

MSP HOME TOUR

REAL HOMES. REAL PEOPLE. REAL IDEAS.

May 2nd & 3rd, 2026 | 11AM-5PM

2026 Guide



msphometour.com

**THE TWIN CITIES'
FREE AND SELF-GUIDED TOUR**



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MINNESOTA

SPECIAL BULLETIN

MSP Home Tour is part of City Stories, with Rethos' Doors Open Minneapolis.

The MSP Home Tour is a cornerstone of Twin Cities' architectural tourism, offering a rare glimpse into the private spaces that define the region's character. What began as a local initiative has evolved into a growing, metro-wide celebration of craftsmanship, community, and the enduring value of our housing stock.

This year, the tour also marks the beginning of City Stories, a new nine-day festival celebrating the architecture, design, and history of the Twin Cities. The MSP Home Tour kicks things off May 2–3, followed by a week of special ticketed experiences across the metro, and culminating with Rethos' Doors Open Minneapolis on May 9–10.

Take a guided tour of St. Paul City Hall and experience its remarkable Art Deco architecture, or head to Minneapolis to visit the Federal Reserve Bank building, where you can explore its public art collection and take part in a ceramic workshop led by Aldo Moroni Studios.

Maybe modernism is more your style. Discover innovative examples of modern architecture on the East Bank of the University of Minnesota campus on a walking tour led by an expert guide from DOCOMOMO.

Step into the world of F. Scott Fitzgerald with a stroll through the author's St. Paul, followed by Fitzgerald-inspired cocktails and trivia at the University Club. Or experience a different perspective on the city as you explore the nooks and crannies of Landmark Center.

Mix and mingle over food and drinks at the Avalon Event Space in the James J. Hill Library and hear from the award-winning Quinn Evans architecture firm during the inaugural Board and Batten architecture talk.

Go behind the scenes at Target Center—and even try shooting a few baskets like Anthony Edwards afterward—or visit the WCCO radio studios to meet the voices and personalities behind the broadcast.

The Mississippi River has shaped the Twin Cities in countless ways. Join an expert guide from Owámmiyomni Okhódayapi for a conversation about the river's significance and the future of the downtown waterfront. You can also take in the sunset on an evening river cruise with historian John Anfinson, exploring how the great river has shaped—and been shaped by—the people who live along its banks.

Close out Mother's Day weekend with Doors Open Minneapolis, a free, behind-the-scenes look at 75 fascinating and significant locations across the city.

Learn more and get tickets at citystoriesmn.org.

SUN	MON	TUE	WED	THU	FRI	SAT
CITY STORIES EVENT SCHEDULE, MAY 2026						
  						
MAY 3 MSP Home Tour 1:00am–5:00pm	MAY 4 St. Paul City Hall Tour 10:15am–11:15am Federal Reserve Tour & Moroni Studios Tiny House Ceramic Workshop 11:00am–12:30pm	MAY 5 DOCOMOMO University of Minnesota Walking Tour 1:00pm–2:30pm	MAY 6 Federal Reserve Tour & Moroni Studios Tiny House Ceramic Workshop 11:00am–12:30pm F Scott Fitzgerald Walking Tour 4:30pm–6:30pm	MAY 7 St. Paul City Hall Tour 10:15am–11:15am Owamniyomni Tours 10:30am–12:00pm Target Center Tour 1:30pm–3:00pm Board+Batten Architecture Talk 5:00pm–7:00pm	MAY 8 WCCO Radio Tour 9:00am–9:45am WCCO Radio Tour 10:30am–11:15am Landmark Center Tour Time TBD Riverboat History Tour 6:00pm–9:00pm	MAY 9 Doors Open Minneapolis 10:00am–5:00pm
MAY 10 Doors Open Minneapolis 10:00am–5:00pm	 City Stories is a 9-day, multi-location event that invites visitors and locals to explore the Twin Cities through the lens of architecture, history, and design. This event features exclusive home tours, walking tours, lectures, panels, and immersive experiences designed to highlight the unique built environment of Minneapolis, St. Paul, and surrounding communities. For more information: citystoriesmn.org					



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Welcome to year 37 of the MSP Home Tour!

Welcome to the 37th annual MSP Home Tour, the community tour. Over the years this tour has represented all things community – neighborhoods, friendly homeowners, pride of place, and energy.

Former Minneapolis Mayor R.T. Rybak wrote about the 20th anniversary of the tour,

"Minneapolis has never been more vibrant! From the burgeoning downtown riverfront population to our emerging immigrant communities to the many unique local retail hamlets, Minneapolis' neighborhoods are bustling with activity."

On the 26th anniversary of the tour, Former St Paul Mayor Christopher B. Coleman wrote,

"We thank the private sector partners, the design, architecture and remodeling companies who collectively sponsor the tour with us. Above all, we applaud the residents who invite visitors into their homes for this weekend; they are the heart and soul of this celebration of city living."

The last six to eight months have shown the resilience, neighborliness, and caring of the citizens of the Twin Cities. We invite you, our attendees, to come out and celebrate our neighbors!

This year's tour leans into community and asks you to see our neighborhoods anew. See the gorgeous view from Rivoli Drive in Saint Paul, feel the bustling activity on Central Ave in NE Mpls, and head to homes further afield but still in our 'hood.

New this year, we are partnering with Rethos for a nine-day festival celebrating our architecture, design, and history, the City Stories festival. The MSP Home Tour begins the festival, Doors Open Minneapolis ends the festival and the five days in between include opportunities to learn about our communities and fall in love all over again.

Beatrice Owen, Executive Director, NARI of MN

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	Space additions, attic, etc.		Interior Design		Member of AIA MN
	Kitchen Remodel		Bathroom Remodel		Topic Talk
	Historic preservation, adaption		Sustainable		Bio Break
	Accessible		Landscaping		Special
	Basement		NARI RotY 2025 AWARDS Remodeler of the Year project		

Color Coding

Suburban	Minneapolis	Saint Paul
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Special Thanks

Hennepin County Library
Ramsey County Library
Northeast Arts District
MELSA Libraries
Saint Paul Public Library
NARI of MN Member Showrooms

Credits

Tour Management and Mailing Address:
National Association of the Remodeling Industry (NARI) - MN Chapter,
275 Market Street, Suite 514, Minneapolis, MN 55405.
Phone: 612-332-6274

Executive Director: Beatrice Owen

Tour Manager: Nona Beining

Committee: Michele Lundgren, Doug Edstrom, Margaret Griffith, Deanne Beaudet, Kim Boyer, Maddie Johnson, Sara Knapp, Casey Schulz

Photography: Scott Amundson, www.AmundsonPhoto.com

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Thank you to the sponsors, partners, home presenter businesses, and most of all the families and homeowners, friends, and neighbors who support them in opening their homes.



