



PROJECT PROFILE

Elliot Park Flats



Project Type: Restoration

Location: Minneapolis

Prominent Minneapolis architect William Channing Whitney, designer of several houses on Mount Curve Avenue as well as the Minnesota Governor's Residence, designed this 9000 square foot Elliot Park home for the William H. Lee family in the mid 1880's. Unfortunately, it was divided into apartments not long after the turn of the century. The structure then fell into a state of extreme disrepair over several decades of neglect. With the intention of restoring it to a single family dwelling, the current owner purchased the building and invited David Heide Design Studio to facilitate the project.



Exterior design changes were aimed at restoring the original appearance of the building. Photos dating back almost to the original construction, obtained at The Northwest Architectural Archives, aided our endeavor. An extremely dilapidated wood framed porch with a copper roof was completely rebuilt and every attempt is being made to restore windows and skylights to all original locations. Conformity with all Heritage Preservation Commission guidelines will be maintained throughout the project.



Inside, complete demolition down to the studs revealed more clues as to the original layout and nature of the building. Gas lines indicate where light fixtures had been, and although the house was built only a few years after the invention of the light bulb, DC wiring was present. Modern mechanical systems, including in-floor heating and forced air cooling systems, are painstakingly hidden and woven into the design. Interior detailing and the selection of period furnishings and finishes are ongoing.

Honored with a Minneapolis HPC Award for Rehabilitation, 2003