

kelly klein H4

Tenant doesn't work for landlord anymore. Does he have to move?



home plan H7

All-American home has definite curb appeal.

improve it H2

Fixtures can serve as art elements, too.



homesunday

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SUSAN GILMORE

Water damage sparked the renovation of a riverfront ranch house. The living-room addition mixes a simple modern aesthetic with earthy, natural materials.



Author Linda Mack, left, with daughter/photographer Kendra Mack.

The magic of Madeline

• A new book celebrates the distinctive summer houses of the popular island retreat.

By LYNN UNDERWOOD
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A ferry ride from Bayfield, Wis., to Madeline Island in 1970 led to author Linda Mack's love affair with the clean air, sandy beaches and views of blue-gray Lake Superior surrounding the largest of the 22 Apostle Islands. Mack and her husband, Warren, joined other smitten summer islanders when they bought a beach cottage in 2005.

Over two summers, Linda, a former Star Tribune architecture critic, and one of her daughters, photographer Kendra Mack, gathered colorful stories and shot photos of 27 different cottages, cabins and retreat homes, some more than a century old and passed down from generation to generation. Their new book, "Madeline Island Summer Houses: An Intimate Journey" (I Was There Press, \$39.99), is not about the architecture and whether windows are arched or a roof is gabled, said Linda. "These are love stories about what the homes mean" to the owners.

We talked with Linda and Kendra, as they lounged on a Madeline Island beach, about being invited into strangers' homes, the Wal-Mart of Lake Superior and the log "honeymoon cottage."

Q: You'd been vacationing on Madeline Island since 1970. Why did you decide to buy a second home there?
LM: We had been sailing there for years, and I got interested in learning more about the island. It became a fantasy to have a place. Warren is an amateur pilot, and his idea of fun is visiting friends with cabins in Minnesota. At the end of the summer, I announced over the engine noise of the airplane that I didn't want to see other people's cabins. I wanted my own cabin.

Island continues on H3 ▶

Just-right designs

Architectural problem-solving – from tight sites to tricky spaces – are on display during the Homes by Architects tour.

By LYNN UNDERWOOD • lynn.underwood@startribune.com

What does an architect-designed home or renovation look like? At the Homes by Architects tour next weekend, it's everything from a reinvented kitchen in a century-old Georgian to a sustainable, minimalist glass-walled abode on Medicine Lake.

The 23 residences open to the public include nine remodelings and 14 new homes representing a variety of architectural styles and budgets in the Twin Cities and western Wisconsin. The sixth annual event, hosted by the Minnesota Chapter of the American Institute of Architects (AIA), is also a chance to ask architects about a tour home's design solutions or your own perplexing projects.

"Architects can rework spaces in an older home, so you don't have to put on a huge addition," said architect Ashley Mitlyng, chairwoman of the tour committee. "If you're building new, they make sure it fits the site and the neighborhood."

Five homes clustered together along the St. Croix River in western Wisconsin are an added bonus this year. "You can turn it into a nice weekend drive along the river," said Mitlyng.

Here's a snapshot of two projects on the tour: One is a brand-new residence tailored for a narrow lot, and the other is an expansion and remodeling of a St. Croix River getaway.

Tour continues on H6 ▶



GREG PAGE

HOMES BY ARCHITECTS TOUR

What: 23 remodeled or newly built custom homes designed by architects for homeowners who currently live there.

When: 10 a.m.-5 p.m. Sept. 21-22.

Where: Twin Cities metro area and western Wisconsin.

Cost: \$15 in advance online (at www.homesbyarchitects.org) until 4 p.m. Sept. 20. Tickets are available at homes during the tour for \$20, or \$10 for an individual home.

Find your place.

Parade of Homes Remodelers Showcase

3 Days ONLY

Just-right designs

◀ TOUR FROM H1

glass cabin in the woods

The home: A 1970 ranch house on the St. Croix River bluffs near Hudson, Wis.

The owners: Donna Avery and Tom Kigin.

Design team: Architect Mark Nelson, designer David Heide, interior designer Michael Crull and Kyle Thrapp, David Heide Design Studio, www.dhdstudio.com, 612-337-5060.

The mission: Avery and Kigin bought the no-frills one-level home in 1995 for its wooded lot on a bluff above 140 feet of shoreline. Plus it was only 30 minutes from their home in St. Paul.

The couple and their two daughters were content with the 900-square-foot weekend getaway, with its studio-sized kitchen and one eating area in the screen porch.

