A 90-year-old home is ready for the 21st century

From the moment they first entered the front door, Michelle and Tony Ames were irresistibly drawn to the innate historic character of their Edina home and its neighborhood. Nestled along Minnehaha Creek and Mill Pond, the 1926 home offered scenic outdoor vistas from any angle. However, previous renovations on the inside had left the couple with a desire to restore the home’s original charm and rework its functionality to better suit their busy life with two young kids.

JBDB began work on the five-bedroom, five-bathroom house in the spring in preparation for the family’s fall move-in date.

First on the to-do list was addressing the main level’s awkward floor plan, highlighted by the massive staircase located in the middle of the home. Relocating the original stairway to an exterior wall on all three stories instantly created an open feel and provided the team with the space required for the remaining renovations.

The kitchen had been remodeled some twenty years ago leaving it with a dated feel that didn’t align with the family’s casual and active lifestyle. With the staircase relocated, the team was able to expand the kitchen’s square footage significantly and incorporate all the modern conveniences and amenities the
We are excited to present two homes on this year’s Fall Remodelers Showcase. The Showcase home in Edina is an Artisan Dream Remodel and is a good example of how you can take an outdated home built in 1926 and bring it into the 21st century. The Showcase in Eagan is a main floor renovation with a stunning new kitchen and a new floor plan that meets this young family’s needs.

The JBDB team and I would personally like to thank each and everyone one of you for your continued support throughout the year. On a personal note, it brings me joy to watch our young employees start their new families as others celebrate empty nesting and their children finishing college and venturing into the world with endless possibilities. We hope that you and your family had a fun filled summer as you prepare for fall and then winter. (Yes it is coming!)

Best regards,

James Madsen
President, James Barton Design-Build

family craved. A gathering-sized island, stainless steel appliances, additional pantry storage and modern lighting fixtures were just a few of the renovations made.

The home’s original dark woodwork was enameled white, naturally brightening each room. The existing hardwood floors were repaired and refinished with a dark brown stain exposing its natural grain to flow seamlessly throughout the home.

Additional project highlights include: updating a family room fireplace with window seat built-ins, installing a custom depth half bath vanity console with porcelain sink top, and creating a nook space outside the library.

While home renovations can be a difficult and trying process, Michelle wouldn’t hesitate to work with JBDB again. “We absolutely love the home,” she says.
When Joe and Kristin Pontrelli purchased his childhood home, the couple understood the amount of work that was ahead of them. Built by Joe's father in 1996, the four-bedroom, four-bathroom house looked much the same as he remembered in his youth. The family of four desired a renovation that would align with their refined rustic taste in aesthetics and needs in functionality while staying true to Joe’s nostalgic sentiments for the home.

Throughout this project, the majority of JBDB’s work was focused on transforming the home's main floor. The team added a welcoming ambience to the front entryway by installing clean recessed lighting and painting the walls a light shade of grey. This color continued throughout the walls while the wood flooring was refinished with a warm brown stain. The complimentary colors worked to create an uninterrupted and spacious flow that the Pontrelli’s craved for the main level.

Caesarstone quartz countertops were installed in the kitchen to elegantly complement the new custom enameled cabinetry and pantry. Stainless steel appliances were brought in and adding oversized glass pendant lighting over the redesigned island only enhanced the rooms traditional feel.

A bulky archway was removed between the kitchen and dining room to create an open airy feel. Wall sconces were installed to bring warm ambient light into the dining room and the chandelier was upgraded as well.

The JBDB team turned the family room’s fireplace into a stunning focal point with the addition of a floor-to-ceiling red brick surround that matched the home’s front exterior. French doors were introduced to create space definition between the adjoining den area while allowing natural light to flow uninterrupted from the front of the house to the back.

“This was a very special renovation,” said James Madsen, President/Owner of JBDB. “Remodeling Joe's childhood home so that he and Kristin could raise their own family there is something I won't soon forget.”
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