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Photos by: Brandon Russell

>architects, builders and remodelers<



ILLUSTRATION BY KIRK LYTTLE

# Sometimes, DIY is not A-OK

BY AMY HOAK

Eager to save money, homeowners are more willing to get their hands dirty with home-improvement projects these days. But the DIY route isn't always the safest or cheapest.

"Especially with money being so tight, it's totally understandable that people want to take on projects themselves that in other periods they would have hired someone to do," said Meri-K Appy, president of the Home Safety Council, a Washington, D.C., nonprofit dedicated to preventing home-related injuries.

But how do you determine whether a project entails more than you can realistically handle?

Most people tend to gauge the complexity of a project by doing research online, said Chris Murray, front-end insights manager for toolmaker Black & Decker. Some do-it-yourself Web sites grade a project's difficulty.

You also should look at the tools required for the job. "If it says 'You need these tools,' do you know how to use them? If you don't, you have a challenge coming," Murray said.

If you're unsure about your ability to finish a project correctly, get an expert opinion before proceeding. Sometimes, you may end up spending more money to repair a bungled DIY job than if you had hired someone to do it from the start.

Here are a few occasions when you may want to consider turning to a pro:

## When safety is an issue

Tinkering with a home's electric system can be risky business, said Matt Knox, chief executive of DiggersList.com, a construction classifieds Web site. Not only could the do-it-yourselfer risk electrocution but doing a job incorrectly also could





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create a safety hazard within the home's structure.

A basic ceiling-fan installation is a popular do-it-yourself project. But even that, if done incorrectly, can have dangerous results. More than 19,700 people a year are injured by ceiling fans that are improperly mounted or incorrectly sized, according to Electrical Safety Foundation International, an organization that focuses on electrical safety in the home and the workplace.

Some other jobs that involve safety risks:

**Extending a gas line.** "Do not mess around with gas. ... If you're DIY, you probably don't know how to check for gas leaks," Knox said. A mistake there could lead to an explosion or carbon monoxide poisoning.

**Projects that involve heights.** Carefully assess projects that require you to be off the ground, whether it's roofing or pruning trees, Appy said. "Do the cost/benefit analysis upfront, and ask yourself: 'How well trained am I to do this? Do I have the proper tools? What is my physical well being?'" she said.

**Projects that require power tools.** Obviously big power tools, such as a circular saw, can lead to serious injury or even death if used improperly. But don't underestimate jobs that could cause an injury that might not be devastating but would still slow you down, Appy said. "The nail gun that injures the hand you write with — it might not be something that seriously injures you, but it could be something that puts you out of commission for a couple of weeks."

## When water is involved

Leaks and water damage can lead to more costly and complicated repairs. If left unfixed, they can lead to mold, which affects air quality and, if found during an inspection, can be a deal breaker on a home sale.

Water-related projects aren't limited to your home's pipes. Putting in a skylight might seem like a DIY job you can handle. Do it incorrectly, however, and you could end up with a leaky roof, water damage and mold.

"If you're lucky, you will see the leak," said



Knox. If you're unlucky, it will leak inside the ceiling and drip behind the walls, causing damage to drywall and wood beams.

Knox said 90 percent of construction-defect claims on jobs done by professionals are due to water intrusion, so "it escalates when you go to DIY."

## If the costs of materials or tools are high

Sometimes, the costs of materials and the expense associated with making a mistake are enough to make hiring an expert a good idea.

"For something like crown molding, you need an expensive tool, and the material itself is expensive," Black & Decker's Murray

said. Mistakes on this project are also not always easy or inexpensive to correct, he said.

Kitchen cabinets can cost hundreds of dollars, and if you order incorrectly, there might be a restocking fee, and special orders may be nonreturnable, said Mike Albrecht, division director for Home Depot's installation business. Being off on measurements for granite countertops also can be a costly flub.

## If the project is too big

If you're planning on replacing all the windows in your home or remodeling your kitchen, think twice about how much of the project you want to do yourself, Albrecht said. Often, you can leave the heavy lifting to the experts and work on the finishing touches, such as painting and tiling backsplashes, he

said.

In a bathroom, for example, you might be comfortable changing lighting fixtures and medicine cabinets, painting and retiling, Knox said.

"If you mess up, there's not injury or damage," he said. "If it can do damage you can't see, have someone else do that part."

While putting in hardwood or laminate flooring can be a good do-it-yourself project, its complexity will largely be determined by its scale: Installing laminate flooring in a small, square bedroom is easy for homeowners to do on their own, Albrecht said. But doing a larger-scale flooring project — involving a transition between rooms or perhaps around a kitchen island — is where people get tripped up. \*

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# Energy Star-rated appliances save money, resources

BY TERRI BENNETT

**E**ven if you didn't get in on the government rebate program, now is still a good time to replace that old appliance in your kitchen.

Upgrading to energy-efficient appliances will help you consume less power and water. Plus, your utility bill will reflect the savings, and you'll reduce the amount of emissions produced at the nearby power plant.

The Energy Star label is a government rating designated to household appliances that operate 10 to 30 percent more efficient-

ly than federal guidelines. Check the label closely when you shop. Some brands offer products labeled "Energy Saver" or "Energy Saving" but don't necessarily meet the strict Energy Star guidelines.

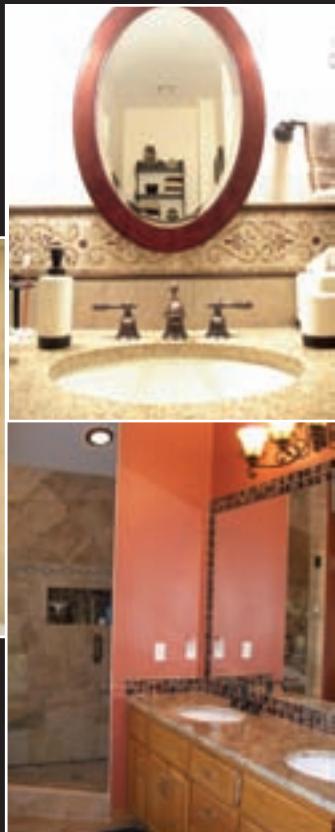
Energy Star-rated models will save on your utility bills, too. An Energy Star-rated washing machine uses 30 percent less energy and 50 percent less water for a savings of more than \$100 a year. Avoid using the hot-water cycle and save even more.

Upgrading to an Energy Star-rated refrigerator will use at least 20 percent less energy than your existing unit, saving hun-

dreds of dollars over its lifetime.

Energy-efficient models may cost a bit more, but the savings over the lifetime of the appliance often offset the upfront cost in a relatively short time.

Also remember that any time you replace an appliance, you should recycle the old one. Even if the appliance is no longer usable, its components often contain valuable metals that can be salvaged and turned into new materials. Use the search feature at Earth911.com to find locations near you that will accept used appliances for recycling. \*



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# Home Q&A: Where to begin?

BY AL HEAVENS

**Question:** In the past 10 years, I have had the roof replaced, replaced five windows, the furnace and a sewer line, added a sunroom and had drain tiles installed around the house and yard.

The first problem is water seepage from the outside walls into the basement. After retrenching inside and installing drain tiles outside, I don't understand why the water keeps coming in.

The second problem is that the roof shingles look terrible — they are discolored and losing texture. Should they be replaced? The shingles are CertainTeed, installed 10 years ago, and are supposed to be guaranteed for 25 years. Even though the roofing company was reputable, I have had two shingles replaced and now wonder about the workmanship. How long should shingles last and what is the normal guarantee on labor?

The third problem is the radiant heating system that was installed under the addition. It worked quite well the first couple of years but now doesn't heat the room very well. It is on a separate hot-water tank and has its own thermostat. I have been told I should replace the tank with a boiler, about \$5,000, and also told that for the size of the space (14 feet by 14 feet), the tank should do the job.

I have written to the radiant

heating company and complained to the contractor and Better Business Bureau with no resolution. The addition opens to the rest of the house and forces my furnace to work twice as much to heat that space. Do you have any suggestions?

My last problem is the front entrance and closet that were added on but not insulated. The cold air comes up from the ground and the closet is so cold and damp we cannot use it. There is no opening larger than one cinder block in the basement wall that would allow us to insulate under the floors. Is there any way we can insulate from above?

**Answer:** Where does one begin? Drain tile, which is actually pipe, should draw water away from your basement — if installation is proper. Perhaps your problem is so acute that the tiles would not solve it no matter how well they were installed, or you may need drainage along the perimeter of the interior of the basement that would carry the moisture to a sump to be pumped out. Call a couple of basement waterproofing contractors to determine the correct solution, and then deliver those findings to the original installer.

Warranty or not, roof shingles don't give up the ghost all at once. Shingles weather at different rates depending on their location on the roof, and the texture of some may have worn off more quickly than others through the action of snow and

ice. The manufacturer's warranty, and that of the roofer, should have been spelled out in the contract, and it was your responsibility to be aware of and understand both. Ten years is typically the limit for workmanship, although that can be negotiable when the contract for the work is signed, not now. Discoloration might be black algae or mildew.

Radiant heating? It seems to me that if something works well for a couple of years and then doesn't, maintenance might be an issue. Do you have hard water that can corrode pipes or the water heater,

affecting proper distribution? Although radiant heating is not new, it has become more widely used, and information on proper use and maintenance is readily available.

