radiant heating, and high-performance windows for natural light and ventilation. This retreat offers a unique North Shore experience, honoring the past while embracing modern design and sustainability.



Jennifer Simonson

Grayspace Architecture

grayspacearchitecture.com • (612) 568-4729
Architect: Carl Gauley, AIA



Minnetonka Beach Residence | New Build

In 2020, a longtime Lake Minnetonka resident facing mobility challenges due to their existing home's multiple levels enlisted the help of an architect to design a new, accessible home.

City ordinances presented a design hurdle. The new home's main floor had to closely match the existing one, and the garage foundation couldn't be moved. Balancing floor levels, ceiling heights, and site grading was critical. The result is a design that

maximizes the lake experience in addition to meeting the client's physical needs. A massive 36-foot-wide, 10-foot-tall stackable patio door connects the living and dining areas to a three-season screened porch. When open, these spaces seamlessly blend into one grand entertaining area, blurring the lines between inside and outside. In summer, retractable screens transform the porch into a comfortable outdoor dining terrace adjacent to the living space. An integrated ramp flanks the front entry, and an elevator within the home and a lift in the garage discreetly connect all residence levels for both owners and guests. Sustainability considerations included deep roof overhangs to minimize direct solar gain and pervious pavers on the back and pool patios to lessen stormwater runoff into the lake.



Photos: Spacecrafting

PLAAD

plaadoffice.com • info@plaadoffice.com

Design team: Mark Stankey, AIA; Matt Byers, AIA;
Ryan Andrews, Assoc. AIA





Dupont Home + ADU | New Build

Plans for a Minneapolis triplex transformed due to space limitations and the pandemic. Originally planned as a micro-community of three separate dwellings, the redesigned vision was for a single house with separate wings for parents and kids, plus an accessory dwelling unit (ADU) in the back. It was a simplified version of the same concept: a place for three generations of a family to stay connected.



Photos: Spacecrafting

The owners wanted a modern building that was still sensitive to its bungalow-filled street. The design team used scale, massing, and shed roofs to make the house proportional to its neighbors. Inspiration for the design came from various sources: Japanese engawa decks for the rear patio, California-modern openness, and Scandinavian simplicity. Insulated concrete forms (ICF) were used for the walls for a balance of performance and budget. The home is nearly net-zero. The roof design maximizes solar gain and minimizes heat loss. High south walls were strategically placed to capture passive heat, with clerestory windows providing even more natural light. Sourcing triple-glazed windows proved tricky due to cost, but a nontraditional supplier specializing in commercial projects offered a competitive solution. The completed home exceeds energy-efficiency expectations. While battery storage isn't yet installed, the dream of self-sufficiency remains a possibility.

HMM Architects

hmmarch.com • mathias@hmmarch.com

Design team: Mathias Mortenson, AIA; David Markie, Assoc. AIA; Norah Mortenson





J.R. Montague House | Remodel

This stately 1913 Minneapolis home in the Lynnhurst Historic District boasts a rich history. Designed by architect Glenn Saxton, it features balanced proportions, a hipped roof, and a grand porch. Inside, original woodwork and built-ins showcase the home’s heritage. The current owner has meticulously maintained the property, but the home needed updates to suit a contemporary family lifestyle.

The first floor received subtle improvements. The foyer, living room, dining room, and stair hall retain their original character with added air conditioning, lighting, and repairs. A previous back addition was lightly tweaked. On the second floor, insulation, systems, and plaster were all replaced. New windows, replicating the originals, were approved by the Minneapolis Heritage Preservation Commission. Salvaged materials from previous renovations were incorporated throughout the second floor. By removing an unused sleeping porch and hallway, the northwest bedroom and bathroom were expanded without extending the house’s footprint. The enlarged bedroom now accommodates two work areas and a lounge, while the hall bathroom offers modern amenities with a traditional feel. The primary suite was completely remodeled, featuring a luxurious bathroom inspired by high-end hotels. The second-floor stair hall was restored with a new coffered ceiling, and closets were added to increase storage.