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Start the conversation today!



See us at #8




About The MSP Home Tour

Preserving Heritage and Enhancing Quality Through the Decades

The MSP Home Tour is a cornerstone of Twin Cities' architectural tourism, offering a rare glimpse into the private spaces that define the region's character. What began as a local initiative has evolved into a growing, metro-wide celebration of craftsmanship, community, and the enduring value of our housing stock.

A Legacy of Community Revitalization

The Tour's roots reach back to the late 1980s, originating as a program of the City of Minneapolis. By 1990, the Minneapolis Neighborhood Revitalization Program (NRP) became its primary steward. The intent was clear: to showcase how public and private investment could breathe new life into urban neighborhoods. In those early years, the Tour served as a proof-of-concept for the city's vitality, highlighting residents who chose to stay and invest in their "forever homes." As the program's success crossed the river, it transitioned into the Minneapolis and Saint Paul Home Tour. This era emphasized a public-private partnership, shifting the focus from government-led projects to the stories of individual homeowners and the professional remodelers who helped realize their visions.

Transition and Stewardship

When the NRP concluded its operations, the Tour needed a home that understood both its logistical complexity and its community-focused soul. ProMedia Inc. assumed coordination, maintaining the Tour's "sociable and neighborly" quality for several years. However, the most significant shift occurred in 2021, when National Association of the Remodeling Industry of Minnesota (NARI of MN) acquired the Tour. Under NARI's leadership, the Tour has found a renewed focus. While it remains a celebration of beautiful spaces, it is now deeply rooted in the philosophy of **Remodeling Done Right**.™ NARI has leveraged its network and the broader community of professionals of architects, designers, remodelers, other craftspeople, to highlight how thoughtful remodeling—ranging from solar energy integration to accessible "aging-in-place" designs—preserves the Twin Cities' historic housing stock while adapting it for modern lifestyles.

The 2026 Tour: A Metro-Wide Tapestry

The 2026 MSP Home Tour, scheduled for May 2–3, features 22 distinct locations that reflect the geographic and architectural diversity of the metro.

The 2026 map invites visitors into neighborhoods with distinctly different characters:

Historic Urban Gems: High concentrations of homes in Northeast Minneapolis and the Merriam Park/Macalester-Groveland areas of Saint Paul showcase the power of preserving craftsmanship.

Modern Adaptations: Explorations of the North Loop and Downtown Minneapolis highlight urban density and loft conversions.

Established Suburbs: The tour extends into Minnetonka, Golden Valley, and Saint Louis Park, where mid-century homes are being re-imagined for a new generation.

South and East Metro: From the charming hills of Nokomis in Minneapolis to the residential pockets of Eagan, Mendota Heights, West Saint Paul, and Como Park, the Tour proves that quality housing is a region-wide priority.

By inviting the public inside, the MSP Home Tour continues to inspire homeowners to see the potential in their own four walls, ensuring that the Twin Cities' architectural heritage remains vibrant for another century. This year, the Tour serves as one of the anchors for "City Stories", citystoriesmn.com, a week-long celebration of Twin Cities heritage.

Building your Your Home's Future

Now is the perfect time to start tackling all those jobs you've postponed. The old adage is proven true over and over: the longer you wait to address repairs the more they will cost.

Step 1: assess the situation

Roof	What is the condition and age?
HVAC	Check filters, get duct cleaning for forced air systems, get a boiler check for hot water systems, and radiator maintenance.
Electrical	Look for worn outlets, malfunctioning switches, add circuits where needed, upgrade outdated panels, and follow code!
Plumbing	Clean drains as needed, repair broken fixtures, stop leaks.
Insulation	Consider an energy audit to see where your home might benefit from caulking and extra insulation.
Gutters, downspouts, grade	Help prevent wet basements. Check for good drainage away from your house through grading, and check condition of gutters and downspouts.
Footpath	Concrete ages and shifts. Keep your sidewalks and driveway safe with proper maintenance.

Step 2: set a budget

Set aside between 1% and 4% of your home's value for an annual home maintenance budget. This might seem like a lot but in the long run you're investing in your shelter. It's worth it.

Step 3: make a plan

Identify things that you can do this year, next year, and the year after. Making a plan will help you schedule. A good plan helps control unexpected surprises.



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Spotlight

The Soul of Northeast

Northeast Minneapolis—affectionately dubbed "Nordeast" by locals—is a neighborhood where the industrial grit of the 20th century has been repainted with a vibrant, modern palette. Once a working-class enclave of Eastern European immigrants, it has evolved into the #1 Arts District in the U.S., anchored by massive creative hubs like the Flux Arts Building, Northrup King Building and the iconic Art-A-Whirl festival.

The Homes: Character and Craft

The housing stock in the Arts District is a testament to the area's history. You'll predominantly find Craftsman bungalows, Victorian two-stories, and modest post-war cottages. These homes are prized for their original woodwork, built-in buffets, and deep front porches that foster a sense of community.

Typical Home Fixes

Owning a piece of history comes with a unique set of weekend projects.

Electrical Upgrades: Many homes still hide "knob-and-tube" wiring or lack grounded outlets, requiring panel upgrades for modern tech.

Insulation & Windows: Battling Minnesota winters often involves preserving stained glass transoms, fixing or replacing windows, or blowing fresh insulation into walls.

Foundation TLC: The regional clay soil and freeze-thaw cycles often lead to hairline cracks in basement masonry that require sealing and grading.

The Neighborhood

What makes Northeast truly "special" is its refusal to be polished. It's a place with random cobblestone streets and a shared love for art and craft-works. The flavor of the neighborhood is in the contrast: you can buy an oil painting in a converted warehouse, then walk across the street to a dive bar for a local brew.