But during the winter of 2010, a broken water pipe soaked the interior. "The house was flooded, and water ran for three weeks before we discovered it," said Avery. Mold and mildew had permeated the walls. She called her longtime friend David Heide, who advised them to keep the foundation, rebuild the interior and expand the living area with a main-floor addition.

By starting with a clean slate, Avery could have a real dining area for guests, a bigger, better kitchen and a comfortable living room with river views. But the most dramatic change was the direction of the design aesthetic.

"We live in a turn-of-the-century home in St. Paul," said Avery. "I was craving a clean, uncluttered fresh start."

Heide took her cue. "We wanted to design a clean and contemporary cabin in the woods," he said, "but also use lots of warm, natural materials."

Dream kitchen: The light-filled airy space is three times bigger than the old dark kitchen. The base of the center island is made of redwood recycled from the floor of the origi-



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nal screened porch — which was deteriorating and had to be torn down. "It was too precious to part with," said Avery. "Re-using materials brings soul into the house."

The redwood island and Douglas fir ceilings "bring warmth to the cool bluestone floors and stone countertops," said Heide. Off the kitchen is a new eating area — which the family can use year round.

Modern living: The 325-square-foot living-room addition "captures the feeling of the home's original screen porch," said Heide, referring to the large picture windows on two sides. "You're in this glass box out in the woods."

He elevated the wood-burning fireplace to make it visible from the kitchen and the porch. The textural Chilton surround, which soars to the ceiling, is a contrast to the smooth surface of the bluestone floor and stone hearth. "The fireplace design walks the line between modern and earthy," said Heide.

Dinner-party central: Heide replaced the old screen porch with a new version that extends farther

out to accommodate large dinner parties. He also added a grilling deck with a stairway down to the yard.

Multifunctional lower level: Below the living-room addition, they added a 325-square-foot TV room that can double as a guest bedroom, thanks to a Murphy bed.

Proudest of: The integration of the roofline from the old part to the new part. "The extended roof plane created this huge volume and makes the house seem bigger than it is," said Heide.

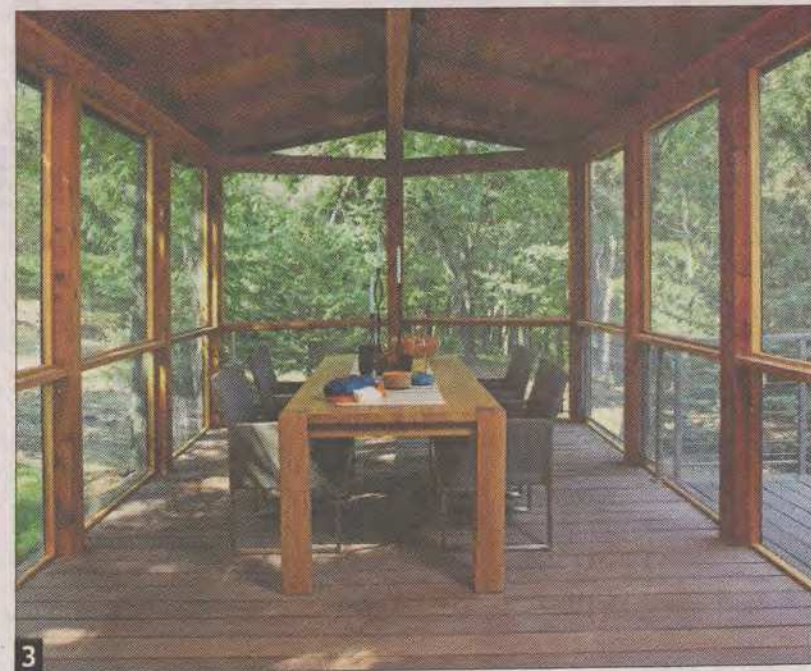
Biggest splurge: Pricy wallpaper on an accent wall in the kitchen. "David found this incredible wallpaper made from wood veneer and I said no four or five times," said Avery. "But it really adds a layer to the room."

Glad they did: Put in heated bluestone floors, which are durable and low-maintenance, throughout the home. "It makes it possible to come in the winter and be comfortable," said Avery.

Best part: "Now that our cabin has everything, we can grow old here," she said.



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Photos by GREG PAGE

1. A new eating area faces the river. Donna Avery splurged on wood veneer wallpaper on one wall.
2. Designer David Heide collaborated with his old friend Avery on the home renovation.
3. The new screened porch can seat more people for dinner parties.