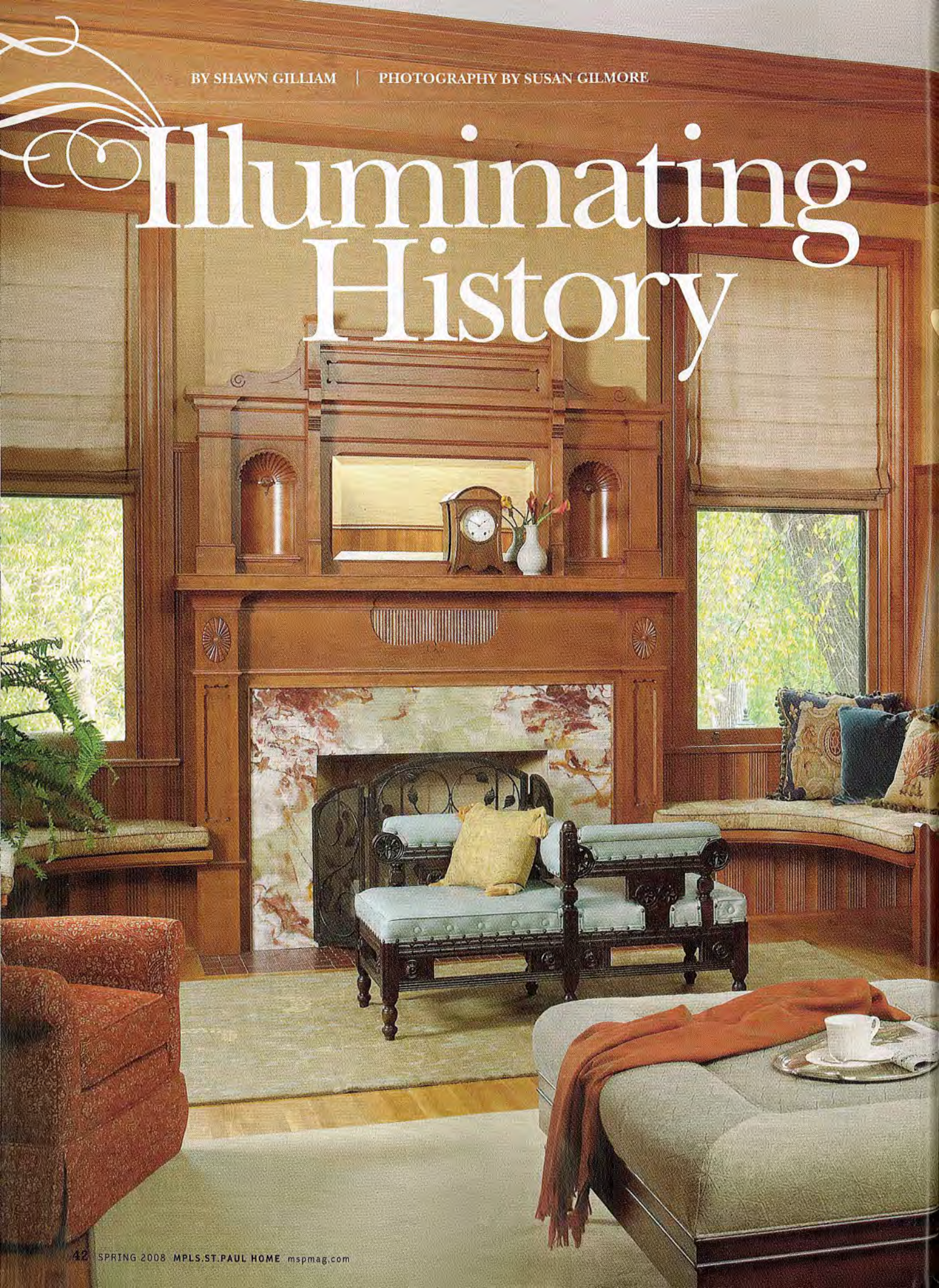


BY SHAWN GILLIAM | PHOTOGRAPHY BY SUSAN GILMORE

# Illuminating History



Architect David Heide's renovation of an 1892 Minneapolis Queen Anne Victorian saves and showcases original architectural features while thoughtfully adding modern-day amenities.



An onyx fireplace surround richly contrasts with cherry woodwork in the family room, part of the addition. The built-in bench harkens an inglenook of old. "Inglenooks occurred in period buildings to create a sense of place by the fire," architect David Heide says.