Growth in the district is no longer just about "starving artists." It is being driven by:

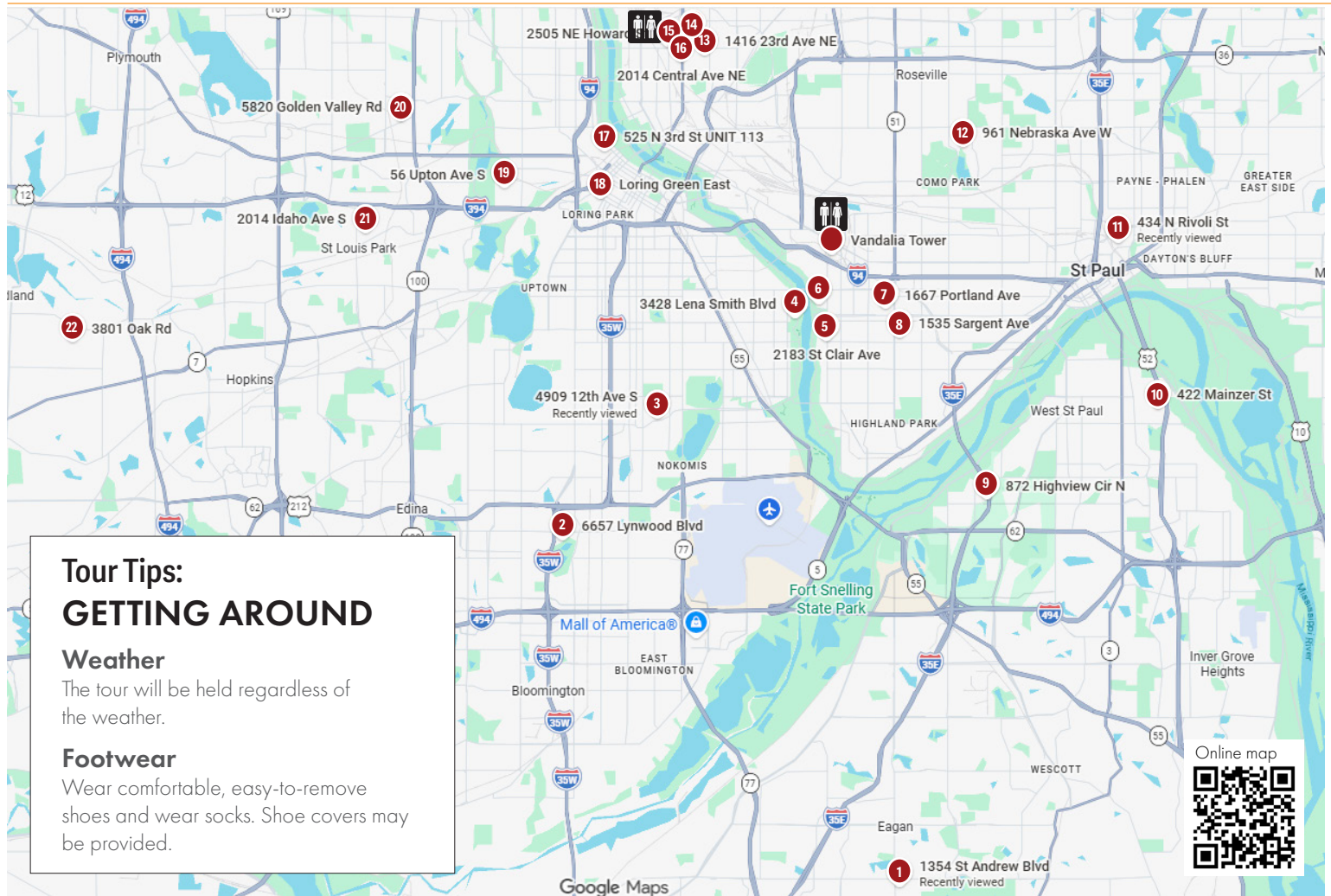
Adaptive Reuse: Developers are increasingly transforming old timber-and-tie factories into luxury lofts and "maker spaces" that blend residential living with professional studios.

Culinary Tourism: The explosion of the "brewery crawl" culture and high-end dining has turned the area into a regional destination.

Institutional Investment: Significant city grants and the "Cultural District" designation are fueling public art installations and infrastructure improvements, ensuring the "Arts" in the Arts District remains a permanent fixture rather than a passing trend.

Check out the homes #13 through #16 on the MSP Home Tour and see it for yourself. Join us on Sunday for a behind the scenes look at Flux Arts Building studios and learn from the masters about historic tile and glass works.





Tour Tips: GETTING AROUND

Weather

The tour will be held regardless of the weather.

Footwear

Wear comfortable, easy-to-remove shoes and wear socks. Shoe covers may be provided.

MSP Home Tour 2026 Map



See us at #7

Home Addresses

- 1354 St Andrew Blvd, Eagan Two Island Design Build
- 6657 Lynwood Blvd, Richfield AMEK Design + Build
- 4909 12th Avenue S, Nokomis New Spaces
- 3428 Lena Smith Blvd, Cooper Vujovich Design Build
- 2183 St. Clair Ave, MacGroveland Wise Design & Remodel
- 2270 Riverwood Pl, Merriam Park Quartersawn Design + Build
- 1667 Portland Ave, MacGroveland McDonald Remodeling
- 1535 Sargent Ave, MacGroveland Becker B&R
- 872 Highview Cir N, Mendota Heights Ohana Home & Design
- 422 Mainzer St, West Saint Paul AMEK Design + Build
- 434 N. Rivoli Street, Daytons Bluff (E. St. Paul) DBNHS
- 961 Nebraska Ave W, Como Park Quality Cut D&R
- 1416 23rd Ave. NE, Northeast homeowner
- 2623 Taylor St NE, Northeast homeowner
- 2505 Howard Street NE, Northeast studio tours
- 2014 1/2 Central Ave NE, Northeast homeowner
- 525 N 3rd Street #113, North Loop Castle B&R
- 1201 Yale Pl #805, Loring Park Sean Moore Designs
- 56 Upton Ave S, Bryn Mawr Anchor Builders
- 5820 Golden Valley Road, Golden Valley Sawhill
- 2014 Idaho Ave S, St Louis Park Better Builds
- 3801 Oak Road, Minnetonka Bluestem Remodeling

bio-breaks: 2505 Howard Street NE
550 Vandalia St, Midway

Welcome to year **37** of the MSP Home Tour!

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Fair Housing
MSP Home Tour participants and sponsors are committed to Fair Housing. City ordinances and state and federal laws prohibit discrimination on the basis of protected class in the sale, lease, or rental of housing. Realtors(R) abide by a Code of Ethics that prohibits steering, blockbusting, and other discriminatory practices. The Minnesota Department of Human Rights Housing Discrimination Helpline is 1-833-454-0148.

Conversations and Education

TOPIC TALKS

Saturday, May 2, 2026

11:30 AM

2623 Taylor Street NE, Minneapolis #14

Reduce, Reuse, Renovate: Tips & tricks to limit waste on your next project

Over 75% of construction materials from rehabs, remodels, and DIY end up in the landfill. Learn practical tips and resources like Hennepin County Reuse Grants, that keep valuable building materials out of the trash and help incorporate reclaimed items back into projects.