Finally, were the front entrance and closet supposed to have been insulated when they were added on? If the space under the floor is narrow, you can have foam insulation blown in to fill it. That might help. Insulating from the top when the cold air is coming from the bottom, from my experience, would probably not make the closet and the entrance warmer. \*

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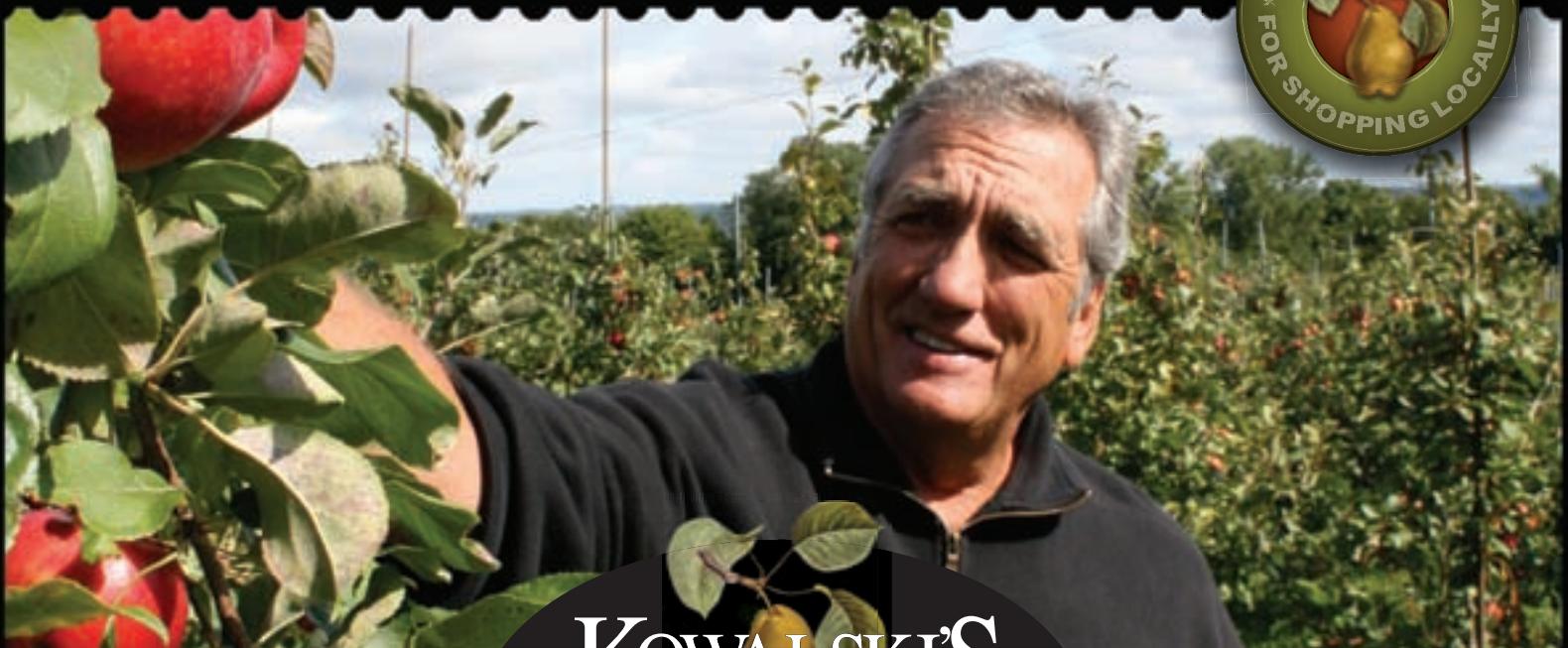
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>green living<

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# Classically green

Today's energy-efficient kitchens don't have to sacrifice style for sustainability.

BY MOLLY GUTHREY

**A** green design firm is sweeping away the notion that eco-friendly has to mean a granola aesthetic.

The kitchen in Casa Verde's showroom, which just won a national award, might surprise people if they're expecting to see bamboo countertops and hemp curtains.

"It's a really traditional-looking kitchen with modern, traditional amenities and designs," says Rosemary Merrill, the kitchen's designer.

In March, Merrill was named the national winner of the "Best Sustainable Green Kitchen" category for 2008-09 in the Sub-Zero/Wolf Kitchen Design contest. This is the first time someone in the kitchen and bath industry in this region has been a national award winner for design since the contest's inception in 1993.

The space is a mix of chocolate and white hues, with appliances subtly covered in wood paneling.

"Rosemary's ... design proves that sustainable design, high-performance materials and energy-efficient products can be equal parts beauty and sustainability," says Lynnette Bailey of Roth Distributing, the regional distributor of Sub-Zero Freezer Co. and the Wolf Appliance Co., in a statement.

That's what today's consumer expects, Merrill says.

"People want high performance and energy efficiency," she says. "This kitchen shows that sustainable design can be beautiful and sustainable. You don't have to sacrifice style for sustainability. There are more choices now, and it's exciting."

Like the dining ledge and buffet, for example.

"It's made of Lyptus, a dark and rich, rapidly renewable wood from managed forests that renews itself every 15 years but looks like old-growth mahogany wood," Merrill says.

Casa Verde Design, a custom kitchen and bath design firm and showroom in Minneapolis, kept the project local as much as



possible.

"All the woods are FSC (Forest Stewardship Council)-certified and built by local cabinetmakers, so it's all really great craftsmanship," Merrill says.

These days, though, green materials like sustainably grown woods are almost considered standard by the consumer.

"It's becoming much more transparent and the way of doing things," Merrill says.

The countertops are soapstone, which is a more environmentally friendly choice than granite.

"There are no sealers needed, just mineral oil, and it holds up really well," she says.

The appliances work hard, too.

"The appliances are all the latest in technology. Sub-Zero and Wolf and ASKO, and they're Energy-Star rated," Merrill says. "We used an induction cooktop because it's more energy efficient, quick to heat up and cool down."

Merrill also disputes the belief that "green" is another word for "more expensive."

"There are a lot of misconceptions out there," Merrill says. "With many of these high-efficiency appliances, they actually are less expensive and cost less money to operate over time."

A timeless design is more important than ever to con-



## Casa Verde Design

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# New eco-friendly products come in many colors

BY MOLLY GUTHREY

Rachel Maloney knows spring is blooming, not by the flowers but by the paint selections of her customers.

“In spring, people order greens and yellows — lighter colors,” says Maloney, owner of Natural Built Home. “In the fall, it’s darker oranges and reds.”

This spring, the eco-friendly building-supply store in Minneapolis is offering some new paint choices.

“We are bringing in one new paint line, AFM Naturals, that is plant based and all organic,” Maloney says. “It can be tinted any color.”

Another new option will include a line with a funky — yet green — palette.

“In April, we are bringing in the Mythic line of paint, really fun colors by David Bromstad,” says Maloney.

Bromstad, host of HGTV’s “Color Splash,” is the Minnesota native who won the title of “HGTV Design Star” during the show’s debut season in 2006. Mythic Paint is free of VOCs (volatile organic compounds) and carcinogens.

Natural Built Home also carries the eco wallpaper collection of Graham & Brown. It is VOC-free, printed on paper from managed forest resources and has pack-



AFM NATURALS

sumers, says Merrill, which is another reason she kept her sustainable kitchen looking as classic as possible.

“Today, we’re all thinking about how we spend our money, and people are looking at the design of their kitchen or bath as something they want to be long-lasting and to fit in with the architecture of their house,” Merrill says. “People would rather cut back and have better things than have the latest in design. ‘Trendy’ is not something that is the priority.” \*

*Molly Guthrey is a Pioneer Press reporter and frequent contributor to Spaces.*

aging that is fully compostable.

"It's a little more bold and funky," Maloney says of the line's personality (although there are more sedate choices, too).

New green choices are aplenty in all kinds of materials this spring.

"There are some beautiful recycled tiles coming out, cool stuff from a lot of different manufacturers," says Rosemary Merrill, a partner at Casa Verde Design, an eco-friendly custom kitchen and bath design showroom and store in Minneapolis.

The shop also offers unique green pieces, like its custom, contemporary upholstered furniture or a dining-room table refashioned from a cabinet crafted by Finnish immigrants about 250 years ago.

There are plenty of spring-oriented green products on a smaller scale, too, like Casabella's line of Eclipse cleaning tools that are new at Linden Hills Natural Home.

"It's made in the United States, all from recycled soda bottles," says

Jeanne Lakso, marketing manager.

It's like an eco-friendly Swiffer system: The line's cleaning pole is designed to work with all of the Eclipse heads, the microfiber sponge mop head can be washed and reused again and again.

"The sponge is a very efficient and effective scrubbing cleanser, and you just use a little water," Lakso says.

Another big trend in cleaning products, says Lakso, is the homemade kind.

"We sell supplies to make your own cleaning products, and that has become a very big trend in the past few years," Lakso says. "You can get a variety of books with recipes for your own cleaning products, simple things like white vinegar and baking soda and borax and essential oils that you can use to clean everything from your toilet to your windows. It's utterly safe, and it's another way to know exactly what's going into the product."

Linden Hills also carries the sim-



plyneutral line of cleaning products from a Minnesota company that was founded in 2007 after Maggie Mohs, a mom with sensitive skin and a child with asthma, began to search for ingredients for her own completely nontoxic cleaners that worked as well as the traditional choices. She and her sister-in-law, Sara Mohs, found the solution in a cleaning agent derived from corn sugar and palm kernel oil.

The Becker, Minn., company has rebranded its look and labeling for a more distinctive appearance just in time for spring-cleaning season. Instead of a sedate, muted green look, it now has a more vintage, artsy personality, with images of women inspired by Rosie the Riveter. The products now have funky names, too: instead of "stainless steel cleaner," it's now "Sparkle Me This"; "no-VOC glass cleaner" is "Streak No More."

It's important to visually stand out as the green choices multiply, Maggie Mohs says.

"We really believe that eco-friendly products are all that will be in cleaning aisles in years to come," she says. \*



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# How to come clean with a clear conscience

BY TERRI BENNETT

**N**ow is the time of year when many of us finally get around to tackling our biggest cleaning and organizing projects around the house. That might include cleaning out cramped closets, boxing up clothes and even getting to that cluttered garage. But instead of just throwing it in the trash, create a second life for your extra and outgrown stuff and keep it out of the landfill.

An easy thing to do with clothing in good condition is to donate it to Goodwill. You will get a tax deduction, and the resale of the items pays for job-training programs. Gently worn children's and teen clothing is highly sought after, and you can even make a little money by taking it to a resale or consignment shop.

For shoes of all sizes, consider donating them to SolesForSouls.org. This organization gives your shoes to kids and adults around the world who need them most. You can find collection sites in hundreds of stores all across the country.

Consider donating toys to a battered women's shelter. Children's hospitals generally won't accept toys unless they're new.

Sometimes, when we do a deep clean, we stumble across old cell phones, chargers, MP3 players and other electronic devices we no longer need. NextWorth.com or Gazelle.com are two Web sites that will pay you to send in your electronics. That's a great reward for not sending that e-waste to the landfill, where toxic chemicals can seep into the soil and water. If you want to get rid of a computer, a good option is to drop it off at Goodwill. Workers there will wipe out any personal information and either resell the computer or remove the valuable parts for recycling.

If you have plans for a kitchen or bathroom remodel, Habitat for Humanity's Restores can be a valuable resource. Some stores have crews that will disassemble and remove usable cabinets for free. They sell these and other donated household goods to fund building local Habitat for Humanity homes.

Finally, don't forget to get rid of any household hazardous waste that may be lurking in your home or garage. Household hazardous waste includes things like paints, bug killers, antifreeze, most batteries and even used CFLs because they contain mercury. Don't put these dangerous items in your trash. Instead, go to Earth911.com and search by ZIP code to find locations near you that will recycle or dispose of the products safely.\*

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ILLUSTRATION BY KIRK LYTTLE

# Star-quality porch passes its screen test

BY MOLLY GUTHREY

**W**icker isn't the only option for porches. Letitia Little, a certified interior designer, turned her client's screen porch into a contemporary oasis that is a little bit Zen — and a lot easy to clean.

