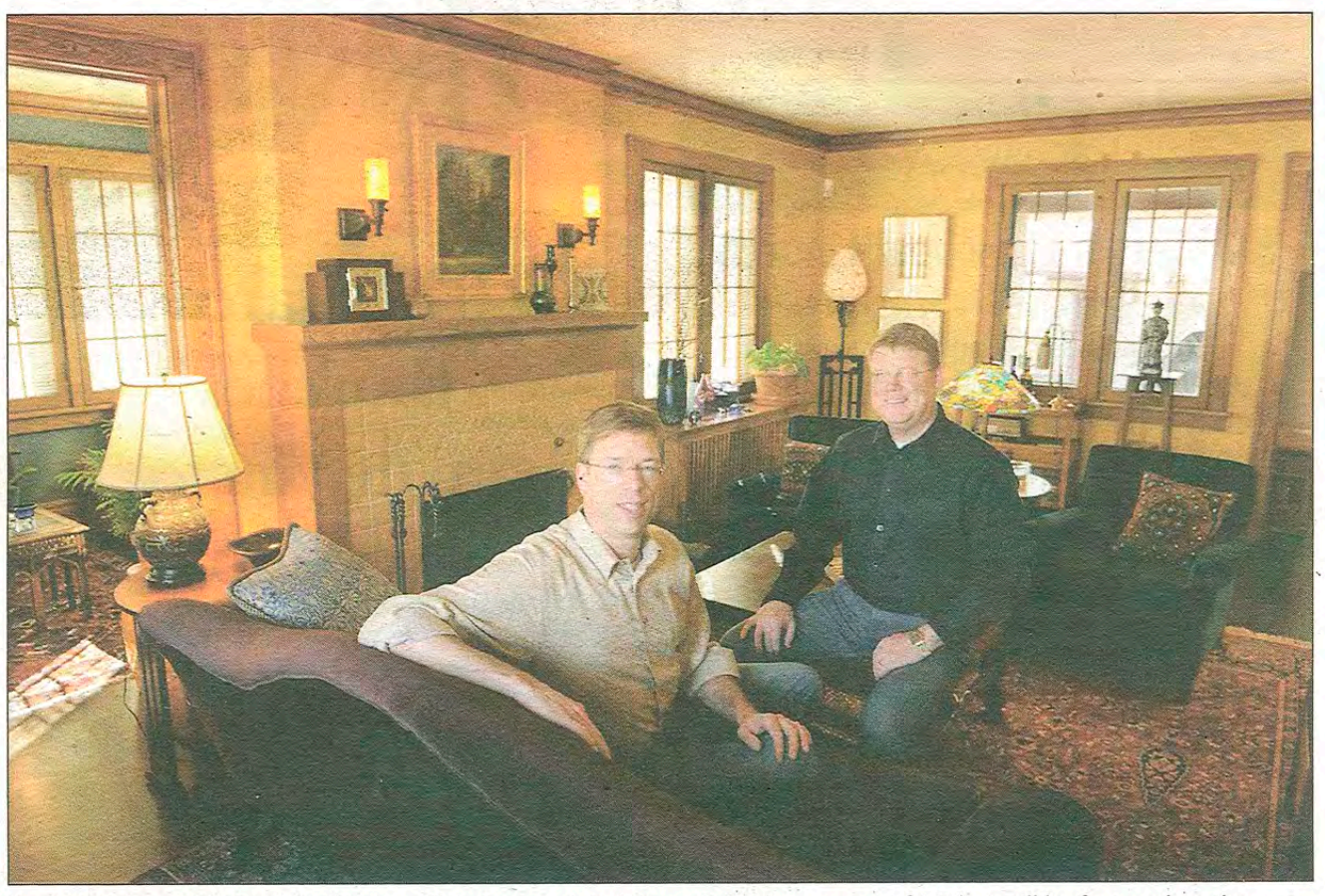
VILLAGER



# Home Improvement

Heide and Crull's well-appointed kitchen offers users a view of the back garden.



David Heide and Michael Crull show off their remodeled Summit Hill home, one of 60 that will be featured on the Minneapolis & St. Paul Home Tour on April 25-26. PHOTOS BY SCOTT AMUNDSON.

## *More than just nice places to visit*

### Annual home tour shows why people love living in the Cities

By Dave Page

David Heide got started in his architecture, interior design and restoration business after putting his previous residence on a house tour. So he jumped at the chance to offer his latest Summit Hill residence as part of this spring's Minneapolis & St. Paul Home Tour on April 25-26.

Back in 1994 when he was working as an architect for a Twin Cities firm specializing in historic renovation, Heide volunteered his house for the Summit Hill House Tour.