Presented by Olivia Cashman, Constr. & Demo Waste Specialist & Fernanda Acosta, Zero Waste Specialist

12:30 PM

3801 Oak Road, Minnetonka #22

Additions That Truly Belong: No More "Box on the Back"

It starts with the roof. Great additions aren't just about square footage — they're about proportion, structure, and integration. Learn about the essential principles that separate seamless expansions from costly mistakes.

Presented by Timothy Ferraro-Hauck, owner and founder of Bluestem Remodeling

1:00 PM

56 Upton Ave, S, Bryn Mawr Minneapolis #19

As our Life Stage Changes, the Needs for our Home Change Too.

Maybe you need a bedroom for your next addition to the family, more storage space for your growing holiday décor collection, or a place to relax with family. This leads to a difficult question... Should I renovate my current home or sell my home and move? This topic talk explores the many options to transform your current home including whole home remodels, additions, and our personal favorite, "Pop the Top".

Presented by Barak Steenlage, Co-owner, Sales, Anchor Builders

3:00 PM

3428 Lena Smith Blvd, Minneapolis #4

Designing Homes That Evolve With You

Remodeling isn't just about updating a space—it's about designing a home that evolves with your life. This talk features a home designed for the future—from retirement to welcoming new generations. Our work has been part of our local neighborhoods for nearly five decades, and in that time, we've helped generations of families design for now and the future. We'll share how intentional design decisions can support the way you want to live for years to come.

Presented by Christina Rymer, Senior Design Director & Sydney Benik, Design Director, of Vujovich Design Build

4:30 PM

4909 12th Ave S, Minneapolis #3

How to Renovate a Classic MSP Period Home

Learn the remodeling journey from a seasoned pro. Björn will show you the before and after transformation of a 1930 Classic Minneapolis home. You will experience a 3D virtual tour, photos and floor plans, as well as get an exclusive look at this extensive remodel. Bring your questions.

Presented by Björn Freudenthal, Homeowner Advisor, VP, New Spaces Spaces Design-Build-Remodel

Sunday, May 3, 2026

11:30 AM

2505 Howard Street NE, Minneapolis #15

How to Assess your Stained Glass for Repair

Join Malcom Potek for a studio tour and conversation on how to assess your home's stained glass for repair or commission new work for your home.

Presented by Malcom Potek, Potek Glass

1:00 PM

2505 Howard Street NE, Minneapolis #15

Time-honored Traditions of Handmade Tile

Join Josh Blanc for a studio tour and a conversation regarding the process and artistry of world-class handmade tile.

Presented by Josh Blanc, Clay Squared to Infinity

3:00 PM

3801 Oak Road, Minnetonka #22

Additions That Truly Belong: No More "Box on the Back"

It starts with the roof. Great additions aren't just about square footage — they're about proportion, structure, and integration. Learn about the essential principles that separate seamless expansions from costly mistakes.

Presented by Timothy Ferraro-Hauck, owner and founder of Bluestem Remodeling

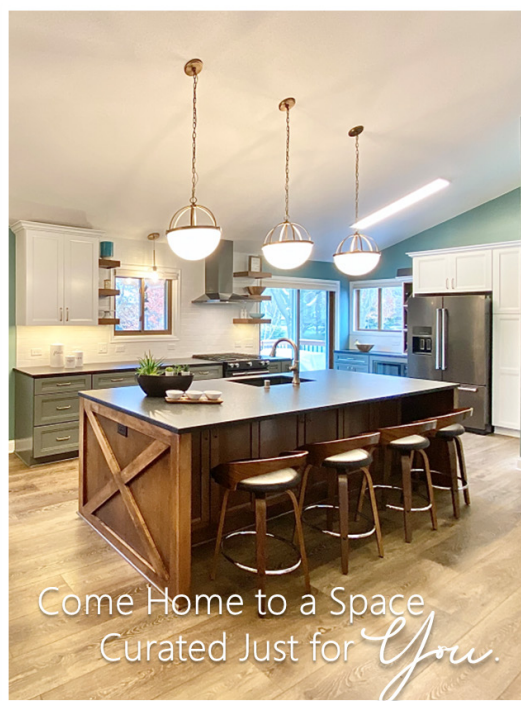
4:00 PM

2014 Idaho Ave S, Saint Louis Park #21

From Contractor to Waste Hauler: Rethinking Waste as Feedstock Supply

Learn how we view dumpster contents as valuable feedstock, not waste, and how it drives smarter sorting upstream. In the built environment, materials are separated in layers. Discover practical ways to keep construction materials separated longer, to improve recovery, reduce landfill use, and create new opportunities for reuse and recycling.

Presented by Joe Odendahl, Owner & Founder, American Dumpster Rental & Recycling.



1
1354 St. Andrew Blvd., Eagan
EAGAN



Built in 1980



Our 1980 multilevel home is finally the "happy house" we always knew it could be. We needed a home that could handle dozens of guests, but our old layout was a maze of angled walls with an isolated kitchen. We loved our neighborhood too much to leave, so we decided to tear down the barriers.

Now, the main floor is a sun-drenched, open-plan dream. By removing walls and reconfiguring the laundry into a functional mudroom, we gained a massive granite island that serves as our home's hub. Colorful and durable finishes stand up to our active crew, and perfectly reflects our family's energy.

It feels like a celebration every time we walk through the door.

Presented by: Two Island Design Build



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main floor & whole home transformations

MSP Visit Us
- at -
House #1 !

2

6657 Lynwood Blvd., Richfield
WOODLAKE NATURE CENTER

Built in 1948



As empty-nesters we realized the time was right to transform our home to better reflect how we want to live today. Built in 1948, it was ready for a new floor plan. The primary goal was to open up the existing formal dining room and kitchen to create a larger, high-functioning kitchen. A generous island anchors the space, serving as a hub for meal preparation and gatherings. Stained wood and painted custom cabinetry paired with classic brass hardware and lighting elevates both the style and organization. No more trips downstairs for serving pieces or the crockpot, with a dedicated pantry keeping cooking essentials close at hand. We honored the home's character with arched doorways and repaired the original wood floors.

Presented by: AMEK Design + Build

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3

4909 12th Ave. S, Minneapolis
NOKOMIS

Built in 1930



This 1930 Tudor home was thoughtfully reimaged to honor its historic character while supporting modern family living. On the main level, we removed the wall between the kitchen and dining room for an open, flowing space with improved storage. We also carved out a new entry with built-ins and added a convenient powder bathroom from existing living room space. Semi-custom cabinetry and period-inspired finishes complement the home's original charm.

