

FEATURE
HOME



written by: *Patrice Peterson*

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A Contemporary
Design WITH A

Prairie Influence





"I like clean lines and neutral colors, and I think of it as a contemporary prairie design."

Karen Buboltz | homeowner

Minnesota, where there are more prairie style homes, and I like that kind of architecture."

The remodel plans they worked on, however, soon turned out to be new home plans.

Builder Andy Pettow, owner of Andy Pettow Construction in Perham since 1995, says the original intent was always a remodel.

"We were hoping to be able to save the foundation, but as we began demolishing parts of the home to begin the remodel, we discovered many flaws in the existing foundation, as well as areas of structural failure," he says. "I couldn't reason putting a totally new remodeled home on a foundation that had minimal structural integrity."

The homeowners could see that they didn't have any choice.

"Although it was not our intent, now we have a good solid foundation," says TJ. "Kelli didn't have to make too many adjustments, since we basically kept the same footprint." Other than adjusting the location of a bathroom, the only other change was that a previous area that had been crawl space on the walkout level could now be opened up for some additional living space with the new foundation.

When you walk through the entryway into this home, you can immediately see through the open kitchen, dining and living area directly out to a beautiful view of Long Lake.

"It's my favorite part of this house," says Kelli Wegscheid, AIA, owner and operator of Harmonious Architecture in Perham, who originally designed the home as a remodel.

Karen and TJ, the homeowners, came to Kelli soon after purchasing a 1960s home in the Detroit Lakes area. They wanted an architect who could do a total remodel design, and they were very happy with the plans she designed for them.

"I like clean lines and neutral colors, and I think of it as a contemporary prairie design," says Karen. "I grew up in southwestern



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THE BUILD

Although acting as your own general contractor takes a lot of extra work and planning to manage all aspects of the home building process, these homeowners were up to the challenge.

"We had a great builder in Andy Pettow, who also built our first home on Detroit Lake," Karen explains. "We simply wanted to manage the overall aspects ourselves, choosing all our own local contractors, and we even did some of the installations ourselves."

With a desire to keep the footprint the same as the original house, which had just been a main floor and walkout, they added a second floor for the extra space they needed. That's where they put two bedrooms for their teenage children.

"The bathroom up there has stackable laundry, so the kids can do their own," says Karen, "and along with a family room, TJ and I both have office space."

To provide natural light to the hallway, they added windows on the west and south side up high, and several upstairs on the east stairway wall.

Kelli says they may have lost the original foundation, but actually gained a theater room.

"Another thing we gained with the collapse of the foundation was the hunting storage room," says TJ. "The higher ceilings and concrete floors were also a plus."

THE EXTERIOR

The Marvin windows all around this home, along with the steel siding and the distinctive design, complete the exterior look the homeowners desired.

"The cohesive styles and colors of siding and windows that TJ and Karen chose is what really makes the house stand out to me," says Andy. "The color scheme is very original and unique to this residence."

Called Quality Edge Vesta Steel Siding, those colors are Ironstone and Gilded Grain. Inside of the three-season porch and hot tub area, they used a different color called Sand Dollar.

The outdoor saltwater hot tub is nestled underneath the three-season porch. Covered and protected from the elements, it also provides some privacy for their family, while still offering a view out to the lake.

Another special touch on the exterior is a putting green on some otherwise unusable and hard-to-reach ground space.

"It was a raised area that would be difficult to mow," says TJ, "so since we all like golf, we decided to try something different as part of the landscaping. The putting green was especially attractive because the water drains right through the artificial turf into the ground, making it totally pervious. We were able to measure it all out, order it, and fit it in."

Additional landscaping was done by Blair Westrom Landscaping, of Detroit lakes, who removed a retaining wall, and returned the lakeshore back to natural grasses.

THE INTERIOR

The metal on the outside of the home transfers into metal touches throughout the interior of the home – from the backsplash in the kitchen, to the finish on the fireplace, and the stairway railings and cutouts.



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All the lighting came from Ferguson Lighting in Fargo, ND, including the unique fixture in the front hallway, and the broad, circular "not your typical chandelier" with indirect lighting over the dining room table. Throughout the rest of the house, Karen kept the designs simple, but loves that most of the canned light fixtures are "square instead of round."