"Neighbors came after the tour and said, 'We love your house; would you help us with ours?'" Heide said.

The increasing number of side jobs gave Heide enough confidence to open David Heide Design Studio in 1997. He sold his home to obtain the needed financing and he and his partner, interior designer Michael Crull, rented for three years before getting back into home ownership.

"It was 2000 and houses were selling in a matter of days for more than the asking price, so it was really hard to find something," Heide said. "We kept driving by this one—it had been on the market for three months—and Michael said, 'Let's look at it.'"

The 1920s Prairie-style house at 235 S. Lexington Pkwy. was invisible from the street because of untamed yews. A hedge-sized growth sprouted from the gutter, a torn green awning flapped over the front door, the interior needed work and the yard was in dismal shape. Still, they bought it.

In an interview for this spring's *Kitchen Renovation* magazine, Heide explained that despite the home's obvious needs, he and Crull waited for five years before beginning the restoration process. "That's what I tell clients who buy older homes and immediately want to renovate," he said. "I think there's something to be learned from living in them for a while."

What Heide and Crull discovered was that, since parking is not allowed on Lexington, all of their friends would come to the back of the house. "We decided we needed to create a proper back entrance," Crull said. They also wanted to update and expand the kitchen to make entertaining easier.

To create the necessary space, they pushed out the back of the house about 12 feet. The original kitchen became a breakfast room. A typhoon-green, granite-topped peninsula now divides the new kitchen from the old and continues atop the built-ins along the walls in both rooms. The red birch cabinets come from Frost Cabinets Inc. on St. Paul's West End.

*"...what we really want is to show people on the tour what they can do with a basic house, something you'll find in almost every neighborhood in the Twin Cities."*

The light fixtures over the peninsula were created by Lightworks of Minneapolis. The globes are made with what Heide calls a "red zipper" finish that looks like they have nubs when the lights are turned on, but have a translucent sheen when the lights are off.

The kitchen includes a Wolf stove and a Sub-Zero refrigerator. Placed to provide users with a view of the back garden is a vintage English porcelain sink, reminiscent of the kind at the Salisbury House, a Des Moines-area mansion that Heide used to visit while growing up in Iowa. Tour-goers should be sure to check out the stenciling over the sink and at other places in the home. They were created by Amy Miller of Trimbelle River Studio in Wisconsin.

The remainder of the first-floor addition includes an entry hall, half bath and coat closet. The back porch has a dramatic pillar holding a wide overhang to echo the 4½-foot eaves on the remainder of the house.

Displayed throughout the rest of the house are a wide variety of lamps and light fixtures that Heide and Crull have collected over the years. The primary focus of the living room is the fireplace, which was updated by adding a surround with handmade tile from California.

Windows from the kitchen were reused in the stairway landing. One upstairs bedroom wall was removed to open up the hallway and create a library. In the master bedroom, a wall was added to set off a dressing area.

The original plumbing and electrical wiring throughout the house were entirely replaced. The upstairs bathroom is stubbed in, but the

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bathroom itself is awaiting renovation.

In the yard, Heide and Crull put up a new retaining wall, fence, concrete walks and brick patios. Just steps from the back door is a pavilion erected last year. "We call it our cabin closer than four hours," Heide said. "We spend all summer out there."

Recently, Heide and Crull heard that their house would be featured as an American Institute of Architects and *Star Tribune* "Home of the Month."

"We were thrilled by that," Heide said, "but what we really want is to show people on the tour what they can do with a basic house, something you'll find in almost every neighborhood in the Twin Cities."

The public will be able to talk with homeowners and, in many cases, contractors, architects and other tradespeople during the home tour. Other local homes on the tour include the following:

Steve and Julie Christensen bask in the glow of the new addition to their Princeton Avenue home.

**St. Paul**

**2040 Princeton Ave.**—Remodeling of this 1920s Colonial included a kitchen addition and the rehabilitation of the former kitchen space into a bathroom and entryway. A new master bedroom suite is located over the new kitchen.

**2199 Pinehurst Ave.**—This former Cape Cod has seen significant renovation and a new addition, and now provides office space for the owner's architectural firm. The home was made highly energy-efficient by following Minnesota GreenStar guidelines and features solar hot water and electric systems, toxin-free materials, a green roof and more:

**214 Wheeler St.**—The new addition and whole house renovation of this 1914 Craftsman bungalow included a new second-floor master bedroom suite, first-floor living room and basement recreation room along with an enlarged kitchen, mudroom/pantry, guest bedroom and bathroom, and second-floor children's play space, laundry and terrace.

**1563 Fairmount Ave.**—An addition and remodeling of this well-maintained 1920s Craftsman doubled the space of the kitchen, added a bath and mudroom with two large closets and, via French doors and an expansive deck, opened the back of the house to the yard.