Upstairs, two bedrooms were reconfigured, and walls removed to create a functional primary suite with a walk-in closet and balcony access. Throughout the project, we preserved Tudor craftsmanship with arched openings and rich textures, while integrating updated systems for a cohesive, comfortable family home.

Presented by: New Spaces Design-Build-Remodel

Tour Tips: Custom tile backsplashes, floors, fireplace surrounds

Do you want to recreate a true period style or are you more eclectic? Working with themes and color ranges help design something unique. Make a plan.

- Create a vision for your tile project
- Set your timeline
- Hire a professional
- Visit a studio or showroom
- Identify obstacles: electrical and other spatial issues
- Place your order

How many square feet do you need? Start with a thumbnail drawing or architectural rendering.

1. Measure each area in inches
2. Multiply the length x width
3. Divide by 144 (total number of inches per square foot)
4. Add 10% to 15% additional tile for matching, errors, and future replacement.

Check out the tile work on all the homes on the Tour.

4

3428 Lena Smith Blvd., Minneapolis
COOPER

Built in 1939



We reimaged our '30's Colonial into a colorful, cohesive, character-filled home, blending the old and the new with a combination of traditional details and vibrant finishes. Our builder gave us a U-shaped addition, preserving yard space and accommodating a new primary suite, sunroom, and mudroom. In the center of the open concept living area is the remodeled kitchen and scullery. Like this great house, the finishes mix the traditional with the unexpected - terrazzo tile grounds the entryways while whimsical wallpapers and custom-painted vanities add joy and color. Located along the Mississippi parkway, this new old house looks forward and back, creating a timeless, functional, and deeply personal home.

Presented by: Vujovich Design Build

HOME 4

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Tour Tips: Universal Design Basics

Equitable Use

The design should be useful and enjoyable to people with diverse abilities.

Flexibility in Use

The design should accommodate a wide range of individual preferences and abilities.

Simple and Intuitive

Use of the design should be easy to understand, regardless of the user's experience, knowledge, language skills, or current concentration level.

Perceptible Information

The design should communicate necessary information effectively to the user; regardless of ambient conditions or the user's sensory abilities.

Tolerance for Error

The design should minimize hazards and adverse consequences of accidental or unintended actions.

Low Physical Effort

The design should be used efficiently and comfortably with a minimum of effort or fatigue.

Size and Space for Approach and Use

Appropriate size and space is provided for reach, manipulation, and use regardless of body size, posture or mobility.

Check out homes #3 and #12 for Topic Talks on how to incorporate these principles into your next remodel.

5

2183 St. Clair Ave., Saint Paul
MAC GROVELAND



Built in 1926



We traded our suburban home for the energy of Saint Paul, where we can walk to the Mississippi River, the gym, browse local stores and grab dinner at wonderful local restaurants.

While the location is great, the house had a tiny dated kitchen that was cut off from the rest of the home. Our remodeler helped us fix it with a small addition, innovative cabinetry features like bi-fold doors, pull-outs, and an appliance center.

Now our kitchen's craftsmanship matches the rest of the home. We gained a massive, sun-filled space with an eat-at peninsula, loads of counter space, and smart storage. And we now have a first-floor powder room and mudroom with lockers to keep us organized. It's the home we envisioned.

Presented by: Wise Design & Remodel

6

2270 Riverwood Place, Saint Paul
MERRIAM PARK



Built in 1924



After 30 years in this 1924 home, we were ready for a transformation that respected its original character while improving how it functions today. The main floor lacked the usability we needed, so we partnered with our design-build firm to rethink the layout. The renovation improved the connection to the backyard, created a dedicated mudroom, added a bar, relocated the powder room, and fully transformed the kitchen. We love to cook and host friends, and now our home is designed to support that.

Our connection to this neighborhood has kept us here for three decades, and this remodel will allow us to stay for many more years.

Presented by: Quartersawn Design + Build

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HOME
5



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7
1667 Portland Ave., Saint Paul
MERRIAM PARK

Built in 1915



This 1915 classic has stood for more than a century. Its renovation honors the history of the home while reshaping its flow to better support the way we live today. The kitchen is the heart of the transformation. Custom cabinetry integrates storage with character, made possible by deliberate structural shifts.

A mobile floating table acts as a prep station and bar to an intimate table for two, whatever the day calls for. Handcrafted details ensure the space feels timeless yet personal, while restored windows once again frame a classic farmhouse sink and fill the space with natural light.

Visit the home and experience a masterclass in bridging the gap between historical charm and contemporary functionality in a kitchen redesigned for the next century.

Presented by: McDonald Remodeling



8
1535 Sargent Ave., Saint Paul
MAC GROVELAND

Built in 1923



We previously hired our remodeler to remodel our 2nd floor and add a dormer with a bathroom. Last year we partnered with them again to remodel the kitchen, mudroom, and entry. The goal was to improve functionality and have a kitchen that worked better for two. We decided on a sensitive remodel that would achieve a better flow and functionality without moving windows, doorways, or reconfiguring the kitchen. Success! We have a full kitchen remodel, with wood floors, new windows, custom cabinetry, quartz countertops and a stunning decorative tile backsplash! Mudroom storage and a bold wallpaper bring a sense of joy as soon as we enter the house. We added a covered overhang and fixed the old set of stairs. Our dream home in a dream neighborhood!

Presented by: Becker Building & Remodeling

Spotlight

Pillars of St. Paul: Merriam Park and MacGroveland

Known for their tree-lined streets and proximity to the Mississippi River, these areas offer a blend of academic prestige and quiet, residential charm. While Merriam Park leans toward grander homes, MacGroveland provides a quintessential "village" feel that draws families and professionals, alike.

Timeless Architecture

The housing landscape here is a class in early 20th-century design. You'll find Tudor Revivals with steep gables, stately Georgians, and rows of stucco bungalows. Many of these homes have been preserved with their original leaded glass windows, heavy oak crown molding, and high ceilings.

Typical Home Fixes

Living in a 100-year-old home requires a specific kind of stewardship.

Stucco Repair: The durable stucco exteriors may develop cracks or moisture pockets over decades, requiring specialist masonry to patch and match textures.

Boiler/Radiator Maintenance: Unlike forced-air systems, many homes here rely on hot water heat. Balancing radiators and maintaining boilers is a seasonal ritual.

Galvanized Plumbing: Many homeowners repipe with copper or PEX to improve water pressure and prevent leaks.