"We wanted it to feel like you could use the furniture inside, too, with its clean, contemporary lines," Little says.

She also chose materials that can stand up to the elements — as well as the teenagers and dogs of the homeowner.

The home was built in 1925 but was gutted inside and has a contemporary style now, Little says. She wanted the porch to fit in. "It's a softer contemporary styling, with the browns and tans and oranges and earth tones of the rest of the home and a little bit of an Asian feel."

The Lake Harriet house, which was the 2008 American Society of Interior Designers Showcase Home, has many grand elements, but the relatively modest, approximately 12x12 porch won a people's choice award for its comfortable ambience.

"I kept getting people saying, 'Oh, I could live here. I could sit in this room all day long — all I need is a cocktail and I'd be happy,' or 'I could see myself sitting here with an iced tea and a book all afternoon,'" Little says.

But when tour-goers saw how the screened room was furnished — a couch and chairs covered in rich-looking fabric, an elegant area rug, a ceiling fan and gauzy curtains — they were confused.

"People would say, 'Oh, my gosh, it's just screens. Are these fabrics going to be all right? Do you have to keep bringing them in and out?'" says Little. "I said, 'Nope, it's care-free material.'"



PHOTOS BY PAGE STUDIOS

The cushions of the teak loveseat and armchairs, as well as the curtains, aren't typical patio furniture selections.

"The fabrics are all acrylics, which are fade-resistant and water-resistant," Little says. "Acrylics are relatively new in the design business, and now they come in really fun, interesting fabric patterns and colors. They don't look like something you'd choose for a piece of furniture that you can put out on the patio, but you can."

Durable materials make up the other pieces in the room, too.

"The cocktail table and end tables are made out of vinyl-wrapped aluminum. It doesn't matter if it gets wet," Little says.

The rug can also withstand the elements.

"It's a faux jute rug that is made of polypropylene and can be hosed off," she says.

Even the ceiling fan could take on Mother Nature.

"You can't just put any electric thing out there — it has to be approved for outdoor use. The woven wicker fan is damp rated," Little says.

The pieces were tested plenty during the five-week tour.

"There were some pretty good storms during that period — blowing wind, rain, dirt — and it all cleaned up beautifully," says Little.

The room wasn't just about looking good,

# NAVAB BROTHERS



though. The homeowner planned to use the space frequently during the warm-weather months.

"I picked out a nice little game teak table with four chairs because the client wanted the opportunity on a summer morning to go out there and read the paper and enjoy his coffee, and he was also a bridge player, and he wanted to play cards out there in the evening," she says.

In fact, seating was a big challenge in the little room.

"It's not very big, so then trying to get enough seating in there for at least four people to sit down, and then the game table and chairs, that was a trick," she says. "What's nice is with the contemporary styling on the armchairs, they're open, which feels more airy. It doesn't look so crowded as it might if it were all wicker. I think the effect is open and spacious."

She dressed the room with accessories that go well in an "outdoor" room.

"Lanterns are a really fun accessory for outdoors, whether it's on the patio or a screen porch," Little says. "I'm just crazy about lanterns, especially hurricane lanterns. And then the wind won't blow the candles out."

Other finishing touches include bamboo stalks in metal containers and a variety of potted plants. For Little, it was about including a mix of texture and color.

"You've got the faux jute rug, the woven chocolate-brown aluminum tables, the warm teak, the acrylic tan fabrics that look like cotton duck, pillows of heavier texture, the bamboo, the houseplants, the wicker ceiling fan, the beadboard," she says. "Having a lot of contrasting textures adds to the interest, as well as the colors."

Of course, the setting helps make the room special, too, which is true of all porches.

"It's on the main floor, but the walkout level is underneath it, so it feels like you're sitting out in the trees," Little says. \*

*Molly Guthrey is a Pioneer Press reporter and frequent contributor to Spaces.*



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# Get creative with your spring cleaning

BY MARY BETH BRECKENRIDGE

**Y**ou know what spring cleaning gets you? Stuff. Lots of stuff to get rid of.

Sure, you can take the usual routes — hold a garage sale, cart it off to Goodwill, take out a classified ad. Or you can entertain yourself in the process of purging.

We've cooked up a few fun ideas for you to lighten your load.

## Host a Swap Party

Swap parties are a great excuse for socializing in the name of recycling. And while you're splurging on that third slab of brie, you can rationalize that you're sacrificing your bikini body to save the environment.

Swap parties work best if you choose a category — purses, home accessories, sporting goods, CDs, whatever. Everyone brings one or more gently used items in that category and gets a chance to take home an equal number of their friends' things.

You can make up your own rules, but one method is to give each guest a ticket or token for every item he or she brings. Put the guests' names on their tickets.

Allow everyone an hour or so after arriving to peruse the goods. Then when the swap begins, have them put their tickets next to the items they'd like to have. If more than one person desires an item, put the tickets into a hat and draw one.

Real Simple magazine has swap party ideas on its Web site ([realsimple.com](http://realsimple.com)). They're in the "Holidays & Entertaining" section, under "Everyday Celebrations." Or just Google "swap party." You'll find plenty of ideas.

## Hold a Charity Auction

This is a variation on the swap party theme, except you sell your unwanted things to your friends and donate the pro-

ceeds to charity. It adds an element of competitive excitement as you and your BFF go paddle-to-paddle over that coveted Gucci belt.

In the interest of full disclosure, it should be reported that this idea was brazenly lifted from the letters section of Better Homes and Gardens magazine's March issue. It was just too good not to share.

We called the letter writer, Mary Howe of Jefferson, Ohio, for details. Howe said that at the auction her church group held, 10 or 12 women brought unwanted kitchen gadgets and sat around a table bidding on items.

It was all very informal, Howe said. One person led the auction, someone else wrote down the winning bids, and everyone settled up when the auction was finished. At the end of the night, they'd raised more than \$40 for a family in need.

Especially if you have a big crowd, you might want to run the sale more like a professional auction. Assign each guest a bidding number, and give that person a paddle with the number on it. Have someone record the winning bids for each number, and collect at the end of the evening.

## Exchange It

Who says gift exchanges are only for the holidays?

A white elephant gift exchange is a fun way to swap your stuff with your friends or family members. These exchanges have become associated with joke gifts, but a white elephant is something of value you no longer want or can't afford to keep. So in a real white elephant exchange, the gifts are used goods others might want.

Rules and procedures vary, but here's one way to proceed: Everyone brings one gift-wrapped item, and all the gifts are piled together. Have the participants draw numbers to indicate the order in which they'll choose gifts.

When your number comes up, you either

pick a gift from the pile, open it and show it to everyone, or you steal one someone has already opened.

If your gift is stolen, you get to either pick again or steal. (No, you don't get to steal back the gift that has been just taken from you, although you can reclaim it if you get the chance in a subsequent turn.)

Since No. 1 didn't have the opportunity to steal at the beginning, he or she gets the option of taking one last turn at the end of the game.

Then the exchange is over.

To avoid a never-ending cycle of stealing, consider limiting the number of steals per turn or per person. And be sure to state the rules up front.

Warning: This game works best with a group that has a healthy sense of humor and fair play. Good-natured wrangling and backstabbing are all part of the process, and if some participants don't understand it's all in good fun, things can get ugly.

## Get Creative

There's nothing novel about turning castoffs into crafts. What is new are the avenues for doing so.

The Internet has opened up a wealth of opportunities for creative types to share ideas and show off the fruits of their labor.

Can't think of what to do with your grandma's old canning jars? A quick Google search for "canning jar crafts" will probably turn up more projects than you have jars.

One good resource is Clever Nesting ([clevernesting.com](http://clevernesting.com)), a blog maintained by the creative duo of Devona Brazier and Colleen Penn. The two Akron, Ohio, residents share ideas, experiences and instructions for creating everything from crockpot cozies to heart-shaped crayons. While the blog isn't specifically devoted to reusing items, the two clearly have a heart for recycling. \*

# Staging homes goes minimalist

BY JEAN PATTESON

**W**ant to sell your home? Get out the bucket, mop and Mr. Clean.

The key to making a positive first impression is simple, said Sandra Rinomato, host of HGTV's popular "Property Virgins" show.

"Get it clean, clean, clean," said Rinomato.

"If your house isn't clean, it instantly sends up negative thoughts that the home is not well maintained. If your house is spotless, you're ahead of the game," she said.

But don't stop there, advised Rinomato. To increase your chances of making a sale, "stage" the house to make it as attractive as possible.

Until recently, "Staging meant pulling out all the stops — setting the dining table with your best china and crystal, arranging flowers, lighting candles," she said. "Now we take the minimalist approach. Basically, you want to strip the house to its bare essentials, depersonalize it, so potential buyers can superimpose themselves and their lifestyle on the house."

Rinomato offered these tips for staging a home:

- Visit model homes and examine magazines for inexpensive decorating ideas. Always keep in mind you are not decorating for yourself but for the general public.

- Start with the outside. Give the house a fresh coat of paint, add shiny hardware to the front door and plant a few flowers to send a subliminal message the house is loved and well cared for.

- Declutter every room to make it look larger. Get rid of family pictures, trophies, knick-knacks. Closets and drawers should be no more than 30 percent full.

- Invest in eco-friendly but bright lights. Open the drapes or remove them completely. Light, bright rooms give the impression this is a happy place — and everyone wants to move into a happy place," Rinomato said.

- Feature only a few pieces of furniture with mainstream appeal. Pull pieces away from walls to make rooms look bigger.

- Make sure a room's primary use is obvious. A bedroom should look like a bedroom, not an office, hobby center or gym.

- Bedrooms and kitchens are difficult to stage because they are in daily use, but make the effort. Clear everything off counters and nightstands, roll up the rugs and hide the laundry hamper.

- Minimize the "pet effect." Remove food bowls and litter boxes to the utility room. Deodorize thoroughly.
- Organize the utility room and garage. Hang up the bicycles, roll up the hose. Rent a storage locker if needed. \*



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# Garage logic

A new deck, terracing and his-and-hers garages create an urban retreat in a small St. Paul space.

BY MOLLY GUTHREY

**P**eople always ask questions when they learn Geoffrey Warner and Dawn De Keyser have his-and-her garages:

"Whose is whose?"

"Whose is cleaner?"

"Is it really his-and-hers, or do you go back and forth?"

"Whose has more windows?"

"How does storage get divided?"

The couple built the pair of midnight-blue garages more for aesthetic reasons than a desire for separate spaces. It was part of the award-winning renovation of their Macalester-Groveland home, a 1911 bunga-

low that was on the Minneapolis & St. Paul Home Tour this spring.