When it came to wiring all that lighting, they worked with Malstrom Electric, in Detroit Lakes.

"Joshua Hanson, the Project Lead at Malstrom, had some great ideas," says Karen. "He looked at our plans and was able to put many of our lighting and fan systems on a system where we can program schedules and operate them from our phone."



The main floor design remained essentially the same as the original home, except that the two bedrooms became one larger master suite. The open kitchen, dining and living area focuses not only on the view of the lake, but on the simple lines Karen and TJ wanted, which also have practical and simple applications.

The alder cabinets, stained in a gray wash peppercorn, are from Southwest Interiors (SWI) in Osage, MN.

"We wanted them to go from floor to ceiling," says Karen, "and they're not only beautiful, but they're all flat and easier to clean, with no cutouts in the doors."

A waterfall edge island, a quartz material also from SWI, adds some drama, and continues the modern, clean look of this kitchen.

With the lighting, most of Karen's focus was on the main floor. Built-in ceiling lights keep the kitchen bright, and three hanging globe lights accentuate the island.



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Karen Buboltz | homeowner
on Joshua Hanson of Malstrom Electric





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Joshua says he installed the Lutron Caseta System that works with remotes called Picos.

"We can go through the system and design it so you have full functional control throughout the house – either in an existing home or a new build," he says. "It's tied in with a Wi-Fi system, and you download an App onto your phone. It's like having a light switch in your pocket. As long as you're linked up with the home's Wi-Fi, you can tie in with the network."

Justin Felt, Sales Rep at Ramsey Flooring in Detroit Lakes for 10 years, says that this couple chose some beautiful looking vinyl plank flooring to cover most areas.

"We installed their carpeting in the theater room, and we also installed vinyl plank flooring, of course, but TJ and Karen installed all of vinyl themselves," he says.



As homeowners, you have to be motivated to do those kinds of installations on your own."

The main level is from COREtec®, called Grandure Oak, which is very high quality, and highly scratch and dent resistant, according to Justin, and they chose an EverLife LVP upstairs.

"In the main level mudroom and half bath, they used a COREtec® Pompeii Oak, with a herringbone pattern," he continues. "It looks like tile, but it's a vinyl plank, and can be challenging to install with that pattern, but they did a great job. Their style choices were amazing, and it was great working with them."

Although some of the vinyl plank flooring may have looked like tile, the only real tile work in the house is in the showers, and came from Design 2 Sell in Detroit Lakes.

"Matt Haverkamp did a wonderful job of installing the designs we chose," says Karen. "On the main floor, there's white subway tile mixed with glass blue subway tile, with a wave that looks like water. In the kids' bathroom upstairs, there's subway tile, but with blue penny tiles going down in a vertical strip, and a rock-looking tile on the bottom."



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Another interesting feature on the interior of their windows that provides a clean, finished look is something that Karen had seen done elsewhere, and decided to include in this home. Instead of finishing the interior of the windows with wood frames or sills, they are sheetrocked all the way up on the sides and across the top. There is only a simple sill on the bottom of each one, which is made of quartz to avoid any kind of interior water damage.

An open deck on the main floor faces the lake, with a covered patio below it. One of the favorite rooms in the house, though, is the 3-season porch off the dining room that's fitted with a 4-track system of stacking vinyl windows. When the wall-to-wall accordion glass doors from Marvin Windows separating this porch are opened, the entire dining and living room becomes one continuous room with the porch that they can use when the temperature is right.

Karen claims that she wouldn't change a thing about this house.



"I think of their style as modern but comfortable, and I'm so happy that it turned out so well for them. Even with the foundation setback, they were able to build their home the way they wanted to, in a style they both love."

Kelli Wegscheid
Harmonious Architecture



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"We learned from our other home about usable space, and I don't think there's a single room that we don't use," she says. "We love the house, the lake, the views, the wildlife, and the neighbors."

Andy adds that working with TJ and Karen was a fantastic experience.

"I believe that the overall building process of the residence went very well. The floor plan was very interesting and unique, and it provides such great views of the lake from the living areas and the porches."

Kelli agrees. "I think of their style as modern but comfortable, and I'm so happy that it turned out so well for them. Even with the foundation setback, they were able to build their home the way they wanted to, in a style they both love." **L&H**