The Neighborhoods

The charm of these neighborhoods lies in their traditions. Halloween and holiday light displays are treated like festivals and the Grand Avenue business corridor serves as a communal backyard. With Macalester, St. Thomas, and St. Catherine Universities all within walking distance, the demographics are a unique mix of retirees, young families, and students, creating a vibrant energy. While these neighborhoods are staunchly protective of their historic character, they are not frozen in time.

Walkability and Transit: The expansion of bike lanes and the transit corridors like the A-Line make this one of the most accessible areas in the Twin Cities without a car.

Infill and ADUs: With high property values and limited space, many homeowners look into Accessory Dwelling Units (ADUs)—converting garages or basements into rental suites to address housing needs.

Modern Retail Revival: The redevelopment of older commercial buildings into curated "third spaces" like boutique coffee shops and artisan bakeries attracts residents looking for an urban lifestyle with a suburban pace.

Check out homes #5 through #8 to see 100+ years of history.



May 2-10, 2026

A New Vision for Heritage Tourism

The first annual City Stories festival is designed to highlight Minnesota's rich architectural and cultural assets this Spring. The initiative seeks to broaden the reach of heritage tourism by supporting community pride and local economies.

"We see City Stories as a powerful way to connect Minnesotans with the spaces where their stories unfold," said Beatrice Owen, Executive Director of NARI of MN. "Whether it's a lovingly restored bungalow or a bold new addition, these places reflect the creativity and care that define our communities."

See the schedule on page 2, and at citystoriesmn.com

About City Stories

City Stories is a collaborative event series led by Rethos and NARI of MN, designed to bring together architecture, history, and design over a week of immersive programming. Inspired by nationally renowned events like Palm Springs Modernism Week and Home + History Las Vegas, City Stories aims to elevate the Twin Cities as a premier destination for heritage tourism.

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Tour Tips:

REGISTER AND GET A STICKER

Admission is free, but you still need to register. You will be asked to scan a QR code at the first home you visit.

After you fill out a brief survey you will receive a sticker to wear for the duration of the Tour and indicates to other home attendants that you've already registered. Only 1 registrant needed per group.

Your input helps us continue to improve!



9

872 Highview Circle N
MENDOTA HEIGHTS



Built in 1990



After 23 wonderful years raising my family on Lake Minnetonka, I realized I was ready to trade the view for something even more meaningful, being closer to my children and grandchildren. When a home in Mendota Heights came on the market just blocks from my son, it felt like it was meant to be. The house was full of potential, waiting for new life.

With the help of my design-build contractor, we transformed the entire home into a peaceful, welcoming space that incorporates elements from our family home. Thoughtful aging-in-place features ensure I can enjoy many years here comfortably. Today, my home reflects a new chapter: warm, inviting, and full of everyday moments with my family.

Presented by: Ohana Home & Design

10

422 Mainzer Street
WEST SAINT PAUL



Built in 1977



We loved our location, but not the space. We reimaged our West St. Paul split-entry home with our remodeler, achieving the goals to be light-filled and open plus include an island with seating and plentiful, organized storage.

Opening up the wall to incorporate the old 3-season porch and improving the kitchen area changed the usable footprint. An added skylight and new window and door arrangement curates natural light while white oak flooring and beams anchor the layout. Planned storage was a key piece of the design process - small appliances, cookbooks, serving pieces, electronics, cleaning items, family games and craft supplies - all have an easy-access place to be. Custom two-toned cabinetry and quartz countertops add dimension to the relaxed space.

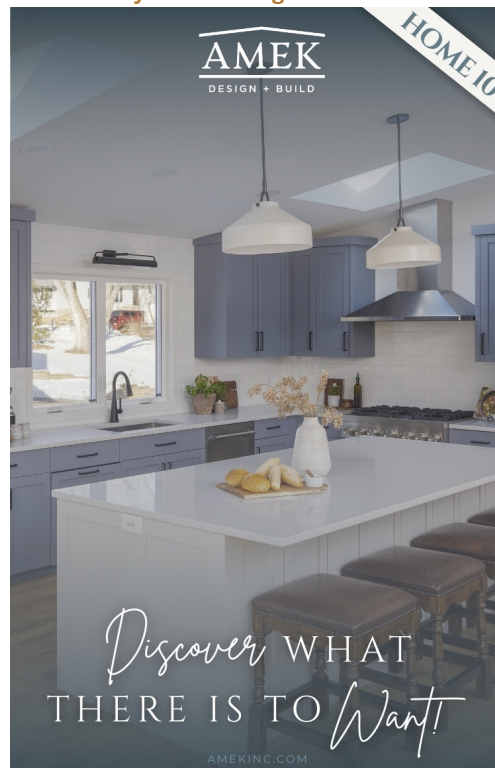
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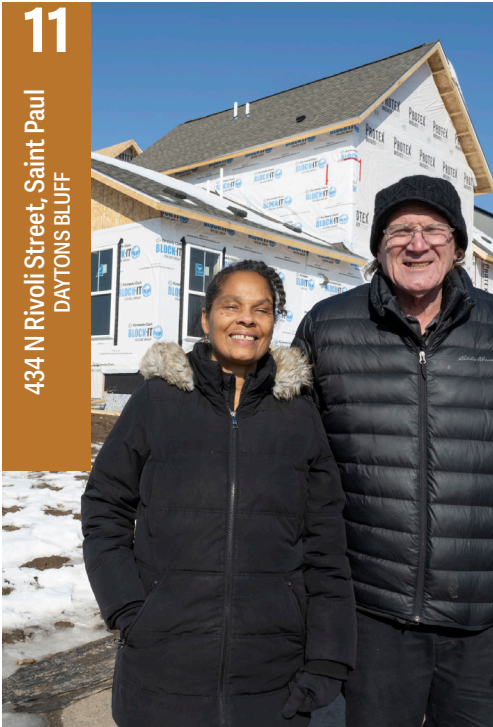


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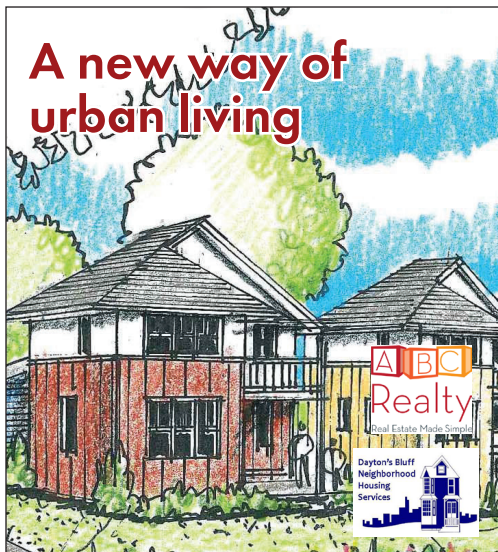
11

434 N Rivoli Street, Saint Paul
DAYTON'S BLUFF**Built in 2026**

Located in the Railroad Island neighborhood, we are excited to present this new construction home that showcases affordable living at its finest. This house is one of 17 being built in the Village on Rivoli pocket neighborhood by Dayton's Bluff Neighborhood Housing Services.