"There was one single-car garage before; we took it down because it wasn't in great shape," says Warner, the founder of Alchemy Architecture in St. Paul.

"But the original garage fit the scale of the house and the neighborhood really nicely — in comparison to maybe more modern garages that have two stalls and a bigger mass," says De Keyser, who studied architecture in college and works as a manager in real estate services at Andersen Corp.

"When you do a two-car garage, the scale is big, the garage looks as big as the house," Warner says. "We didn't want a suburban-



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looking thing back there."

"We've got a tiny yard, too, and a two-stall garage would have been this massive thing in one corner of the yard, taking up a lot of space and leaving us with an odd-shaped backyard," De Keyser says.

Warner, who has received acclaim and awards for the design of the weeHouse, a micro and modern prefab piece of architecture, appreciates small-scale structures. But the solution to the problem in his own back yard — a pair of single-car garages instead of a two-car garage — came to Warner from a local source.

"I saw similar work that David Salmela did in Jackson Meadow," Warner says. "He inspired me."

The Jackson Meadow community, a cluster of homes in Marine on St. Croix that is distinctive for its stark palette of white-washed cedar siding and aluminum roofs, is a study in conservation development (no three-car garages or cul de sacs).

"We thought we could anchor the corners by building two smaller garages in keeping with the style of the old one and leaving a courtyard in between that is a backdrop to



the back yard," De Keyser says.

"Also, by building in the corners, you're not building as much fence," Warner says.

"It does contain the yard and make it feel more intimate and more useful," De Keyser says of the garage bookends.

### Another 'a-ha' moment

Two garages were only part of the back-yard makeover.

The couple also tore down an "ugly" rear screen porch and added a deck. This exacerbated the downward slope to the alley, however.

"There was a 4-foot drop down to the ground," De Keyser says. "It was awkward."

This time, the solution came from one of Warner's clients, Ed Burke of Phillips Garden, a landscape design, installation and maintenance firm in Minneapolis.

"We said, 'Hey, can you come on over and help us work on our yard?'" Warner says. "We'd been living there for about five years by then. Ed walked in and suggested the terracing in about five minutes flat."

"That was our 'a-ha' moment," De Keyser says.

A landscape stonemason installed the bluestone walls.

"Terracing brought everything up and connected it and made it more useable," De Keyser says. "It flows now really well."

The couple followed the landscape firm's advice on plantings, too.

"They suggested sedums, succulents that don't need a lot of maintenance," Warner says. "They're low maintenance and durable and look great."

The terracing also helps hide the plantings that are not as attractive.

"We grow all kinds of vegetables and herbs on a couple of the lowest terraces," De Keyser says. "When you're standing on the deck, it's hidden low at the same level as the garage floor."

The couple's two daughters have adapted to the small yard.

"It's more creative play," De Keyser says. "A little bit of croquet, or they'll hit the volleyball around."

The girls' parents can watch them from one of two decks — a small front entry deck of Ipe wood and galvanized steel; or the larger backyard deck constructed from an Andersen composite material of recycled vinyl and wood.

"We use one as an outdoor dining area and the other side has lounge chairs," De Keyser says. "It's kind of like two outdoor rooms that extend from the house."

### An urban retreat

The refashioned back yard has a modern, colorful vibe — the house and garages are covered in fiber cement siding and painted midnight blue; the alley wall, made of Cor-Ten, a weathering steel, has a copper patina; the steps from the house to the garages are





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filled in with crushed gravel.

That's when it's nice to have yourself as a client, Warner says.

"You can say, 'This is going to be hard to shovel, but it's going to look neat,' and you just do it," he says.

However, it was difficult to shovel, so Warner added another element later.

"We salvaged some slate from a nearby church that acts as stepping stones in the gravel," Warner says.

Even materials added later were chosen to unify.

"It's an organizing idea, almost a pathway from the street, through the house and to the alley," Warner says.

Inside the home, where renovations brought down 50 percent of the walls, the pathway includes a diamond plate steel runner that tracks across hardwood floors. It's symbolic of the spirit of the makeover — the traditional overlaid with the contemporary.

"The bungalow shape of the house was nice, so we wanted to keep the shell of the house, but it's more suited to the way we live now," Warner says. "It's a fairly big house — 2,000 square feet — and it's just been reorganized. It was three bedrooms and it's still

three bedrooms; we just moved the bedrooms around. There was a kitchen that was more or less the same size as it is now, 8x15, but we made it into an open kitchen, going from about 6 linear feet of counter space to about 20 feet of counter space. We removed the buffet and we sold it — it didn't work for an open kitchen that we wanted."

Now the home works nicely for this family, 99 years after it was built. Like this summer, when they'll grill on the backyard deck.

"It's like having a vacation in the city," Warner says. "We don't have a lake place. Sitting out and cooking and enjoying the back yard, it's a little retreat back there. It makes me happy."

### His-and-hers

The single-car garages might have been built for architectural reasons — to fit in with the scale of the neighborhood — but the separate spaces complement the couple's personal dynamics as well.

"Mine has toys in it, hers has gardening stuff in it," Warner says.

"I think mine is more neat," De Keyser says, "because I'm in there quite a bit, and

it's more important to me to be neat than it is for Geoff."

"But I cleaned both garages last fall — without asking," Warner says. "I started with hers. She thought it was swell, but I had to tell her I did it."

"I think it was a beautiful day and he wanted to be outside," De Keyser says. "He put some things in places I wouldn't, but he did it and I'm very grateful."

There's also no fighting over storage space, since De Keyser's garage is the one with a loft for storage of family items like camping gear. But there's more room for everything in her garage, from bicycles to the lawn mower.

"Mine has too many tools and windsurfing boards," Warner says.

"And kites," De Keyser says.

Usually, De Keyser parks her Honda CR-V in her garage and Warner parks his Toyota pickup truck in his garage, but not always.

"There was an issue once with my garage door, so he offered to let me use his," De Keyser says. "That was nice." \*

*Molly Guthrey is a Pioneer Press reporter and frequent contributor to Spaces.*

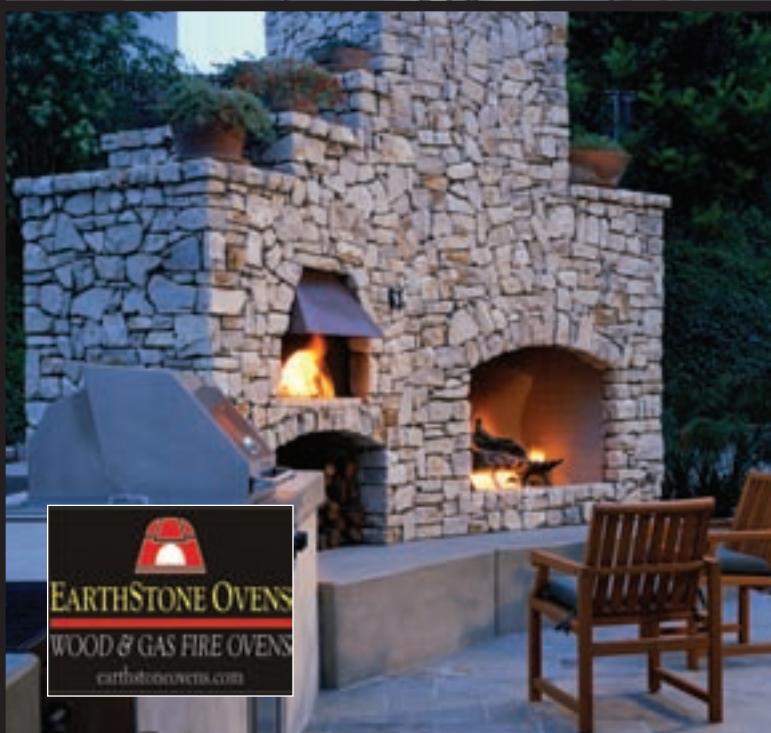
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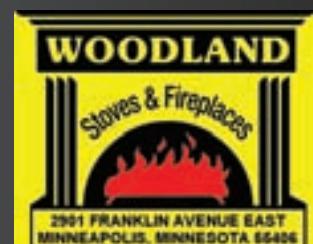
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# Landscaping to attract birds is good for the environment



BY SARAH BRYAN MILLER

**R**ethinking your landscaping to attract birds can benefit your view and the environment, as well as the birds.

Landscape designer Bill Minford says there has been a surge in recent years of turning to native plants in landscaping. He's a fan of that surge, for a lot of reasons.

"You can have an attractive area that supports native birds and animals," he says, "and you can also have a nice, showy flower garden with a succession of colors if you plant it right."

For urban and suburban gardeners, Minford recommends "a nice compromise between more traditional and wild landscaping, with a good interrelationship of plant material and wildlife."

Native plants are adapted to this climate, and so don't need as much care as exotics in order to flourish. They've been living with the local bugs for centuries, so they require less in the way of chemicals. The advantage from the birdwatcher's point of view: "It will bring the birds to your back yard."

First, you have to feed the birds. Minford likes "the berried bushes and trees. All are good sources of nutrition for birds."

When it comes to flowers, he recommends coreopsis for long-term blooming. "They come on early and last all season; you can stick with the more native varieties." He also likes cone flowers in the summer. "Zinnias and salvias all have outstanding color."

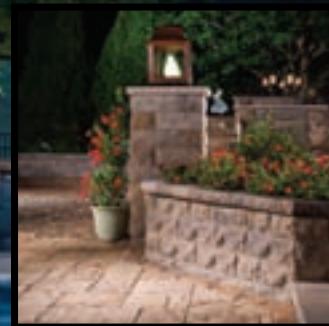
Others you can try include black-eyed Susan, and bluebells and lobelias, which attract hummingbirds.

Birds also need a water source, whether it's a simple birdbath or a more elaborate setup. They also need places to hide, and evergreens provide them excellent cover, particularly in the winter.

Not sure where to start? Check out [www.dnr.state.mn.us](http://www.dnr.state.mn.us) — the site will match your particular growing criteria with plants that do well in this climate. If you need site-specific advice, the horticulturist at your local garden center can help to steer you toward plants that will work in the space you have available. \*



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# Ponds replace pools as water feature

BY MOLLY GUTHREY

Landscape designer Jack Dorcey's clients were weighing whether to install a swimming pond or an in-ground pool. They choose the pond, an emerging trend in America's back yards this spring.

"The swimming pond is a new and unique idea that is just now starting to take off," says

Dorcey, co-owner of Landscape Design Studios in White Bear Lake. "It's an idea not a whole lot of people know about, but once they see what they are and understand them, I think they'll become more popular over time. It's at a really early stage right now."

Dorcey's clients liked the idea of their kids growing up with an old-fashioned swimming hole in



IMAGES BY K. J. PETERSON

their own back yard, located on an acreage south of Hudson, Wis.

