

SENSE *of* PLACE



A reimagined lake house looks and feels
as though the David Heide Design team was never there.

written by melinda nelson, photography by rich michell



Miles away from the Twin Cities, there's a grand yet welcoming home on a pristine lake. Clad in hewn logs, timber and stone with red-framed windows and a striking red roof, the recently expanded house appears to have always been part of the landscape. Which is exactly how David Heide, principal of David Heide Design Studio, intended it.

"Whether we are renovating a rustic Northwoods lake house, restoring a historic Clarence Johnston house or updating a modest kitchen in a Craftsman Bungalow, we strive to create gracious, uncontrived homes that are just right, with a distinctive and appropriate sense of place," Heide says.

Led by Heide, who studied architecture, classical languages and interior design, the studio is a true atelier, with a team of experts who work collaboratively on every project. From the architect to the interior designers, everyone takes part in the conversation and helps establish and execute the governing principles that inform and guide the studio's work.

"As one of our favorite clients famously said, 'There's always a "why" with you, David, and I want to hear it what it is,' says Heide with a laugh. He and his team also bring their own personal principles to every project, including the utmost discretion, impeccable integrity and boundless curiosity—about not only the clients' goals and dreams, but also how the architecture informs what the home wants to be.

"Our clients had been using their lake house primarily as a weekend getaway, but they wanted to create a comfortable year 'round home, where they can easily entertain and eventually, age gracefully in place," says architect Chris Christofferson. "It's an expansive house, so we used the principles of scale, proportion and hierarchy to design an addition that functions equally well for daily life, long summer weekends and holidays with guests."

The addition features a primary suite, an inviting kitchen with a breakfast bar and other thoughtful guest amenities, a center island with a wine refrigerator, and a commodious scullery for back-of-house tasks with open shelving for culinary accoutrements. The clients love spending time outdoors with their family and guests, so Heide and Christofferson designed a link between the entry and the garage that offers a sense of arrival and a place to wipe the dogs' muddy paws, park the coolers and clean the just-caught fish.

Using their signature architectural sleight-of-hand, the designers created an uninterrupted visual flow between the house and the new addition with adzed timber detailing, custom red windows and a vivid red roof that cuts a dashing figure in every season. "When we first saw the original red windows, Chris and I were over the moon, since the color brought energy and personality to the traditional log exterior, and we knew it would be a wonderful unifying element between the original structure and our work," says Heide. "In addition to enhancing the sense of place, it makes the home look as though we were never there—which, of course, is always our goal."



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project credits:

- architecture and interior design:
david heide design studio
- builder: keenan companies



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—CHRIS CHRISTOFFERSON, ARCHITECT