Walkable to downtown Saint Paul, breweries and restaurants, this modern 3 bedroom home with attached garage overlooks the downtown skyline. Come learn about Railroad Island's rich history and its stunning views. DBNHS is a nonprofit organization dedicated to improving housing on the East Side of Saint Paul.

Presented by: Dayton's Bluff Neighborhood Housing Services & ABC Realty Twin Cities



Daytons Bluff Neighborhood Housing Service and ABC Realty Twin Cities present the Village on Rivoli.

Visit us during the MSP Home Tour at home #11 to learn about our development, the Village on Rivoli, with houses under construction.

For more information visit www.abcrealtytwincities.com

12

961 Nebraska Ave W, Saint Paul
COMO PARK**Built in 1941**

As we began thinking about retirement, one thing became very clear: we didn't want to leave the home or neighborhood we love. Our goal wasn't to downsize. It was to design wisely. We wanted to create a home that would support us beautifully now and prepare us for whatever the future may bring.

This project began with a thoughtful addition that created a main-floor primary suite, a spacious walk-in closet with an adjacent laundry room, and a universally designed bathroom. Having the bedroom, bathroom, and laundry all on one level eliminates the need to navigate stairs and allows us to live comfortably and independently for years to come.

Presented by: Quality Cut Design & Remodeling

13

1416 23rd Ave NE, Minneapolis
NORTHEAST**Built in 1915**

This remodel is a love letter to Northeast. Growing up in this home, then buying it from her parents in 1991, this homeowner knows every inch of its beauty and also its quirks.

A true gem, over time it's been lovingly renovated from the porch to the family room, from the basement to the bedrooms. The most recent project was a complete gut and re-do of the kitchen. The family room addition was completed in 2014, and included adding a half bath to the first floor.

Back when she started, Northeast wasn't 'cool'. Now they are surrounded by the Arts District, old and new friends, the Edison High School Alumni Band, and world class restaurants.

Presented by: Homeowner

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14

2623 Taylor Street NE, Minneapolis
NORTHEAST**Built in 1903**

We received a reuse grant from Hennepin County to use salvaged materials in our remodel. We bought stained glass from a local artist-owned glass supply store Potek glass to replace the glass in the salvaged cabinets from Bauer Brothers and others. We spent many hours piecing together 5 sets of built in buffets to make a cohesive set of kitchen cabinets. We also used salvaged maple flooring from Better Futures to finish the attic. We kept a vintage green tub that was on the property and reused it on the 3rd floor. Many parts of the home are newly remodeled but we invite people to guess what is original to the home and what is new. The home is decorated with original art, 75% of which is from local artists.

Presented by: Homeowner

Building Reuse Grants



Go green! Apply for a grant to reuse building materials on your next home remodeling or building project. Learn more and apply at hennepin.us/building-reuse



15

2505 Howard Street NE, Minneapolis
NORTHEAST**Built in 1924**

We designed the spaces at the Flux Art Building for established career artists. With large interior spaces, garage doors inside and out, big windows, skylights, plenty of electricity, high ceilings, and a flexible common area, we redesigned this old industrial building to be the wonderful studios we have today.

Come visit our studios and see what we do with clay and glass. We make items for homes, create public art pieces and offer classes teaching some of the skills we have honed in our arts.

Join Malcom Potek and Josh Blanc for studio tours and conversations on how to honor your home's spirit with the artistry of Northeast Arts District's world-class art studios.

Presented by: Clay Squared & Potek Glass

16

2014 1/2 Central Ave NE, Minneapolis
NORTHEAST**Built in 1924**

We moved into what we call "The Spaceship" three years ago after spending years in Lowertown St Paul. I've spent thirty years collecting space age design and furniture pieces. We painted every surface and fortified the insulation for more efficient climate control. This is a live/work space, as we own the shop downstairs. That proximity plus the walkable and functional arts neighborhood that surrounds the building makes our home on Central Ave in Northeast ideal. It's full of artists and arts activity, with a huge variety of foods from around the world, excellent bars, and live music venues. Living in one of the most unique spaces in the city, in such a vibrant neighborhood, is a great privilege. This home isn't for everyone, but it's perfectly imperfect for us and our collection of "misfit toys." *Second floor, no elevator.*

Presented by: Homeowner

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Spotlight The Urban Pulse: North Loop and Downtown Minneapolis

Once a hub of factories and warehouses, these 'hoods have transformed into the city's most coveted urban neighborhood.

The North Loop Dominated by brick-and-timber warehouse conversions. These units feature soaring ceilings, exposed ductwork, and original columns. Iconic buildings like Itasca Lofts or Bookmen Lofts offer architectural history that modern construction simply can't replicate.

Downtown & Mill District Here, the aesthetic shifts to luxury high-rises and glass-walled condos. You'll find expansive skyline views, 24-hour concierges, and "hotel-style" amenities like rooftop pools and private dog parks.

Typical Home Fixes: The Condo Life

Living in a condo or loft means trading yard work for curation. Rather than worrying about a roof or a lawn, homeowners here get to focus on high-impact interior enhancements:

Designer Finishes: Owners often invest in premium cosmetic refreshes like refinishing hardwood floors or upgrading to quartz countertops to keep the aesthetic fresh and modern.

Preventative Maintenance: Proactive updates like installing high-grade water filtration or replacing appliance seals ensure that your urban sanctuary remains low-maintenance.

Communal Investment: When a building updates its lobby or adds a rooftop fire pit, your personal property value gets a boost without you having to lift a hammer.

Office to Residential Conversions

As the "work-from-home" era stabilizes, several underutilized mid-century office towers downtown are being gutted and reborn as luxury apartments, bringing more "24/7" energy to the business district.

The North Loop Green

This massive development has added a public park, a high-end hotel, and direct pedestrian connections to the Cedar Lake Trail, cementing the neighborhood's status as a recreational hub.

Transit-Oriented Density

The proximity to Target Field Station continues to drive growth, with "micro-unit" developments popping up to cater to young professionals who want the North Loop lifestyle without the price tag of a historic loft.

