



DESIGN *Soulmates*

David Heide and Brad Belka infused Barbara Bergum's 1905 Craftsman home with warmth, character and plenty of room for cooking.

written by melinda nelson, photography by susan gilmore



*"When I saw Barbara's home for the first time,
I was struck by the very
romantic spirit of place...
it could easily have been 1905 or 1935,
when the front of the house faced the lake to greet
family and friends arriving by boat."
-DAVID HEIDE*



Every September, the Twin Cities Arts & Crafts Design show at the Fine Arts building at the State Fairgrounds is a convivial gathering of connoisseurs, collectors, designers and other devotees. The event is now in its 24th year and David Heide, principal of David Heide Design Studio, has never missed a show.

“The Twin Cities has so many wonderful bungalows, Prairie School homes and other houses with Arts & Crafts sensibilities, and my team and I are honored to be part of the conversation,” says David. “We love meeting people who share our passion and want to do right by their homes.”

At one show, David met the owner of a Frank Lloyd Wright house in Illinois, who invited him and his team to restore the home. At another show, Barbara Burgum, a retired landscape architect, introduced herself to David, saying, “People tell me I need to know you.” Barbara and her family were building a new legacy cottage on Pelican Lake, a two-year project that resulted in a wonderful friendship.

“Barbara and I are design soulmates,” says David. “With every space, we love having the same conversations and asking the same questions—how are people going to live in the room? What should it feel like? Should the light switch be on the left or right?”

Once the cottage was finished, the friends turned their attention to Barbara’s 1905 Craftsman home on Carson’s Bay on Lake Minnetonka. Designed by noted Chicago architect Hugh Garden as a summer retreat, the home had been billed as a tear-down, but Barbara was intent on restoring the original character while gently updating the spaces.

“When I saw Barbara’s home for the first time, I was struck by the very romantic spirit of place,” says David. “The original bones of the house were intact, and it could easily have been 1905 or 1935, when the front of the house faced the lake to greet family and friends arriving by boat.”

An avid cook, Barbara loves hosting Sunday night suppers for her friends, so she wanted to re-design the kitchen with cooking stations to accommodate multiple chefs. Back in the day, the kitchen faced the street for ease of receiving fresh milk and other deliveries, so David and colleague Brad Belka opened up the sightlines to the lake. To ensure that the new floorplan would work for Barbara’s gatherings, they took rolls of tape and laid out the main level on the floor of a friend’s warehouse. Barbara invited a dozen friends and served wine spritzers and spray cheese on crackers as they moved through the “rooms” and pretended to cook in the “kitchen.” Informed by the findings from the “mocktail” party, the renovation resulted in a home that appears to be original to 1905.

“It’s just the way we do things,” says David. “As a studio, our work is about creating enduring relationships with our clients, doing the right thing for their homes, and making it look as though we were never there.”

*“As a studio, our work is about
creating enduring relationships with our clients,
doing the right thing for their homes, and making it look as though we were never there.”*

—DAVID HEIDE

project credits:
• builder: welch forsmen
• cabinetry: frost cabinets