Photos: Page Photography

McMonigal Architects

mcmonigal.com • (612) 331-1244

Design team: Rosemary McMonigal, FAIA; Kyle Thrapp, AIA; Nick Dellwo



Home of the Month
Selected Project



Como Gardenside | Remodel & Addition

Ideally situated for its spectacular location overlooking Lake Como, this 1939 house full of bespoke moments and beautiful details felt too cramped for a large family. The owners also wanted more access to and views of their extensive backyard flower and vegetable gardens.

An addition was added off the back of the house to include a much larger kitchen with adjacent scullery, a sunroom, and a generous mudroom. Laundry was moved from the basement to the main level, and a bathroom was added for future one-level living. The scullery is a nod to the family's love of gardening.

A major feat of the remodel was improved circulation. The addition features three access points to the backyard—from the mudroom, the sunroom, and the scullery. While the front of the house sits facing beloved Lake Como, the impressive backyard garden was highlighted with numerous windows, a new deck, and a paver patio to provide plenty of space for outdoor dining and entertaining.



Photos: Scott Amundson

Rehkamp Larson Architects

rehkamplarson.com • (612) 285-7275

Design team: Mark Larson, AIA; Kathleen Freiderich, AIA





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Photos: VONDELINDE

Kingfisher | New Build

This family worked with an architect to build a new modern home on a wooded, Roseville cul-de-sac lot featuring a grove of heritage trees. Design enthusiasts, the owners envisioned a modest, two-story home with a butterfly roof. Function was key: three bedrooms, a convertible office, a central kitchen, and flexible spaces for both togetherness and solitude. Additionally, a full basement was a must.

Neighborhood setbacks and the desire to save trees presented challenges. The architecture team, with the help of an arborist, responded with a meticulously planned layout. Separate footprints for the first and second floors maximize efficiency and emphasize connection to the site. The resulting T-shaped first floor features an inviting entry, while the slightly larger second floor allows for a rooftop patio, shaded windows, and a covered patio.

Inside, three focal points steal the show: a sculptural staircase, a monumental kitchen island, and a steel fireplace, all crafted by local artisans. The thoughtful design animates the 2,565-square-foot home, while the butterfly roof creates a sense of lift and movement. Dark charcoal siding, pops of Kingfisher blue, and yellow accents make the home stand out.

CityDeskStudio

citydeskstudio.com • (651) 644-1106

Design team: Ben Awes, AIA; Chris Bach, AIA; Perri Kinsman





Photos: Troy Thies

Ironranger | New Build

Perched on the shore of the clearest rocky waters of the Iron Range sits a new cabin as refreshing as the Northern Minnesota woods. It serves as a contemporary family retreat, meticulously designed to harmonize with its natural surroundings. The primary design focus was on simplicity, maintenance efficiency, and accentuating the beauty of the landscape.

The strategic placement of the cabin, sauna, and future shed enhance the landscape while ensuring privacy and incorporating elements of universal design. Inside the compact footprint, three sleeping rooms accommodate up to eight individuals, with seamless accessibility and spacious circulation pathways inspired by meditative principles. The unassuming, windowless entry, clad in wood, invites guests to declutter their minds upon arrival. Inside the foyer, a narrow aperture draws their gaze to a distant view of the lake, guiding them toward the gathering space flooded with daylight. Drawing inspiration from the surrounding environment, the materials mirror textures found in nature. The exterior features a vertical steel siding pattern resembling the nearby trees, while the interior is characterized by serene views framed by carefully positioned windows. Whether seeking social engagement or quiet contemplation, the family can immerse themselves in the tranquil beauty of the landscape, enveloped by the sights, sounds, and scents of the wilderness.



