



# Past Perfect

At David Heide Design Studio, the process of restoring and building homes starts with speaking their language.

BY MEGAN KAPLAN

**natural beauty** Walking into a home and feeling the owner's personality, not the designer's signature look, is Heide's goal.

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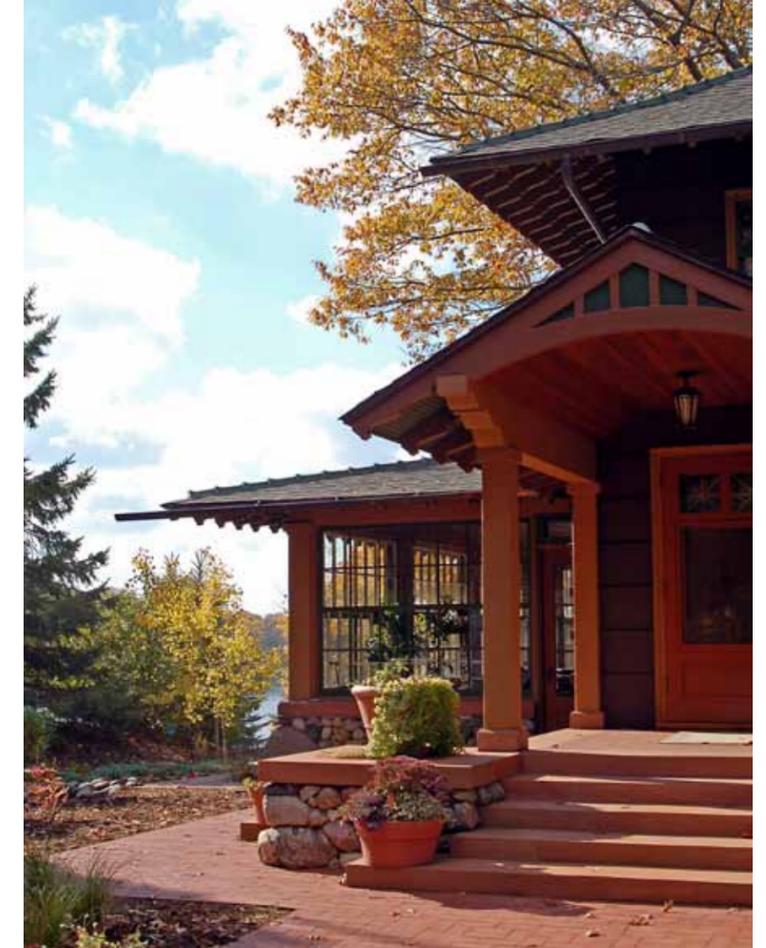
**D**avid Heide's interest in architecture and design dates as far back as preschool — at 5 years old, he would sit for hours drawing up house plans with a pad of graph paper and a pencil or building elaborate houses out of Legos. His mother, a teacher who was on the board of the Iowa State Education Association, would bring Heide to meetings at the famous Salisbury House in Des Moines, Iowa, where he was left to his own devices, exploring the 22,000 square feet of the opulent 1928 manor.

When Heide was a college student at Macalester College studying classical languages, he loved combing the stacks of the library. "I felt this strong connection to history, this feeling of being a part of a continuum of knowledge," he says. He also forged an interest in Twin Cities architecture. His first home was a 1927 Tudor in St. Paul's Mac-Groveland neighborhood, which he purchased from the 97-year-old original owner, for whom it had been a wedding gift. Heide remodeled the place himself, updating the plumbing, kitchen and a bathroom, and sold it for a tidy profit a couple years later. That was his first fixer-upper.

In 1997, David Heide Design Studio launched with Heide, a part-time employee and an IBM electric typewriter. Since then, DHDS, which is celebrating its 15th anniversary, has collected a portfolio of more than 300 residences, grown to a staff of 14, and cultivated a reputation for meticulously preserving and renovating older homes while imparting a sense of history to new ones. "One thing I'm proud of is that I don't believe we have a signature look," says Heide. "Our goal a lot of the



PHOTOGRAPHY BY SUSAN GILMORE



**of eras and architecture** After 15 years in business, David Heide Design Studio continues its work preserving classic homes. Heide's team relies on resources such as the Minnesota State Historical Library for period design inspiration.



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time, particularly with older homes, is to have a home look as if we haven't been there at all."

Take for example a rundown 1892 Queen Anne house in the Kenwood neighborhood of Minneapolis, which DHDS transformed into a grand, single-family residence once again — with its original fireplaces, art glass and millwork, along with a richly paneled kitchen that has every modern convenience but still feels of the era. "When working on a house like this, we aim to continue to speak the language in which the house was defined to begin with — and then further it in a respectful way," says Heide. His design team pored over photos from the Minnesota State Historical Library to match the period detailing.

"I love that people can't tell where the old and new join," says Barbara Burgum, who tapped the firm to revive her 1905 Prairie-style house in Deephaven. Burgum also hired DHDS to build a northern Minnesota lake cottage inspired by the Arts and Crafts aesthetic, showcasing beautiful woodwork, custom-designed stencils, and a mix of stone and timber. While the home is entirely new, it blends into the natural surroundings like it's been there forever.

DHDS's latest project might seem like a departure for the firm: a sleek, minimalist design of interlocking cubes. It's the first new construction in 20 years in University Grove, a neighborhood well-known for its collection of homes by Minnesota's distinguished architects — Edwin Lundie, Elizabeth and Winston Close, Ralph Rapson. One might ask preservation-oriented Heide where this uber-modern design fits. "I felt the responsible thing to do was to build a house of today that would take its place in the continuum of architectural styles," he explains. Not a throwback or a revival, but a David Heide design that is unmistakably 2012. **AL**

**cyclical style** Heide's design team doesn't reinvent the character of a historic home; they complement it.



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