Architectural ideas were flying around David Heide's office long before he signed on to renovate this 1892 Queen Anne Victorian in the Kenwood neighborhood of Minneapolis.

"When the clients showed up at our door, they were interviewing Realtors and architects," he says. "They knew they wanted to take something old and make it theirs. It was pretty smart, because a designer or architect can bring information to a house search worth thousands of dollars [in savings], and people who don't know old buildings can make the wrong assumptions when



**LEFT:** Pale green granite countertops complement the cherry wood-dominated kitchen. Burled cherry even wraps the range hood. The deep apron porcelain sink provides period charm as well as convenience.

**BELOW:** The art-glass window in the breakfast area was relocated from another part of the house. Light fixtures are reconditioned antiques. The built-in bench, bookcase, and wainscoting, all made of cherry, blend together for a rich look.



they embark on projects.”

In this case, Heide was familiar with a landmark house on the market—and what it would take to save it. He discussed options for restoring the home’s grandeur and boosting its function—and the owners, thrilled with the potential, made the purchase and hired him for the project. “There’s nothing better for preservation than bringing a building to

contemporary standards, which ensures viability into the future,” Heide says.

Although the house was designed by notable turn-of-the-twentieth-century architect Harry Wild Jones—whose works include Butler Square and the Lakewood Cemetery Chapel in Minneapolis (see “Hot Off the Press,” page 72)—the structure had fallen into disrepair during recent years. “I think it had

been loved, but the resources were not there for it to move forward,” Heide says. “A lot of projects were started but not a lot were finished.” The kitchen had no sheetrock or flooring, for instance, and sheets of plywood on sawhorses served as makeshift countertops. The only bath with running water was on the third level. Wood floors in most rooms had deteriorated. “We

To suggest vintage charm, Heide suggests hiring craftspeople who can make fine cabinets, reproduction light fixtures, art-glass windows, and artisan tiles. Many new plumbing products, including faucets and fixtures, are also made to look old.

**RIGHT:** Marble mosaic on the floors pairs with marble slab behind the lavatories for a vintage look in the master bath.

**OPPOSITE:** A mirror with adjustable side panels and a dainty sink bring the master suite dressing area comfortable function without compromising charm.



stripped everything down to the framing, for the most part, and reconstructed it," Heide says.

Intricately carved mantels in the original house were saved and refinished, but much of the trim needed to be replaced. "Part of the problem was that the home wasn't square," Heide says. "As part of our work, we made everything square, and not all of the original pieces fit once the walls were plumb and the floors were level."

In several cases where Heide needed

to design architectural details from scratch, he studied circa-1900 photos of the home's interior and exterior pulled from the Minnesota Historical Society. He also referred to working drawings of other houses designed by Jones on file at the University of Minnesota's Northwest Architectural Archives. A team of craftspeople was then able to take its cues from the forms and motifs that would have been used at the time the home was built. "Everything was sort of derived from the spirit of the original architect,

looking at precedent from his work, but not copying it," Heide says. "We went with a pared-down and simplified version of what was happening elsewhere so it would somewhat take a back seat to the original historic structure."

The archives proved particularly helpful for inspiring details Heide worked into a new addition at the rear of the house. The addition, which replaced a functionally obsolete part of the old structure, houses a new kitchen,

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family room, and side porch on the first level and a master suite on the second level. Although it incorporates such modern amenities as refrigerator drawers and radiant-heat floors, Heide again paid attention to its architectural details. "If we presume that the original house, which had an architectural pedigree, is more important than what we're doing because it has survived the last 100 years, then that's the more interesting story to tell," he says. "We never really want to upstage that." Heide's work is stunning nonetheless.

The kitchen, master bath, and dressing room—all new spaces—read as vin-



## Architect David Heide's sources:

**Custom cabinets and millwork:** Frost Cabinets, 359 Webster St., St. Paul, 651-224-3745, frostcabinets.com

**Wood finishes:** RCP Fine Finish, 763-545-9447, rcpfinefinish.com

**Stenciling:** Trimble River Studio, Ellsworth, Wisconsin, 715-273-4844, trimbelleriver.com

**Restored and reproduction light fixtures:** Lightworks, 404 Washington Ave. N, Mpls., 612-724-8311, lightworkslighting.com

**Additional lighting:** Filament Lighting, 5007 Excelsior Blvd., St. Louis Park, 952-926-5007, filamentlighting.com

**Art-glass windows and widow restoration:** Monarch Studios, 2242 University Ave., Suite 316, St. Paul, 612-810-4754, mfpilla.com