"The whole thing was cheaper than a cabin," Dorcey says of the award-winning landscaping project that was installed by

Bever Landscaping of Forest Lake.

The couple's children already have gotten plenty of use out of the 40-foot-by-30-foot pond since it was installed.

"Their two daughters like to

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swim in it, climb over the rocks, pitch frogs into it and feed the goldfish," Dorcey says. "It's got a deep end for jumping off the boulders into the pond, and a shallow area that has a foot of water in it for wading or setting a chair in there. The kids can also stand on a rock ledge underneath a 7-foot-wide waterfall, or they can sit on the 10-foot-by-3-foot beach."

The parents use the pond, too.

"They're trained scuba divers, and they'll scuba dive in the 8-foot deep area," Dorcey says.

The family likes the pond in the winter as well.

"It still looks good in the win-

ter, and the kids go ice skating on the pond," Dorcey says.

The pond is lined with Dresser Trap Rock boulders, a bluish-gray basalt from Dresser, Wis., and, although the water feature is manmade, progress in water landscaping has helped make it more natural, Dorcey says.

"When people hear 'pond,' they think of small ponds that were really popular in the late '90s and early 2000s, but these are a vast improvement over those," he says. "They have better biological systems for keeping them clean, and the materials have improved."

That means it's relatively simple for a homeowner to maintain.

"There are no chemicals added to the water; the pond is very clean," he says. "It's all done biologically. Every rock surface in a pond has macrobiotic organisms that filter the water; they eat the algae, and two large filtration bog units recirculate the water to keep it clean. They'll have to start it up in the spring and they'll need to keep the leaves picked out of it, but there are no chemicals to apply and

it's on an automatic timer, so it's pretty maintenance-free, including plants like hostas and lilies."

However, since the water feature was installed in 2008, the homeowner has learned that it does involve some maintenance to avoid algae build-up and other problems.

"I would say it's lower maintenance than a pool, but it's important to keep the water circulating and the temperature lower rather than higher," says the homeowner, who asked that his family's name not be published for privacy reasons. "It does require work and education."

The homeowner said he gets help with issues like "salinity levels" and "good bacteria" from

the resident "pond guru" at Gerten's, the garden center in Inver Grove Heights.

"I've learned how to not kill the goldfish but still keep the algae down," he says. "If you decide to get a pond, you'll need to learn how to take care of it."

The pond provides a tranquil backdrop to the home, since the deck overlooks the water feature. Natural stone outcropping steps lead to another seating area, an informal fire pit near the waterfall.

"The homeowner describes it as a North Shore look," Dorcey says. \*

*Molly Guthrey is a Pioneer Press reporter and frequent contributor to Spaces.*



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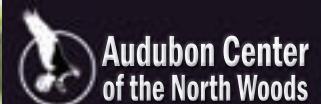
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<b>C.W. Smith Collection</b> , 4388 France Ave. S., Edina; cwsmithinc.com	<b>Engler Skogmo Interior Design</b> , 5100 Edina Industrial Blvd., Suite 200, Edina; 952-746-2007; englerskogmo.com	<b>FrameStyles</b> , 2107 Penn Ave. S., Minneapolis; 612-374-2420; framestyles.net	<b>Granite Transformations</b> , 575 Shoreview Park Road, Shoreview; 651-777-7600; granitettransformations.com	<b>Hunt and Gather</b> , 4944 Xerxes Ave. S., Minneapolis; 612-455-0250; huntandgatherantiques.com
<b>D</b> <b>Danish Teak Classics</b> , Northrup King Building, 1500 Jackson St. N.E., Suite 277, Minneapolis; 612-362-7870; danishtekclassics.com	<b>Ethan Allen</b> , 9280 Hudson Road, Woodbury, 651-578-6506; 7101 France Ave. S., Edina, 952-926-6551; 11751 Fountains Way N., Maple Grove, 763-425-7672; ethanallen.com	<b>FrameUps &amp; Capstone Gallery</b> , 4325 Nicollet Ave. S., Minneapolis, 612-870-1292; 276 S. Snelling Ave., St. Paul, 651-690-3718; frameups.net	<b>Gray Gardens Home Store</b> , 366 Water St., Excelsior; 952-474-9150; graygardens.net	<b>gatheronfrance.com</b>
<b>David Heide Design Studio</b> , 663 Grain Exchange Building, 301 Fourth Ave. S., Minneapolis; 612-337-5060; dhdstudio.com	<b>EuroNest</b> , 5700 W. 36th St., Minneapolis; 952-929-2927; euro-nest.com	<b>Frank Stone Gallery</b> , 1224 Second St. N.E., Minneapolis; 612-617-9965	<b>GunkelmanFlesher Interior Design</b> , 81 S. Ninth St., Suite 340, Minneapolis; 612-333-0526; gunkelmans.com	
<b>DB &amp; Company and Ta Dah</b> , 310 Water St., Excelsior; 952-474-7428; excelsormill.com	<b>Fantasia Showrooms</b> , International Market Square, 275 Market St., Suite 102, Minneapolis; 612-338-5811; fantasiashowrooms.com	<b>Gallery 310</b> , 310 S. Main St., Stillwater; 651-439-6246; gallery310art.com	<b>Hemingway Ceramics</b> , 339 13th Ave. N.E., Minneapolis; 612-379-9100; hemingwayceramics.com	
<b>Decor I Designs</b> , 3924 W. 50th St., Edina; 952-922-0111; decoridesigns.com	<b>Ferguson Bath and Kitchen Gallery</b> , 3050 Echo Lake Ave., Mahtomedi; 651-779-9393; ferguson.com	<b>Gabbert's Design Studio and Fine Furnishings</b> , 3501 Galleria, Edina; 952-927-1500; gabberts.com		
<b>Desq Office Solutions</b> , 5300 W. 35th St., St. Louis Park; 952-830-1010; desq.com	<b>Filament Lighting</b> , 5007 Excelsior Blvd., St.	<b>Gather</b> , 4999 France Ave. S., Suite 160, Minneapolis; 612-920-1400; gatheronfrance.com		
<b>Digs</b> , 310 S. Division St. S.,				

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**ID Inside Design**, 211 N. First St., Minneapolis; 612-317-0045; id-insidedesign.com

**Interior Places and Spaces**, 2940 Hampshire Ave. S., St. Louis Park; 952-451-1960; alparker-ips.com

**Interiors by Samantha Cobos**, 10618 Alvin Court, Inver Grove Heights; 651-398-3076

**International Market Square**, 275 Market St., Minneapolis; 612-338-6250; imsdesigncenter.com

**Jan Bilek**, Ceramic Artist, Northrup King Building, 1500 Jackson St. N.E., Suite 337, Minneapolis; 651-341-9205; janbilek.com

**Jane Mosher Interiors**, 7220 Lanham Lane, Edina; 952-941-0101

**Jeff Schreier and Associates**, 124 S. Second St., Stillwater; 651-426-8428; jeffschreier.com

**Jeffrey Hirst**, 77 13th Ave. N.E., Studio 203A, Minneapolis; 612-414-3030; jeffreyhirst.com

**JK Interiors Inc.**, 216 Water St., Excelsior; 952-474-3643; jkinteriors.net

**Joy and Co. Interior Designs**, 11460 Fairfield Road, #305; Minnetonka; 952-546-1298; joyandcodesigns.com

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**Karagheusian Oriental Rug Gallery**, 4424 Excelsior Blvd., Minneapolis; 612-920-5008; karagheusian.com

**Kate-Lo Tile & Stone Co.**, 701 Berkshire Lane N., Plymouth; 763-545-5455; katelotile.com

**Kathe Wohlfahrt of America**, 129 S. Main St., Stillwater; 651-275-1236; bestofchristmas.com

**Kathleen Henderson Interior Design LLC**, 4808 Lakeview Drive, Edina; 612-242-7905; khendersoninteriors.com

**Kitchen Window**, 3001 Hennepin Ave., Minneapolis; 612-824-4417; kitchenwindow.com

**Kramer Gallery Inc.**, 800 LaSalle Ave., Suite 240, Minneapolis; 612-338-2911; kramergallery.com

**Laurel Behning Interiors Inc.**, 10750 Rockford Road, Suite 306, Plymouth; 763-559-4509

**Letitia Little Interior**

**Design**, 150 Pioneer Trail, PMB 119, Chaska; 952-226-6420, letitialittle.com

**LiLu Interiors**, 275 Market St., Suite 546, Minneapolis; 612-354-3271; liliinteriors.com

**Little Blind Spot**, 17 S. Eighth Ave., Hopkins; 952-935-4353; littleblindspot.com

**Live, Laugh, Love**, 5019 France Ave. S.,

Edina; 612-455-3302; livelaughlovegifts.com

**The Lived In Room**, 826 S. Fourth St., Stillwater; 651-351-7222; thelivedinroom.com

**Lola Watson Interior Design**, International Market Square, 275 Market St., Suite 548, Minneapolis; 612-604-1661; lolawatson.com

**Loring Interiors LLC**, International Market Square, 275 Market St., Suite 515, Minneapolis; 612-317-4601; loringinteriors.com

**Lussuria lini**, 795 E. Lake St., Wayzata; 952-746-5826; lussurialini.com

**Magnolia Designs LLC**, 5299 River Wood Drive, Savage; 952-447-8063; magnoliadesigns.biz

**Mall of St. Paul**, 1817 Selby Ave., St. Paul; 651-647-6163

**Martha O'Hara Interiors**, 8353 Excelsior Blvd., Hopkins; 952-908-3150; oharainteriors.com

**Mary Dworsky Interior Design Ltd.**, International Market Square, 275 Market St., Suite 569, Minneapolis; 612-339-0070; marydworskyid.com

**McCormack's Furniture**, 13435 N. 60th St., Stillwater; 651-439-4208; mccormacksfurniture.com

**Melange**, 4764 Banning Ave., White Bear Lake; 651-426-0388;

melange.com

**Midtown Antique Mall**, 301 S. Main St., Stillwater; 651-430-0808; midtownantiques.com

**Minnesota Granite and Marble**, 1400 E. Minnesota 36, Maplewood; 651-779-8612; minnesotagraniteandmarble.com

**Missouri Mouse**, 1750 Selby Ave., St. Paul; 651-642-1938

**Minnesota Standard Showplace**, 6363 Minnesota 7, St. Louis Park; 952-920-1460; minnesotastandardshowplace.com

**Montaggio**, 150 Second Ave. N., Minneapolis; 612-333-6264; montaggio.net

**Muska Lighting**, 700 Grand Ave., St. Paul; 651-227-8881; muskalighting.com

**Navab Brothers Oriental Rug Co.**, 4409 Excelsior Blvd., St. Louis Park; 952-920-9597; navabbrothers.com

**The Nest**, 4742 Washington Square, White Bear Lake; 651-653-7630

**The New Contemporary Designs**, International Market Square, 275 Market St., suites 229 and 235, Minneapolis; 612-339-2170