Kell Architects

kellarchitects.com • (612) 812-5687

Design team: Meghan Kell, AIA; Dan Wallace, AIA

Home of the Month
Selected Project



Photos: Alysia Lee Photography

Guitar Hero | New Build

A dynamic father-daughter duo envisioned a new home as their current bungalow couldn't accommodate them, their two dogs, and their expanding collection of sports gear and musical instruments. They sought a right-sized, "warm modern" home that reflected their personalities. They found an empty South Minneapolis lot and, despite its steep slope and lack of alley access, the architecture firm's feasibility study revealed opportunities. The steep slope allowed for a tuck-under garage and extra privacy by elevating the living spaces from street

view. The design features natural light, a flat-roofed structure enveloped in natural materials, large overhangs, and soft bluestone bricks. Inside, a light-filled, two-story stair hall and strategically placed clerestory windows maintain privacy while offering glimpses of the outdoors. The family's active lifestyle influenced storage solutions, including a ski-waxing room and bike storage. The father's trio of guitars are mounted on the dining room wall, which can readily be used when he plays with his band. The key to this home is balance: modern and warm, light and privacy, muted spaces and colorful rooms, activity and relaxation, and a perfect mix of both father and daughter.

Christopher Strom Architects

christopherstrom.com • hello@christopherstrom.com
Design team: Chris Strom, AIA; Eric Johnson, AIA;
Rachel Alexander, AIA; Brett Biwer, Assoc. AIA





Edina Colonial | Remodel

This renovation of this 1940s colonial-style house demonstrates the profound connection and collaboration between architects, designers, and their clients. The homeowners' extensive vision required multiple phases to complete. Phase I saw the revival of the kitchen, where existing elements were tactfully refreshed to suit contemporary needs. Phase II extended this metamorphosis, enhancing the main level with a multifunctional space while elevating the primary suite above. Noteworthy alterations included a dormer addition to enlarge the primary bathroom and the introduction of expansive windows for abundant natural light. Each phase, meticulously executed in architecture and interior design, brought out the colorful vision of the homeowners. The project stands as a testament to sustainable design principles, embracing adaptive reuse strategies, and a commitment to resource conservation. Through thoughtful material selection and integration, the home embodies a harmonious blend of tradition and modernity, enriching the family's living experience.



Photos: Corey Gaffner

Albertsson Hansen Architecture and Interior Design

aharchitecture.com • (612) 823-0233

Design team: Todd P. Hansen, AIA; Jim Kuipers, Assoc. AIA, Sarah Hughes, Allied ASID





Tonka Bay House | New Build

This new Lake Minnetonka home was designed for a young growing family that decided to trade Uptown Minneapolis condo life for lake living. Located on a narrow 40-foot-wide lot, this modern home provides a strong connection to the lake while also balancing privacy from the neighbors. The main level comprises a three-car tandem garage and public living spaces, with private living on the upper level and the finished basement serving as a flexible space. High-performance, triple-pane windows were strategically placed to frame views of the lake

while interior-facing windows showcase the trees and skies. A stone-clad fireplace acts as a spatial anchor that helps define the interior spaces and encourage the transition from inside to out. The exterior cement board siding is painted black to recede into the landscape while accents of thermally modified Accoya wood, custom steel slats, and stone add visual interest at the street and lake sides. Future solar panel conduits were installed on the roof, plus EV charging stations in the garage and at the dock for future EV boat charging. Site water runoff is managed through an underground retention system. The interior material palette is purposefully simple and consists of stained white oak flooring, ebony-stained white oak cabinetry and millwork, white quartz counters, powder-coated steel railings, and stone veneer. The final result is a vibrant home for this young family that infuses warmth with a modern aesthetic.

fuse57

fuse57.com • (612) 845-3271

Architect: Mike Bader, AIA



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Wisdom Woods | New Build

Nestled between two lakes in Northwestern Wisconsin, this home's 80-acre site offers an idyllic escape from the hustle and bustle of daily life, promising renewal and restoration. The owners envisioned a lakeside retreat for gatherings with loved ones, set amidst red pine and aspen woods. Balancing rustic charm with modern aesthetics, the home features shingle and stone exteriors accented by steel and contemporary detailing. The modest entry invites guests to ground themselves before entering the spacious, vaulted living area, where expansive lake views contrast with a cozy inglenook fireplace. Despite its ample size, the home fosters intimacy through thoughtful design, with a natural material palette and intentional nooks, fostering community, connection, and creative energy. Outside, a rainwater harvesting system ensures sustainable water

management. A bee garden, vegetable garden, amphitheater, and thoughtfully orchestrated hiking trails beckon residents to engage with nature and find solace in its beauty, completing the vision of a sanctuary for rejuvenation and reconnection.