**Artisan tile and tile restoration:** North Prairie Tile, 2845 Harriet Ave. S., Mpls., 612-871-3421, handmadetile.com

**Stone countertops:** Northwestern Marble & Granite, 7705 Bush Lake Rd., Edina, 952-941-8601, northwesternmarble.com

**Bath tile:** Fantasia Showrooms, International Market Square, Mpls., 612-338-5811, fantasia showrooms

**Rugs:** Grand Oriental Rugs, 867 Grand Ave., St. Paul, 651-293-0696, grandorientalrugs.com

**Most fabrics:** Hoffsommer & Russ, International Market Square, Mpls., 612-375-0046



**TOP:** The Edward G. Wallof residence in Kenwood is beautifully documented in the archives of the Minnesota Historical Society because the homeowner's brother, William G. Wallof, was a photographer.

**CENTER:** By 2004, the home was in a state of flux. Do-it-yourself renovation efforts were well under way inside and out, but the home largely remained in a state of disrepair.

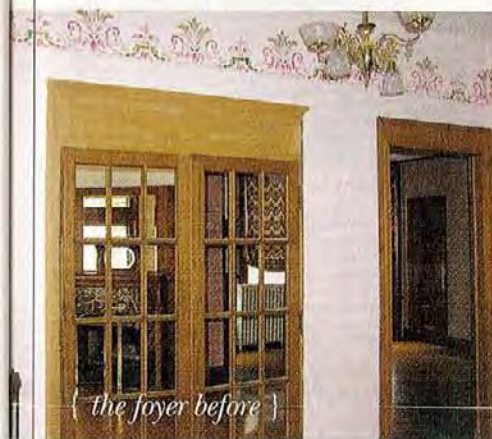
**BOTTOM:** Although the home's color scheme changed to orange and cream and many architectural elements were replaced, the overall appearance retains historic charm. New landscaping boosts curb appeal.



tage, thanks to thoughtfully reproduced fixtures and finishes. Rich cherry woodwork in the kitchen, for instance, encircles an old-fashioned illuminated clock. "Our clocks have become one of our signatures," Heide says. In the master bath, console lavatories and a freestanding porcelain-glazed cast-iron tub look like beautifully salvaged pieces but are brand new. And cherry countertops in the dressing room make cabinets look more like fancy freestanding furniture. "We have so many people here in the Twin Cities with so many talents, from decorative painting to metalwork to cabinetry, and it's wonderful when homeowners see it fit to commission such designs locally," Heide says. "Even in 100 years there will be special meaning to these kinds of features." ■

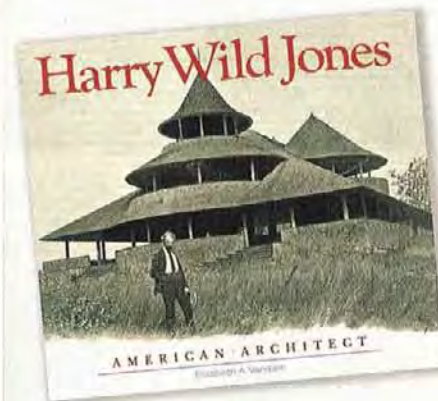
David Heide Design Studio, Mpls., 612-337-5060, [dhdstudio.com](http://dhdstudio.com)

Photo archives gave Heide a glimpse of the home's original design details, many of which had been removed over time.



**TOP:** The parlor's fireplace mantel and art-tile surround remained from the original house. But a columned opening that more closely matches the architect's original work replaced French doors between the parlor and the foyer.

**LEFT:** An 1893 photo shows the Kenwood Depot at 21st Street and Cedar Lake, on the Minneapolis & St. Louis Railway. William G. Wallof photographed the newly developed scene, which includes the Victorian home featured here, shortly after it was built.



## Hot Off the Press

HITTING BOOKSTORES SOON AFTER ITS MAY 17 DEBUT AT THE HENNEPIN HISTORY MUSEUM, *HARRY WILD JONES, AMERICAN ARCHITECT* (SPONTE VALERE BOOKS, 144 PAGES, \$39) CHRONICLES NOTABLE TWIN CITIES BUILDINGS THROUGH PHOTOGRAPHS, DRAWINGS, AND DIARIES. THE KENWOOD HOME RENOVATED BY DAVID HEIDE, FEATURED HERE, IS AMONG THE PROJECTS SHOWN.