**Nielsen Framing Studio and Gallery**, 4405 France Ave. S., Minneapolis;

612-920-2636; nielsenframing.com

**Nina Bliese Gallery**, 225 S. Sixth St., Suite 100, Minneapolis; 612-332-2978; ninabliesegallery.com

**Nordic Home Interiors**, 620 W. 58th St., Minneapolis; 612-339-0000; nordic-home.com

**North Main Studio LLC**, 402 N. Main St., Stillwater; 651-351-1379; northmainstudio.com

**North Prairie Tileworks**, 2845 Harriet Ave., #105, Minneapolis; 612-871-3421; handmadetile.com

**North Star Kitchens LLC**, International Market Square, 275 Market St., Suite 162, Minneapolis; 612-375-9533; northstarkitchens.com

**Northrup King Building**, 1500 Jackson St. N.E., Minneapolis; 612-363-5612; northrupkingbuilding.com

**Occasions by Elizabeth**, 1695 23rd Ave. N.W., New Brighton; 651-308-3873; occasionsbyelizabeth.com

**Oolala**, 320 S. Division St., Northfield; 507-645-5275; shopoolala.com

**Opening Night Framing Service & Art Source**, 2836 Lyndale Ave. S., Minneapolis; 612-872-2325; onframe-art.com

**Organized Audrey LLC**, P.O. Box 385234, Minneapolis;

## >resource directory<

952-944-9470; organizedaudrey.com	<b>Pure Inspired Design,</b> 10618 Alvin Court, Inver Grove Heights; 651-398-3076; pureinspireddesign.com	rothdistributing.com	<b>St. Croix Stone,</b> 5935 410th St., North Branch; 651-277-8770; stcroixstone.com	thomasville.com
<b>P</b> <b>Pacifier,</b> Gaviidae Common, 651 Nicollet Mall, Suite 113, Minneapolis; 612-767- 6330; 310 E. Hennepin Ave., Minneapolis, 612- 623-8123; pacifieronline.com	<b>S</b> <b>Saratoga Closets,</b> 700 Washington Ave. N., Suite 207, Minneapolis; 612-236-9492; saratogaclosets.com		<b>Straube Gallery,</b> 4740 Washington Square, White Bear Lake; 651-426-2380	<b>Time to Organize,</b> Shoreview; 651-717-1284; time2organize.net
<b>R</b> <b>RCC Interiors,</b> International Market Square, 275 Market St., Suite 513, Minneapolis; 612-375-7800; rcinteriors.com	<b>Scherping Westphal Inc.,</b> International Market Square, 275 Market St., Suite 209, Minneapolis; 612-822-2700; scherpingwestphal.com		<b>Succotash,</b> 781 Raymond Ave., St. Paul; 651-603-8787	<b>Trade Winds Spice Co.,</b> 423 S. Main St., Stillwater; 651-351-0422; tradewindsspice.com
<b>Partners 4 Design,</b> International Market Square, 275 Market St., Suite 109, Minneapolis; 952-927-4444; partners4design.com	<b>Recovering Room,</b> 4205 East 54th St., Minneapolis; 612-270- 8306		<b>Sun Gallery Chinese Art &amp; Antiques,</b> 4760 Grand Ave. S., Minneapolis; 612- 822-6388; sungallery.blogspot.com	<b>Truly,</b> 2175 Fourth St., White Bear Lake; 651-426-8414; trulyonline.com
<b>Peggy Lynn Design,</b> 1912 55th Ave. N., Brooklyn Center; 763-566-3019	<b>Rick Rack,</b> 3413 W. 44th St., Minneapolis; 612-746- 4160; rickrackliving.com		<b>Susan Septer Design LLC,</b> 1794 Woodstone Drive, Victoria; 612-590-8825; septerdesign.com	<b>Twin-Cities Closet Co.,</b> 2634 Minnehaha Ave. S., Minneapolis; 612-623- 0987; tc closet.com
<b>Petunia's,</b> 421 Third St., Excelsior; 952-474-0461; petuniasonthird.com	<b>Riehl Designs Inc.,</b> Minneapolis; 952-440- 4175; riehldesigns.com		<b>Swag,</b> 423 Division St., Northfield; 507-663-8870	<b>Two 12 Pottery,</b> 212 13th Ave. N.E., Minneapolis; 612-331-1556; two12pottery.com
<b>Pomegranate Designs,</b> <b>Ltd.</b> , 710 Commerce Drive, Suite 140, Woodbury; 651-738-4898; pomegranatedesigns Ltd.com	<b>Robert Thomas Calton,</b> <b>Stained Glass Windows,</b> 300 Broadway St., Suite 208, St. Paul; 651-222- 2287; robertcalton.com		<b>Swank Interiors,</b> 1910 W. University Ave., St. Paul; 651-646-5777	<b>U</b> <b>Valcucine Minneapolis,</b> International Market Square, 275 Market St., Suite 145, Minneapolis; 612-341-4588; valcucinempls.com
<b>Pomegranate Warehouse,</b> 620 Commerce Drive, Suite 120, Woodbury; 651-578-6634; pomegranatedesigns Ltd.com	<b>Rogue Buddha Gallery,</b> 357 13th Ave. N.E., Minneapolis; 612-331- 3889; roguebuddha.com		<b>Sur La Table,</b> 3901 W. 50th St., Edina; 952-656- 0045; surlatable.com	
<b>Presence,</b> Gaviidae Common, 651 Nicollet Mall, Suite 130, Minneapolis; 612-339- 5707	<b>Room &amp; Board,</b> 7010 France Ave. S., Edina; 952-927-8835; roomandboard.com		<b>SVEA Interior Design,</b> 5444 Aldrich Ave. S., Minneapolis; 612-827-1044	<b>W</b> <b>Waddell Interiors,</b> 120 Krestwood Drive, Burnsville; 952-435-0558
<b>Primitive Blessings,</b> 229 E. Chestnut St., Stillwater; 651-351-0614	<b>Rose Mille,</b> 125 S. Main St., Stillwater; 651-439-0205; rosemille.com		<b>T</b> <b>Tamarack Gallery,</b> 112 S. Main St., Stillwater; 651- 439-9393; tamarackgallery.com	<b>Warner's Stellian,</b> 7665 W. 148th St., Apple Valley, 952-891-4700; 3533 W. 70th St., Edina, 612-920- 0640; 12772 Bass Lake Road, Maple Grove, 763- 551-0888; 1711 N. Snelling Ave., St. Paul, 651-645- 3481; 1750 Weir Drive, Woodbury, 651-714-9790; warnersstellian.com
<b>Provisions,</b> 320 Water St., Excelsior; 952-474-6953; provisionsmn.com	<b>Rosenthal Furniture Co.,</b> 22 N. Fifth St., Minneapolis; 612-332-4363; rosenthalfurniture.com		<b>Techline Twin Cities,</b> 4412 Excelsior Blvd., St. Louis Park; 952-927-7373; techlinetwincities.com	<b>Water and Oil Art Gallery,</b> 506 Kenny Road, St. Paul; 651-774-2260; waterandoil.com
<b>Roth Distributing,</b> 11300 W. 47th St., Minnetonka; 952-933-4428;	<b>Staples Mill,</b> 410 N. Main St., Stillwater; 651-430-1816		<b>Thomasville Furniture,</b> 7425 France Ave. S., Edina, 952-835-0500; 12865 Elm Creek Blvd., Maple Grove, 763-493- 6300; 9320 Hudson Road, Woodbury, 651-264-0220;	