Photos: Scott Amundson

TEA2 Architects

tea2architects.com • (612) 929-2800

Design team: Leffert Tigelaar, AIA; Ann Carlson-Yunga; Josh Winter, Assoc. AIA; Tom Henningsen



Home of the Month
Selected Project



Photos: Troy Thies

Net Zero & Pond Perfect | New Build

The architects were tasked with designing a four-bedroom, three-and-a-half-bath home with an expansive living/dining room, gourmet kitchen, finished basement, screened porches, and an attached garage, aiming for low maintenance, energy efficiency, and sustainability. The site, first explored in winter, revealed a gently sloping terrain leading to a serene pond on the north. The design team and homeowners decided to nestle the house in the prairie, just beyond the rise, focusing on the pond.

The idea of a net-zero home—a house that generates as much energy as it consumes—resonated with the clients. An all-electric, super tight, highly insulated home with triple-pane windows, high-efficiency appliances, and LED lighting is complemented by rooftop solar panels and a geothermal heat pump system, among other sustainable design elements. The design evolved from a one-story to a compact, energy-efficient, two-story structure. A simple white cement board box with cedar accents atop a black corrugated metal base emerged as the elegant solution, concealing within it a soaring two-story living/dining space and dream kitchen featuring top-of-the-line appliances and sustainable materials.

SALA Architects

salaarc.com • (612) 379-3037

Design team: Eric Odor, AIA; Alyssa Jagdfeld, AIA





River Bluff Modern | New Build

The homeowners wanted to create a home that took advantage of the beautiful river bluff site and landscape around them, prioritizing continuous river views and privacy. A central kitchen, dining, and indoor-outdoor living area were the core of the design, catering to one-level living for aging-in-place while still providing plenty of space for an expanding family.

Overcoming site challenges, including steep slopes and zoning constraints, the design embraces a rich material palette of

stone, dark and light wood, and metal. Large overhangs and a flat roof accentuate the horizon, providing solar protection and maintaining proportionality. Two “getaways,” one for each homeowner for their creative pursuits, were integrated: One is a hidden warm, wood-paneled room serving as an office, music practice room, and library, and the other is an art studio tucked upstairs. A sculptural metal-and-wood staircase, the result of team collaboration, lets light into all levels. An outdoor covered patio off the kitchen/dining area features a dramatic four-panel pocketing glass patio door, retractable screens, and radiant heaters, enhancing indoor-outdoor living. Sustainability was prioritized through water management efforts, natural and durable materials, and energy-efficient design, ensuring a harmonious blend of modernity, comfort, and environmental consciousness throughout the home.

Rehkamp Larson Architects

rehkamplarson.com • (612) 285-7275

Design team: Mark Larson, AIA; Corey Pederson, AIA





Nestled in the Prairie | New Build

Set within a serene rural landscape of native prairie flowers, this home nestles into the land while preserving vistas and conserving wetlands. The single-level design helps in meeting two of the homeowners' primary goals: inside-outside living and aging in place. The open concept living-dining-kitchen is a vaulted central space with windows and doors embracing the southern light and prairie vistas. The kitchen has generous work space with full-height storage buffering adjacent laundry and bathroom. The owners are tall, so the kitchen island is higher

than typical to allow them to easily prep food and gather. Two bedrooms and an exercise room that can also serve as an additional bedroom provide sleeping and flexible spaces.

The turquoise blue accent color pops in interior tile backsplashes and painted accent walls, and the exterior siding and patio umbrella provide shade. Consistent materials and finishes extend through the house—painted gypsum board, maple millwork, black stone counters, and finished concrete floors. The southern patio has room for dining, BBQ, lounging, and a resistance swimming pool. Hobbies, tractor, equipment, classic car restoration, and storage have ample space in the nearby pole barn. Because the property borders a protected wetland to the south, the stunning and expansive prairie views will always be the home's backdrop.

