



Photo by J. Alan Paul Photography

Lakes Architect

Kelli Wegscheid

Architect and owner of Harmonious Architecture, Kelli Wegscheid, knows what it takes to design a beautiful lake home inside and out.

By Amanda Ahrenholz

Kelli Wegscheid

Firm: Harmonious Architecture
Graduated: North Dakota State University, 2002
Location: Perham, MN
Specialty: Lake Homes
Website: harmoniousarchitecture.com



“With a lake home, the insides are a little more beautiful but simple because the focus is out to the lake.”

The Interview

Design & Living: How did you get interested in architecture?

Kelli Wegscheid: “My dad’s an electrician, so I was exposed to building projects at a young age. Growing up, I loved art and math and those were really conducive to architecture.”

I went to school at NDSU here in Fargo and graduated in 2002. My parents had a cabin on Ottertail and I grew up knowing that I wanted to do custom lake homes. So when I left NDSU, I focused my job search on three areas where I knew I could do specifically residential work. I ended up in Brainerd and got to design beautiful homes and had the opportunity to move back to Perham. So we get to live on a lake and design lake homes.”

D&L: When you design, what is your process for inspiration?

KW: “I think the lake home style has a signature theme, not necessarily my theme. I incorporate whatever style clients come to me with into their design, which I really enjoy because it keeps everything changing and keeps every design unique. I utilize a lot of glass and the layout of the home to capture lake views, which is very different from a city home.”

I design homes in Fargo and homes in the lakes area. Designing in the city for a city lot is linear front to back, to fit on a lot. Lake homes want to be linear side to side to get as many rooms that can face the lake as possible.”

D&L: Where did you start out, in a firm or independent?

KW: “I started at a firm in Fargo when I was in college and ran blueprints and did just about anything there, which was great. Then I went to a large design build

firm in Brainerd so I got to work with a lot of very talented architects and project managers on the building side of things. Then I moved back to the area to a smaller firm and had kids, and for flexibility, I wanted to start my own firm.”

D&L: How involved are you in a project?

KW: “I offer a lot of different levels of service, so that I can fit pretty much any project’s budget. Some people already have a builder in mind, so I will just do a set of builder’s drawings and other people want a more full service set of drawings so then we do a lot more information up front.”

D&L: How long does a project take from start to finish?

KW: “It typically depends on the client. If I could do one meeting a week, we could be done in about a month. Typically it will take a couple months, depending on how often the client can meet.”

“Check out another of Kelli’s lake home designs on pg. 26