**Wellington Window and Door Co.**, 3938 Meadowbrook Road, St. Louis Park; 952-933-6300; wellingtonwindow.com

**Woodland Stoves and Fireplaces**, 2901 Franklin Ave. E., Minneapolis; 612-338-6606; woodlandstoves.com

**Woodstock Furniture**, 9150 N. St. Croix Trail, Stillwater; 651-439-2244; thebigredchair.com

**Woody's Furniture**, 5217 Excelsior Blvd., St. Louis Park; 952-929-6300; woodysfurniture.com

**X-treme Wire, LLC.**, 1355 S. Frontage Road., Suite 360C, Hastings; 651-480-0089; xtremewire.net

**Zachary LTD**, International Market Square, 275 Market St., Suite 461, Minneapolis; 612-305-1201; zacharyltd.net

## Architecture/ Building/ Remodeling

**A.A. Contracting**, 12425 N. 53rd St., Stillwater; 612-275-7125; aacontractingmn.com

**All Inc.**, 185 W. Plato Blvd., St. Paul; 651-234-0224; allinc.com

**Anderson Builders**, 4220 Park Glen Road, St. Louis Park; 952-927-5400;

anderson-builders.com

**Authentic Construction**, 740 Grand Ave., St. Paul; 651-228-9102; authconst.com



**Brinkman Russell Inc.**, 2357 Ventura Drive, Suite 112, Woodbury; 651-735-8367; brinkmanrussell.com

**Builders Association of the Twin Cities**, 2960

Centre Pointe Dr., Roseville, 651-697-1954; batc.org



**Charles Cudd DeNovo**, 15050 23rd Ave. N., Plymouth, 612-333-8020; charlescudd.com

**Charles R. Stinson Architects**, 18304

Minnetonka Blvd., Deephaven; 952-473-9503; crsarch.com

**College City Homes**,

7920 Lakeville Blvd., Lakeville; 952-469-6900; collegecityhomes.com

**College City Remodeling**,

7920 Lakeville Blvd., Lakeville, 952-469-6900; collegecityremodeling.com

**Contract Design & Co.**,

601 Carlson Parkway, Suite 1050, Minnetonka; 952-449-5211; contractdesign.biz

**CRE Construction**,

7632 Executive Drive, Eden Prairie; 952-941-7001; creconstruction.com



**De Novo Architects**,

15050 23rd Ave., Plymouth; 612-332-4790; denovoarchitects.com

**Domain Architecture & Design**, 2748 Hennepin Ave. S., Minneapolis; 612-870-7507; domainarch.com

**Durst & Gans Building Corp.**, 1605 Old Audubon Road; Chaska; 952-448-7062; durstandgans.com



**E.J. Hansen, AIA**, 4501 Zenith Ave. S., Minneapolis; 612-328-0881; ejhansen.com



**The Foundation Architects**, 212 Third Ave. N., Suite 460, Minneapolis; 612-340-5430; foundationarch.com



**Habitat Architecture Inc.**, 7625 Golden Triangle Drive, Suite K, Eden Prairie; 952-946-9700; habitatarchitecture.com

**Homes by James**, 13435

Dunkirk St. N.E., Ham Lake; 763-767-2712; homesbyjames.net



**J. Buxell Architecture Ltd.**, 260 Maiden Lane, St. Paul; 612-338-3773; jbxell.com



**L. Cramer Designers + Builders**, 5500 Lincoln Drive, Edina; 952-935-8482; lcramer.com



**M/A/Peterson Designbuild Inc.**,



6161 Wooddale Ave., Edina; 952-925-9455; mapeterson.com

**Martin and Associates Inc.**, 26386 Highview Ave., Farmington; 952-469-1212

**Matthias K Builders**, 3521 Webster Ave. S., St. Louis Park; 952-926-2557; matthiask.com

**Monarch Homes Inc.**, 7820 Riverdale Drive N.W., Ramsey; 763-323-7933; monarchhomesmn.com



**Neal Construction LLC**, 16006 Temple Lane, Minnetonka; 612-385-4195; nealconstruction.net

**Newland Architecture**, 5217 James Ave. S., Minneapolis; 612-926-2424; newlandarchitecture.com

**North Star Remodeling LLC**, 23 Empire Drive, St. Paul; 651-227-7061; nsremodel.com



**Plekkenpol Builders**, 401 E. 78th St., Bloomington; 952-888-2225; plekkenpol.com

**Polland Bros. Construction LLC**, 7700 Wentworth Ave. S., Richfield; 612-822-0435; pollandbrothers.com



**Rehkamp Larson Architects Inc.**, 2732 W. 43rd St., Minneapolis; 612-285-7275; rehkamplarson.com



**SALA Architects, Inc.**, 326 E. Hennepin Ave. #200, Minneapolis; 612-379-3037; 904 S. Fourth St., Stillwater, 651-351-0961; salaarc.com

**Sharratt Design & Company**, 464 Second St., Suite 100, Excelsior; 952-470-9750; sharrattdesign.com

<b>Shelter Architecture + Interior Design</b> , 2913 Harriet Ave., Studio 102, Minneapolis; 612-870-4081; shelterarchitecture.com	summitofmendotaheights.com	<b>Anderson Iris Gardens</b> , 22179 Keather Ave. N., Forest Lake; 651-433-5268; davesgarden.com	320-363-4671; borgertproducts.com	55, Plymouth; 952-894-8740; dundeenursery.com
<b>Smuckler Architecture Inc.</b> , 7509 Washington Ave. S., Edina; 952-828-1908; smucklerarchitects.com	 <b>TEA2 Architects Inc.</b> , 2724 W. 43rd St., 2800; 612-929-8200; tea2architects.com	<b>Sylvestre Construction Inc.</b> , 7708 Fifth Ave. S., Richfield; 612-861-0188; sylvestreconstruction.com	<b>Ann Rieff Garden Design</b> , 4624 Brooks St., Medina; 763-479-2974; annrieffgardendesign.com	 <b>Boulder Images</b> , 14555 S. Robert Trail, Rosemount; 651-322-7499; boulderimages.com
<b>Smuckler Custom Builders Inc.</b> , 7509 Washington Ave. S., Edina; 952-828-1908; smucklerarchitects.com	 <b>TreHus</b> , 3017 Fourth Ave. S., Minneapolis; 612-729-2992; trehus.biz	 <b>Bachman's Floral, Home and Garden</b> , 6010 Lyndale Ave. S., Minneapolis, 612-861-7600; 2600 White Bear Ave., Maplewood; 651-770-0531; 7955 W. 150th St., Apple Valley, 952-431-2242; 10050 Sixth Ave. N., Plymouth, 763-541-1188; 770 Prairie Center Drive, Eden Prairie, 952-941-7700; 8200 University Ave. N.E., Fridley, 763-786-8200; 23004 Cedar Ave. S., Farmington, 952-469-3833; bachmans.com	 <b>Brown and Greene Floral Market</b> , 4400 Beard Ave. S., Minneapolis; 612-928-3778; bgfloral.net	 <b>Earth Wizards</b> , 1071 County Highway 10, Suite 150; Minneapolis; 763-784-3833; earthwizards.com
<b>Soleil Design LLC</b> , 1066 Circle Drive East, Wayzata, 612-328-3389; soleil-home.com	 <b>Vujovich Design Build</b> , International Market Square, 275 Market St., Suite 521, Minneapolis; 612-338-2020; vujovich.com	 <b>Buell's Landscape Center</b> , 7077 Manning Ave. S., Hastings; 651-459-9331; buells.com	 <b>Fleur De Lis</b> , 516 Selby Ave., St. Paul; 651-292-9562; fleurdelisfreshflowers.com	<b>Funkie Gardens</b> , 19713 Quinell Ave., Marine on St. Croix; 651-207-4873; funkiegardens.com
<b>Steven J. Mooney Architecture</b> , 3812 15th Ave. S., Minneapolis; 612-827-8988; stevenjmooney.com	 <b>Outdoor Living Landscaping Gardens</b>	 <b>Belgard</b> , various locations; 877-235-4273; belgard.biz	 <b>Camrose Hill Flower Studio &amp; Farm</b> , 233 S. Second St., Stillwater; 651-351-9631; camrosehillflowers.com	 <b>Garden Gate Flowers</b> , 5023 France Ave. S., Minneapolis; 612-929-8030
<b>Streeter &amp; Associates</b> , 18312 Minnetonka Blvd., Wayzata; 952-449-9448; streeter-associates.com	 <b>The Summit of Mendota Heights</b> , 1358 Riverside Lane, Mendota Heights; 651-457-0820;	 <b>BloomScapes</b> , 9512 S. 72nd St., Cottage Grove; 651-274-6699	 <b>Colibri Home and Garden</b> , 5005 Bryant Ave. S., Minneapolis; 612-285-8467	<b>Gertens</b> , 5500 Blaine Ave., Inver Grove Heights; 651-450-1501; gertens.com
<b>Anchor Block Company</b> , 6101 Baker Road, Suite 205, Minnetonka; 952-351-9670; anchorblock.com	 <b>Borgert Products Inc.</b> , P.O. Box 39, St. Joseph;	 <b>Curb Creations</b> , 1724 Third Ave. N.E., Buffalo; 763-477-4532; curbcreations.net	 <b>Gray Gardens Landscaping</b> , P.O. Box 207, Victoria; 952-443-2058; graygardens.net	 <b>Grove Landscaping</b> , 6615 W. 320th St., Northfield; 507-645-5947; grovelandscaping.com
 <b>Dean Bjorkstrand Inc.</b> , 7412 Lyndale Ave. S., Richfield; 612-861-3919; deanbjorkstrand.com	 <b>Diggit Landscaping</b> , 4048 44th Ave. S., Minneapolis; 651-276-2656; diggitlandscaping.com	 <b>Dundee Nursery: Landscape Design Centers</b> , 16800 Minnesota	 <b>Hedberg Landscape and Masonry Supplies</b> , 1205 Nathan Lane N., Plymouth, 763-545-4400; 8400 N. 60th St., Stillwater, 651-748-3158; 4375 170th St. W., Farmington, 651-423-5048; 975 Nathan Lane N., Plymouth, 763-225-0540; hedbergaggregates.com	



<b>Heins Nursery,</b> 4800 Cottage Grove Drive, Woodbury; 651-769- 2663; heinsnursery.com	<b>Linder's Greenhouses Garden Center</b> , 270 W. Larpenteur Ave., St. Paul; 651- 488-1927; linders.com	<b>Mother Earth Gardens,</b> 3738 42nd Ave. S., Minneapolis; 612-724-2296; motherearthgarden.com	<b>Prescription Landscape,</b> 1311 Sylvan St., St. Paul; 651-488-8965; rxlandscape.com	<b>Tier One Landscape,</b> 15280 S. Robert Trail, Rosemount; 612-363-3603; tieronandscape.com
<b>Hermes Floral</b> , 1750 W. Larpenteur Ave., St. Paul; 651-646-6344; hermesfloral.com	<b>Lost Eden Ponds Inc.</b> , Monticello; 763-878-3200; lostedenponds.com	<b>My Sister's Garden Inc.</b> , 538 Sixth St., North Hudson, Wis.; 715-386- 4111; mysistersgarden.com	<b>Sam Kedem Nursery &amp; Garden</b> , 12414 191st St. E., Hastings; 651-437-7516; kedemroses.com	<b>TEMO Sunrooms and Exteriors</b> , 2905 Country Drive, #100, St. Paul; 651-776-8366; temomn.com
<b>Highland Nursery</b> , 1742 W. Seventh St., St. Paul; 651-698-1708; thehighlandnursery.com	<b>Mark Anthony Design Group LLC</b> , P.O. Box 1074, Hudson, Wis.; 715-760-0188; tony@madesigngroup.com	<b>Nature's Harvest</b> , 320 Wayzata Blvd. E., Wayzata; 952-473-4687; naturesharvesthome.com	<b>Sarah's Cottage Creations</b> , 14556 N. Manning Trail, Stillwater; 651-261-6409; sarahscottagecreations .com	<b>Tonkadale Greenhouses</b> , 3739 Tonkadale Road, Minnetonka; 952-938- 6480; tonkadale.com
<b>Indulge and Bloom</b> , 3054 Excelsior Blvd., Minneapolis, 952-473- 2282; Gaviidae Common, 651 Nicollet Mall, Minneapolis, 612-343-0000; indulgeandbloom.com	<b>Masterpiece Landscaping Ltd.</b> , 14624 Woodhill Terrace, Minnetonka; 952-933-5777; masterpiecelandscape. com	<b>otogawa-anschel design + build</b> , 1214 42nd Ave. N., Minneapolis; 612-789-7070; otogawa-anschel.com	<b>Savory's Gardens Inc.</b> , 5300 Whiting Ave., Edina; 952-941-8755; savorysgardens.com	<b>Twiggs Home and Garden</b> , 4301 Upton Ave. S., Minneapolis; 612-823- 8944; twigghg.com
<b>Interlock Concrete</b> , 3535 Bluff Drive, Jordan; 952-492-3636; interlock-concrete.com	<b>Meadowood Inc.</b> , 1125 Nathan Lane N., Plymouth; 763-478-6987; meadowoodinc.com	<b>Otten Bros. Nursery Home and Landscaping</b> , 2350 W. Wayzata Blvd., Long Lake; 952-473-5425; ottenbros.com	<b>Southview Design</b> , 1875 50th St. E., Inver Grove Heights; 651-455-8238; southviewdesign.com	<b>Villa Landscapes</b> , 2801 Minnesota 13 E., Burnsville; 952-894-1553; villalandscapes.com
<b>Jackson Landscape Supply</b> , 7870 218th St. W., Lakeville; 952-435-6927	<b>Minnehaha Falls Nursery &amp; Landscaping</b> , 4461 Minnehaha Ave., Minneapolis; 612-724-5453; minnehahafallslandscape .com	<b>Outdoor Environments Inc.</b> , 12488 Xenwood Ave., Savage; 952-496-1000; outdoor-environments .com	<b>Squire House Gardens</b> , 3390 St. Croix Trail S., Afton; 651-436-8080; squirehousegardens.com	<b>Wagner's Garden Center</b> , 6024 Penn Ave. S., Minneapolis; 612-922- 6901; wagners.biz
<b>Landscape Renovations</b> , 12515 40th St. S., Afton; 651-769-0010; landscaperenovations. com	<b>Minnesota Green Landscaping Inc.</b> , 1785 W. County Road 42, Shakopee; 952-496-3105; mngreen.com	<b>Outdoor Escapes</b> , 2345 Daniels St., Long Lake; 952-926-6899; outdoorescapes.com	<b>StonePocket Unique Landscapes</b> , Chanhassen, 952-974-1407; stonepocket.com	<b>Water Garden Landscaping</b> , 7321 Garfield Ave. S., Richfield; 612-869-3608
<b>Keenan &amp; Sveiven Inc. Landscape Architecture</b> , 15119 Minnetonka Blvd., Minnetonka; 952-475- 1229, kslandarch.com	<b>Minnesota Seasons</b> , 710 Commerce Drive, Woodbury; 651-458-8017; mnseasons.com	<b>Phillips Garden</b> , 2646 Cedar Ave., Minneapolis; 612-721-1221; phillipsgarden.com	<b>Sunnyside Gardens Inc.</b> , 3723 W. 44th St., Minneapolis; 612-926-2654; sunnysidegardens.com	<b>Wild Birds Unlimited</b> , Skyline Plaza, 2028 W. County Road 42, Burnsville; 952-435-0491; wbu.com
<b>Lilydale Garden Center</b> , 941 Sibley Memorial Highway, St. Paul; 651-457-6040; lilydalegardencenter.com	<b>Mom's Landscaping &amp; Design</b> , 12276 Johnson Memorial Drive, Shakopee; 952-445-0186; momslandscapeing.com	<b>The Plant Sitters Inc.</b> , 1401 West River Road N., Minneapolis; 612-340- 9157; theplantsitters.com	<b>Superior Design Landscapes</b> , P.O. Box 352, Loretto; 763-479-2645; superior design landscapes .com	<b>Wimmer's Yardware</b> , 3545 W. 44th St., Minneapolis, 612-922-3295
	<b>Pletschers' Greenhouse Inc.</b> , 641 Old Highway 8 S.W., St. Paul; 651-633- 6666; pletschers.com	<b>Tangletown Gardens</b> , 5353 Nicollet Ave., Minneapolis; 612-822-4769; tangletowngardens.com		<b>Yardscapes</b> , 8609 Harriet Ave. S., Bloomington; 952-887-2794; yardscapesinc.com