McMonigal Architects

mcmonigal.com • (612) 331-1244

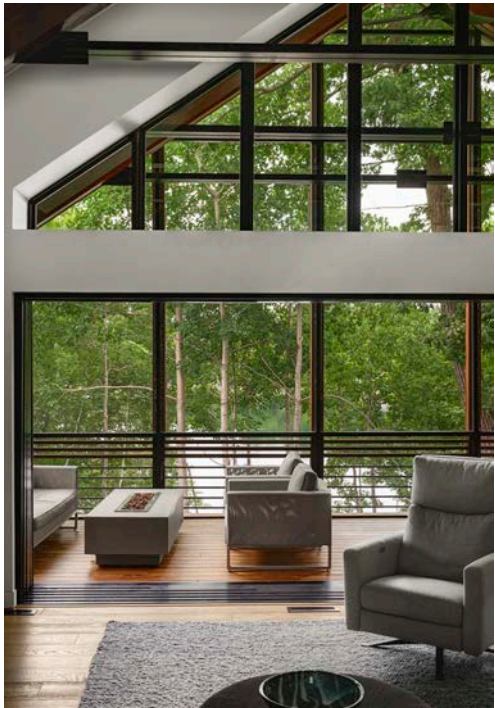
Design team: Rosemary McMonigal, FAIA; Kyle Thrapp, AIA; Nick Dellwo; Phil Hofstad





Lakeside Retreat | New Build

The homeowners sought to replace their rustic getaway cabin with a permanent lake home, desiring lake views without removing any trees and an aesthetic that blends modern style with large timber construction. The design creatively accommodates the family members' different schedules, a dramatic connection to the outdoors, and plenty of space for both entertaining and storage. The program spaces and windows are strategically positioned based on the approach from the road, and their relationship with the surrounding woods and lake. The main living space features a striking kitchen and expansive lake view, with spacious vaulting overhead as a focal point. A 12-foot-wide pocketed multi-slide door and sliding window enhance indoor-outdoor flow. A "back of house" concept with a walk-through pantry and garage connection helps manage clutter. Natural materials and sustainable features, including geothermal heating and a rain garden system, adorn the home, fostering well-being and minimizing environmental impact. Handmade Moroccan tiles and quartz countertops in the kitchen elevate aesthetics while reducing VOC emissions.



Photos: Spacecrafting

Shelter Architecture

shelterarchitecture.com • (612) 870-4081

Design team: Greg Elsner, AIA; Beth Halstenson, AIA; Jackie Colpaert; David Jensen, Assoc. AIA; Jen Wojtysiak, Assoc. AIA



Home of the Month
Selected Project



Photos: Wing Ho | Canary Grey

Merriam Park Cottage Renewal | Remodel

A small 1916 storybook house with a picket fence in St. Paul, this home had a small and outdated kitchen cut off from the rest of house, lacked connection to the backyard, and was missing a mudroom and first-floor bathroom. The goals for the addition were to expand the second floor to create a total of three bedrooms, update and expand the kitchen to open it up to the existing dining room, and carve out space for a new first-floor half bath and small mudroom.

The owner was interested in creating a clean, fresh feel throughout the house while keeping the vintage feel of the original house intact. White Shaker-style cabinets and marble counters make the most of the available daylight, and the original, dark-stained trim was painted white to unify all the first-floor spaces. To further increase the airy feel of the available space, high windows were added on the long side of the kitchen facing the neighbors, with shelves below them for everyday dishes instead of the typical rows of continuous upper cabinets.