**1940 Eleanor Ave.**—A whole-house renovation of this 1947 brick rambler integrated a previous addition into the rest of the house, removed a poorly placed office-den-bedroom, vastly improved light and air flow, and converted the attached garage into an office.

**95 Mackubin St.**—This updated historic Victorian home, which was on the tour last year as a work in progress, is now finished. The project received Minnesota GreenStar gold certification and features geothermal heating and cooling, new insulation and windows, energy-efficient appliances and lighting, recycled floors and reused lumber.

**1451 Summit Ave.**—A new eat-in kitchen with small rear addition provides more natural light and a connection to the back yard for this 1929 brick home. The use of stone, wood, glass and steel makes the kitchen the centerpiece of the home.

**2162 Sargent Ave.**—This 1920s Dutch Colonial was updated with a two-story addition and renovation. The new kitchen features stainless steel countertops, simple lines and the reinstallation of the original breakfast nook. A screened porch with a red concrete floor was added at the back and a small powder room and mudroom were tucked in near the back door. On the upper level is a weaving studio and a quiet office/library.

**Minneapolis**

**3661 34th Ave. S.**—A returning feature on the tour, this home in the past year has had its lower level totally remodeled with a TV room, office, bathroom and updated laundry. Natural light is provided by large egress windows.

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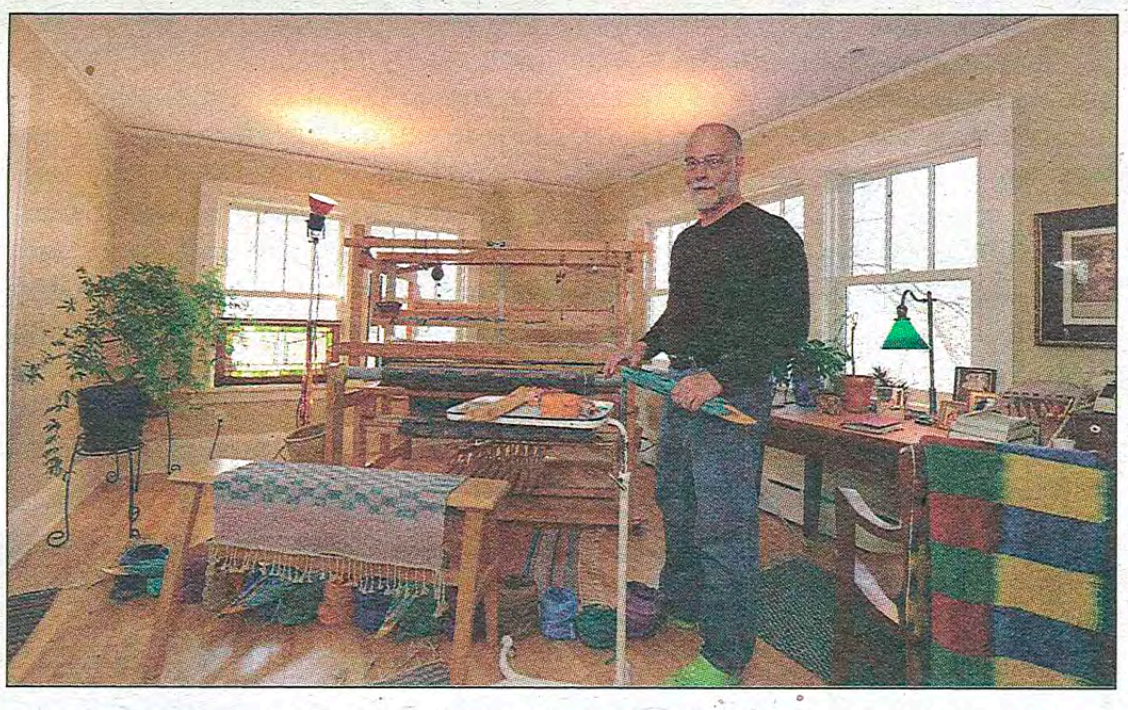
The free, self-guided tour is coordinated each year by the Minneapolis Neighborhood Revitalization Program and is supported by the Minneapolis and St. Paul city planning departments. This year's tour will include 39 homes in Minneapolis and 21 in St. Paul. The homes will be open for viewing from 10:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m. Saturday, April 25, and from 1:00 to 5:00 p.m. Sunday, April 26.

Home tour guides are now available at all Twin Cities libraries and may also be picked up at any of the homes during the tour. For more information, call 612-673-5140 or visit www.msphometour.com.



Robert Davidian enjoys his upper-level weaving studio on Sargent Avenue.

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