*66 206th Street*  
*Cedar Lake, WI*

Fully updated log cabin on Cedar Lake! Authentic log construction with log beams and stone fireplace - all the nostalgia of yesterday with the all the conveniences of today. Property includes separate boat house (currently office and guest quarters), garage and dock.

Year Built: 1932  
Bed/Bath: 1/1  
Square Feet: 1,000  
Lot: 200 x 150  
Garage: 2  
Offered at: \$424,900



*9251 Wedgewood Point*  
*Woodbury, MN*

9th tee of Prestwick Golf Course on coveted Wedgewood Pt! When you're not on the course, relax in the backyard oasis featuring a heated in-ground pool. Spectacular updated kitchen with marble, glass tile, stainless steel appliances and hardwood floors.

Year Built: 1996  
Bed/Bath: 5/3  
Square Feet: 5,414  
Lot: .75 acres  
Garage: 3  
Offered at: \$899,000



*Edgewater Road*  
*Pine City, MN*

Stunning log home just one hour north of the Twin Cities! 116 feet of sandy shore on prestigious Cross

Lake. You'll love the 3,800 square feet of rustic elegance plus a bunk house. Walkout lower level with family room, full bath and sauna. Dock and boat lift included!

Year Built: 2001  
Bed/Bath: 5/4  
Square Feet: 3,024  
Lot: 1.04 acres  
Garage: 3  
Offered at: \$699,000



*2024 10th Avenue*  
*Alden Twp, WI*

Enjoy blissful lake living at this newly remodeled lake home on 1,100 acre Cedar Lake, only

20 min from Stillwater! This year round property includes a 1,500 square foot house, large double garage and a boathouse. Fully updated - move right in!

Year Built: 1926  
Bed/Bath: 3/2  
Square Feet: 1,500  
Lot: .44 acres  
Garage: 2  
Offered at: \$359,900



*462 184th Avenue*  
*Somerset, Wisconsin*

Move in before Summer! Inground heated pool with security cover surrounded by large concrete and paver patio, 44x16 Trex deck and

3 acres for outdoor fun. Heated and insulated garage, large mud/laundry room, in-floor heat in the walkout lower level. Large kitchen, tons of ceramic tile, large owner's suite and only 8 minutes to Stillwater!

Year Built: 2001  
Bed/Bath: 4/3  
Square Feet: 3,800  
Lot: 3.05 acres  
Garage: 3  
Offered at: \$369,900



*909 So. 5th Street*  
*Stillwater, MN*

This well cared for home in historic South Hill neighborhood offers generous room sizes, large closets, hardwood flooring, newer roof and large back yard on a quiet street. Large kitchen, main floor laundry, formal dining.

Oversized 2 car garage w/built in storage loft.

Year Built: 1874  
Bed/Bath: 3/2  
Square Feet: 2,483  
Lot: .19 acres  
Garage: 2  
Offered at: \$190,000



*16 Prosperity Way*  
*Hudson, WI*

Charming two story home in Heritage Green, move in ready with fresh paint and professional

landscaping. Quality materials: maple trim and cabinetry; Trex decking; granite island; jetted tub; stainless steel appliances and so much more!

Year Built: 2006  
Bed/Bath: 3/3  
Square Feet: 1,892  
Lot: .16 acres  
Garage: 2  
Offered at: \$239,900



*553 Omaha Road*  
*Hudson, WI*

"Country Estate" comes to mind when describing this elegant home tucked into the woods just south of Hudson. This home has been well maintained and updated - move right in!

The newly finished walkout lower level offers a family room w/fireplace, 3/4 bath and office.

Year Built: 1992  
Bed/Bath: 4/4  
Square Feet: 3,949  
Lot: 2.02 acres  
Garage: 3  
Offered at: \$549,000



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*657 Eben Court*  
*Stillwater, MN*

Liberty on the Lake detached townhome offers carefree living! Enjoy privacy of a detached home without the exterior maintenance. Main floor master suite, upper level loft and bedroom, finished lower level. Excellent quality, great location!

Year Built: 2002  
Bed/Bath: 3/3  
Square Feet: 2,023  
Lot: .18 acres  
Garage: 2  
Offered at: \$325,000



*3363 Pioneer Place*  
*Stillwater, MN*

Almost an acre on Long Lake in Liberty on the Lake! Custom 2 story home with extensive built in cabinetry, hardwood flooring and trim. Large bedrooms, upper level laundry and finished lower level. No need for a cabin - relax in the screened porch overlooking woods and the lake!

Year Built: 2000  
Bed/Bath: 4/4  
Square Feet: 3,585  
Lot: .95 acres  
Garage: 3  
Offered at: \$674,900



*5736 Linden Ave. N.*  
*Lake Elmo, MN*

The Sanctuary in Lake Elmo offers a serene setting in the St. Croix Valley with trails and ponds. This former builder's model features hardwood and tiled floors with in-floor heat, central

vacuum, custom maple cabinetry and trim, security system, surround sound, screened porch, deck, upper level laundry and bonus rooms, main level office, and 3 car garage with basement access. The walk-out lower level hosts a fifth bedroom, office, wet bar and family room.

*5658 57th Street Circle*  
*Lake Elmo, MN*

Nestled among towering pines in Discover Crossing, this builder's model will impress you with its details. Granite, hardwoods, architectural details and incredible views accent the open floor plan. Walk-out lower level "entertaining zone" offers a wet bar, fireplace and theater room!

Year Built: 2009  
Bed/Bath: 5/5  
Square Feet: 4,675  
Lot: .78 acres  
Garage: 3  
Offered at: \$750,000



*3339 Pioneer Place*  
*Stillwater, MN*

Built by award winning builder Senn & Youngdahl, this home exemplifies good planning and great design. Hardwood flooring, doors and trim, granite kitchen island, and architectural details combine with an oversized lot to offer a home package that is impossible to find in Liberty at this price. Add'l space in the lower level for a 4th bedroom, 4th bathroom, family room and theater area.

Year Built: 2002  
Bed/Bath: 3/3  
Square Feet: 2,084  
Lot: .32 acres  
Garage: 2  
Offered at: \$399,900



*1166 Nightingale Blvd*  
*Stillwater MN*

Elegant Tudor estate on Long Lake, right in the heart of Stillwater. Large rooms for entertaining indoors - pool and patio area for lakeside entertaining outdoors. 5 car attached garages plus additional detached heated garage space.

Year Built: 1979  
Bed/Bath: 5/6  
Square Feet: 10,461  
Lot: 8.5 acres  
Garage: 11  
Offered at: \$1,600,000



*1160 McKusick Road Lane N.*  
*Stillwater, MN*

This exceptional one owner townhome in The Gardens adjacent to Oak Glen Golf Club offers one level living with vaulted ceilings, large rooms and abundant natural light. Enjoy views of Lake McKusick from the sun room or take a walk around the lake on the trail system!

Year Built: 1993  
Bed/Bath: 2/2  
Square Feet: 1,501  
Garage: 2  
Offered at: \$239,900



*15030 113th Street N.*  
*Stillwater, MN*

Live the dream! In this beautiful 6,200 sq. ft. old European styled lake home with vaulted ceilings, hand hewn beams, worn wood floors, large stone steps, hammered iron stairways, towed plaster walls, stone and fairy tale brickwork. This home sits high on five rolling acres of mixed forest and 500 ft of lakeshore on Little Cornelius Lake, where you can enjoy great fishing, sailing or kicking a backflip on your wakeboard. Just 5 minutes from downtown Stillwater & the St. Croix River. Simplify your life - sell the cabin & the house and live the dream year round!

Year Built: 1997  
Bed/Bath: 6/6  
Square Feet: 6,161  
Lot: 4.71 acres  
Garage: 5  
Offered at: \$1,975,000

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