Albertsson Hansen Architecture and Interior Design

aharchitecture.com • (612) 823-0233

Design team: Todd P. Hansen, AIA; Jim Kuipers, Assoc. AIA

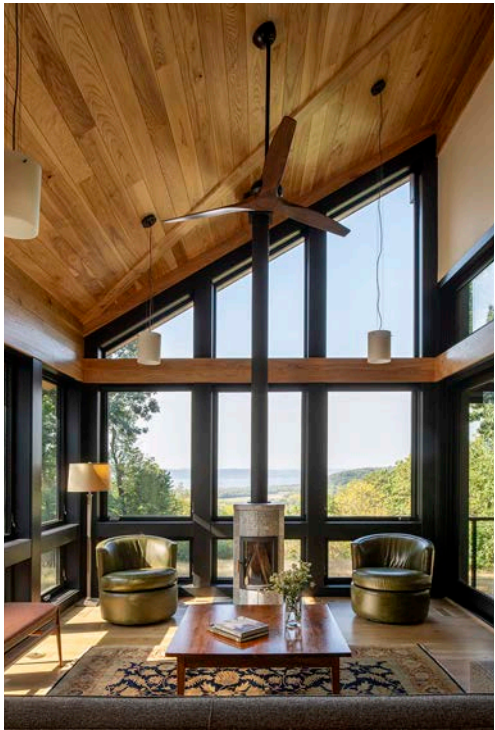




Pepin Bluff | New Build & Remodel

Weekends at their barn-like cabin near Lake Pepin inspired the homeowners to settle permanently on a Wisconsin bluff. The design team opted to keep the existing barn as a guest space with a garage below and craft a new home closer to the bluff edge. The existing gambrel form ensures privacy from the road, while salvaged snow fence cladding and exposed concrete foundation with integral insulation characterize the new home's sustainable design.

The new house's front door opens into a generous mudroom, which serves as a single-story link connecting the original barn/guesthouse, main house, and a workshop/boat storage outbuilding. The main floor includes an open kitchen, dining and living rooms, and porch. The design features Scandinavian details, including the green-and-blue color palette, plus nods to the barn as seen in galvanized steel siding. A petite soapstone stove and high gable windows grace the living room. A sculptural staircase leads to a cozy loft retreat, and the walkout basement houses additional amenities.



Photos: Scott Amundson

Rehkamp Larson Architects

rehkamplarson.com • (612) 285-7275

Design team: Mark Larson, AIA; Anders Matney, AIA



Home of the Month
Selected Project



Photos: Round Three Photography

City Cottage Reimagined | Remodel & Addition

Originally constructed in 1901 near Lake Harriet, this lake cottage underwent numerous updates until the 1990s, resulting in cramped spaces unsuitable for hosting gatherings. Rather than demolishing it, the owners, deeply connected to their home and neighborhood, sought to modernize it for contemporary living. They desired larger gathering areas, a proper entry, and an updated primary suite.

The renovation aimed to celebrate the cottage's history while improving circulation and functionality. Inspired by sailing,

the design incorporates enameled millwork, mahogany finishes, and nautical accents, blending seamlessly with classic shingle-style elements. A modest front extension transformed the awkward porch into a spacious living room and added a charming entry porch. A new primary bedroom suite on the second floor maintains the cottage's scale, while updates include a lower-level family room and improved kitchen layout. The extension allows for a more graceful transition between indoor and outdoor spaces, significantly enhancing the home's welcoming atmosphere. A thoughtfully scaled, street-facing bay above the living room provides a shingle-cottage feature in scale with the neighboring home.



TEA2 Architects

tea2architects.com • (612) 929-2800

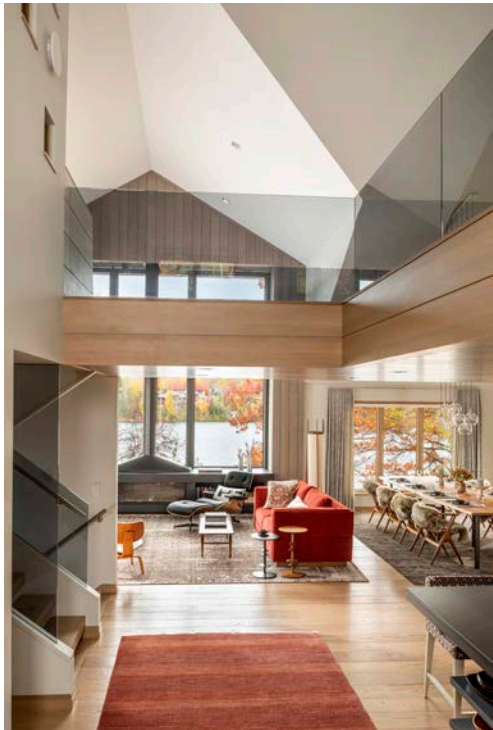
Design team: Leffert Tigelaar, AIA; Peter Matheson; Janet Lederle



Northwoods Redefined | Remodel

Sometime in the 1990s, a large addition in the form of an entire house was added to a small 1950s cabin on this site, leaving the older building largely untouched. With minor changes to the footprint, the architect reimagined the addition, creating a whimsical, contemporary space with a natural palette and plenty of connection to the world outside.