Check out homes #17 and #18 for good examples in these neighborhoods.

17

525 N 3rd Street, Unit #113, Minneapolis
NORTH LOOP



Built in 1915



As we moved to the next stage in our lives we wanted the downtown life. We found a great North Loop neighborhood, but our industrial condo needed a refresh. In our last home we paired with our remodeler to create an updated, functional and beautiful kitchen space, so we went back to them for this new home, too. We dreamed up a new, colorful space. Creative cabinetry, durable countertops with softness and character, and bold tile give the space big personality and set the color palette for the kitchen, living room and dining room. We finished with lighting and an updated fireplace surround. It pulls together the open concept living space. We love how well-balanced it all is, an industrial feel but cozy and home-like.

Presented by: Castle Building and Remodeling

18

1201 Yale Place, Unit #805, Minneapolis
LORING PARK



Built in 1981



This personal remodel transformed a 1981 downtown Minneapolis condo into a richly layered, contemporary home. Featuring custom cabinetry by a local Minnesota company, the design plays with bold contrasts—black cabinets and countertops set against natural woods and neutral walls. A former three-season porch was converted into the primary living area complete with heated floors, and the updated space plan was designed to fully embrace sweeping downtown views. Interior details abound, including chevron wood floors, transom windows, exotic woods, distinctive textures, wood paneling, and double moldings. The result is a cohesive, elevated interior brought to life with a thoughtfully curated mix of furniture, art, and accessories.

Presented by: Sean Moore Designs



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19

56 Upton Ave S, Minneapolis
BRYN MAWR**Built in 1940**

This growing family loves their neighborhood. With Theodore Wirth Park in the back yard, they chose to create their dream home right where they were, envisioning a fresh interpretation of a traditional Victorian style.

The main level was reworked to create welcoming public spaces: expanded chef's kitchen, formal dining room, mudroom and powder room, and a new screened porch connecting the home to its surroundings. The dining room has a stunning chinoiserie mural, while a richly saturated butler's pantry leads into the kitchen where a French range and porcelain slab backsplash create a truly showstopping moment.

All bedrooms were relocated to a new 2nd level, with two bedrooms, an office, shared bath, and a serene primary suite with marble tile and regal wallpaper.

Presented by: Anchor Builders

20

5820 Golden Valley Road
GOLDEN VALLEY**Built in 1946**

Their old NE place didn't accommodate the dogs, so they moved west. Still close enough to visit their old community, their new home is large enough for the pups plus their collections of art and whimsy.

The bold kitchen remodel was inspired by a celebrity ranch, steeped in western charm. Together with their remodeler, they blended rustic textures, artistic tilework, and refined craftsmanship with reclaimed wood beams, plum-toned walls, and a hearth-style prep alcove. The reimagined layout—once a fire-damaged schoolhouse—flows with rhythm and intention, where dogs are safe and guests are welcome. It's not just functional but a story of resilience, beauty made for everyday life, and unforgettable gathering.

Presented by: Sawhill

About RotY

For more than 50 years, the prestigious NARI Remodeler of the Year™ (RotY) awards have been presented to NARI members around the country who have demonstrated outstanding work through their remodeling/renovation projects.

Minnesota winners prove their excellence in a variety of categories including whole house, historical renovation, kitchen, bath, addition, and more. Each winner is selected through a blind peer-review process. These formally trained judges are experts in the remodeling industry.

Thinking of remodeling? Visit narinmn.org/rot-y-winning-projects to see winning projects.

Each project must meet minimum guidelines, show quality craftsmanship and innovation, and show how they met the needs of the homeowner.

Look for the RotY icon on projects on the Tour.

"NARI National Remodeler of the Year" winners represent the pinnacle of achievement in remodeling. The projects showcase work at the top of the industry. The NARI RotY Awards allow us to celebrate our members who are committed to design, best practices, integrity, high standards, and professionalism."

Jason Hensler, 2024-2025 NARI President

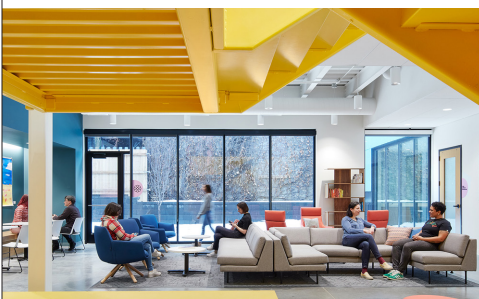
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21

2014 Idaho Ave S
SAINT LOUIS PARK**Built in 1947**

They loved the community and knew they wanted to stay in it, but this 1947 house was cramped and lacked a dining room. They worked with their builder to add 10 feet to the back of the house and went up a story, bringing some much needed breathing room, as well as adding 2 bedrooms, a bathroom, and a study upstairs. They chose custom oak cabinets - painted but not hiding the wood grain - with original and new Douglas fir floors that, as they age, will bring a sense of timelessness.

The biggest changes aren't seen but felt in the comfort provided by insulation, windows and siding. The all-wood front porch invites you in and blends the inside with the outside.

Presented by: Better Builds

22

3801 Oak Road
MINNETONKA**Built in 1948**

These homeowners loved their cozy, "cottage-like" home with wood floors and 3/4-acre yard. Yet there was no access to the backyard except through the garage. They dreamt of entertaining and easily carrying conversations (and food!) outside. They wanted to host overnight guests, have a garage big enough for their cars, and have a place for coats – not just hooks along the stairs.

Now, there's a sunroom in place of the old garage, a new bathroom, and a 2-car garage connected by a mudroom. The sunroom is ideal for overnight guests and relaxing by the fireplace. This is a great example of an addition that creates a new roofline to complement the existing scale and style of the home.

Presented by: Bluestem Remodeling

Tour Tips:**Contracts:
5 Good Things to Consider**

Whether you're a DIY homeowner hiring individual professional trades or a homeowner hiring a general contractor to complete your project, you want to know a few things: who they are, how they work, how they communicate, and how they will complete your job.

1. Be sure you have a written contract
2. Consider the scope of the project and make sure all items you've requested are included in the itemized list of work to be done.
3. The lowest bid may not be the best bid.
4. Make sure financial terms (cost, change order process, payment schedule) are understood and spelled out in the contract.
5. Have fun! The project will be both frustrating AND fulfilling. Setting clear expectations up front will help ensure success.



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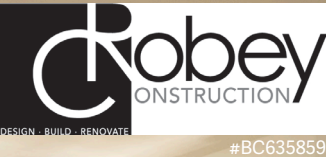


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