Change to the building's volume affords a dramatic increase to the scale of the windows. New dormers above the foyer entry and dining room brighten the loft through its smoked glass rail. A small lakeside addition accommodates a larger dining room table and increased entertainment area in the lower level. The screened porch was expanded and now includes built-in seating while a new front porch welcomes guests. Inside, the design emphasizes the tucked-away nature of the kitchen, transitioning wfrom the white-and-neutral palette in the great room to more earthy greys and reds in the enveloping kitchen. A proper northwoods mudroom offers commodious storage. The abundant texture of nature is incorporated into the finishes of each room, linking the architecture to the landscape.



Photos: Rich Michel

David Heide Design Studio

dhdstudio.com • (612) 337-5060

Design team: Chris Christofferson, AIA; David Heide, Assoc. AIA; Leanna Kemp-Kristoff





ARCHITECTURE: Everson Architect | Tim Dufault, FAIA | Over/Under Studio
PHOTOGRAPHY: Ryan Siemers

HWINDOW.COM

Home of the Month
Selected Project



Photos: Round Three Photography

≧ ADU | New Build

This homeowner, a longtime resident of South Minneapolis, is deeply involved in her community through her role at Project for Pride in Living, where she tackles the challenge of creating diverse, safe, and equitable housing options. Recognizing the importance of small-scale residential structures like infill accessory dwelling units (ADUs), she envisioned a modern, spacious ADU that would harmonize with her 1926 bungalow and surroundings while preserving privacy and outdoor living.

Because of existing site constraints, the architect and homeowner sought zoning variances and neighbor support to build the ADU closer to her primary residence. Aligning it with the existing house, the ADU's compact footprint was carefully designed to blend seamlessly into the neighborhood, while providing more usable outdoor spaces. The exterior design prioritizes privacy and outdoor living, featuring an intimate dining patio and a landscape buffer along the property line. Inside, thoughtful design elements enhance the sense of spaciousness and privacy, including a double-height staircase, white oak flooring, and functional built-ins. During the day, the pitched metal roof and wrap-around clerestory windows allow abundant natural daylight to bathe the interior. With sustainability in mind, the ADU incorporates energy-efficient systems, infrastructure for solar panels and electric vehicle charging, and durable, low-maintenance materials.

Grayspace Architecture

grayspacearchitecture.com • (612) 568-4729

Architect: Carl Gauley, AIA



Jennifer Simonson



Photos: Corey Gaiffer

Katherine Lake Retreat | New Build

Crafted as a serene escape, this refined, rustic retreat caters to a Los Angeles couple's desire for a comfortable summer home. Situated on a wooded two-acre site by Katherine Lake, the cabin boasts a low-key exterior with traditional details. The lodge room overlooks the lawn and eastern lake view. A wrap-around porch terminates in a large, screened porch offering

panoramic lake vistas. Accommodating immediate and extended family, the design sleeps 17 with clever room layouts. Inside, cedar tongue and groove paneling grace the living spaces, exuding warmth and charm. The design team minimized the cabin's environmental footprint by repurposing existing structures and using natural materials like cedar and Wisconsin stone. Efficient programmable thermostats and recyclable metal roofing ensure long-term eco-friendliness. The design fosters a sense of community, inviting both immediate and extended family to create cherished memories together. With its thoughtful layout and timeless appeal, this cabin promises to be a retreat for generations, blending seamlessly with the surrounding landscape of charming, historic cabins and boat houses along Katherine Lake's shores.

Albertsson Hansen Architecture and Interior Design

aharchitecture.com • (612) 823-0233

Design team: Todd P. Hansen, AIA; Abigail Merlis, Assoc. AIA; Emily Pressprich; Mark Tambornino, AIA





Humlebi House | New Build

The homeowner wanted a new modern home on a recently subdivided city lot designed with a careful use of space, sensible room sizes, built-ins, and connection to its surroundings. As a longtime resident of this neighborhood, the owner wanted his house to be at home amid the eclectic housing stock found in the area. Early site studies led to an L-shaped building plan that gives the house a presence on the street corner while also preserving open space for a large private backyard.

Stylistic references for this home came from midcentury modern and contemporary Scandinavian architecture. The exterior is primarily clad in black-painted lap siding, but the vertical siding at the inset entry porches is stained a bright yellow to welcome visitors inside.

The exterior walls are composed of structural insulated panels (SIPs), creating a strong thermal envelope and reducing construction time. The flat roof has solar panels for energy production and a skylight to flood the stairwell with light. Light-reflective white walls and fir cabinets and trim work on the interior balance one another to create a space that is both bright and cozy. Several wall spaces in the home were conceived of as gallery walls, allowing for a changing display of art inside the home.



Photos: Corey Gaffner

SALA Architects

salaarc.com • (612) 379-3037

Design team: Jody McGuire, AIA; Katie Leaf, AIA; Sarah Gastler, Assoc. AIA



Home of the Month
Selected Project



Photos: Michael Hara, AAI

The DIY House | New Build

This project began when the homeowners sought to upgrade their living situation to accommodate their growing family and pets. Leveraging his architectural skills and DIY passion, the architect-homeowner designed, contracted, and built the home primarily by himself over three years.

Growing up in a family of DIY enthusiasts, he drew from his upbringing to tackle the project hands-on, even obtaining a contractor's license and setting up an LLC. Facing challenges like pandemic-related delays and logistical hurdles, he adapted,

learning construction intricacies as he went. Despite initial unfamiliarity with residential design—the architect's day job focuses on designing cultural buildings—he embraced each obstacle as a chance to grow. For a period of about a year, he put in 100-hour weeks between his regular job as an architect and his part-time job of building a home. In addition to its design, he worked on the home's cabinetry, framing, millwork, furniture, exterior cladding, roofing, and landscaping, and more—anything he could do by himself or with the help of his father, who had built his own home years earlier. The completed house boasts above-code insulation, a hydronic radiant heat system, and passive solar strategies. Its thermally modified wood cladding, triple-glazed windows, and green roof further enhance its energy efficiency and durability.



Studio Hara

studiohara.co • (651) 260-8976

Architect: Michael Hara, AIA

Home of the Month
Selected Project



Valdres | New Build

The homeowner was retiring from his accomplished career as a geologist and wanted to create a sculptural home on the prairie with an abundance of natural light and space to display his extensive art collection. This home stands out for its refined use of metal, glass, and wood that creates a feeling of “Nordic zen.” Punched window openings maintain privacy at the front of the home, while larger glass walls capture views of the wetlands in the back. The living room is passively ventilated; fresh air is admitted by low windows and exhausted by clerestory windows above. Vertical-grain black ash sourced from Northern Minnesota clads the ceilings and soffits of the main level. Neutral gallery walls on both floors provide space for large-scale canvases. Standing-seam metal, known for its resilience and longevity, forms a continuous roof-to-wall shell while adding to the aesthetic. Thermally modified horizontal wood provides a counterpoint to vertical poly-ash siding, both of which can withstand the extreme winds of the savanna. The front door is a commissioned metal artwork inspired by artists Rothko and Diebenkorn and brought to life by patinaed blue metal coating. Base, midpoint, and upper panels reference the savanna’s earth, horizon, and skyline.



Photos: Spacecrafting

Christopher Strom Architects

christopherstrom.com • hello@christopherstrom.com
Design team: Chris Strom, AIA; Eric Johnson, AIA; Elizabeth Akkerman, AIA; Sydney Swift







ruth johnson interiors

CHRISTOPHER STROM
ARCHITECTS

