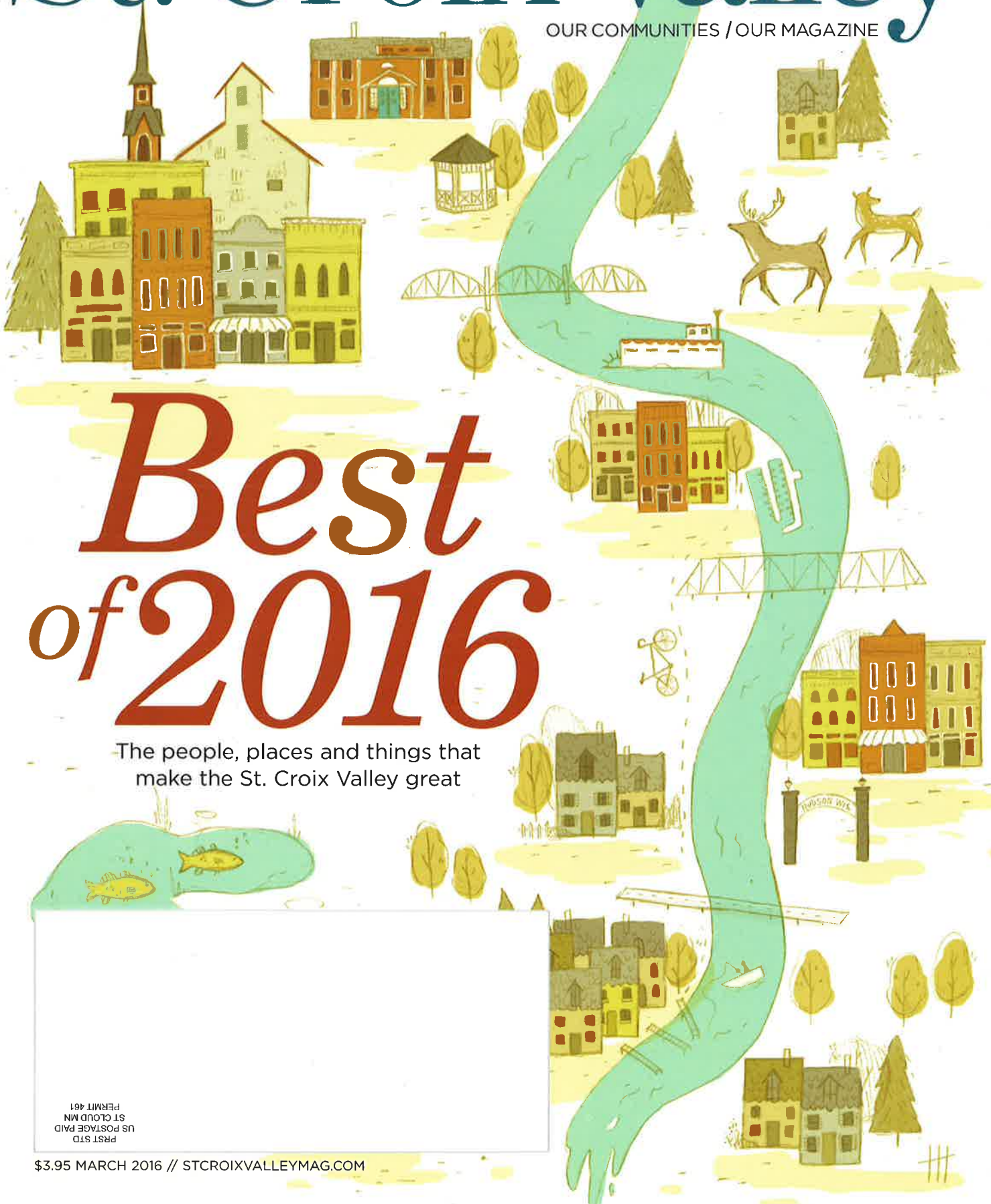


# St. Croix Valley

OUR COMMUNITIES / OUR MAGAZINE



## Best of 2016

The people, places and things that  
make the St. Croix Valley great

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A water damage-induced remodel brings nature in to this bluff-top cottage overlooking the St. Croix.

## Framing the Outdoors

The contemporary remodel of a Mid-century cabin.

ANYONE WHO KNOWS THE ST. CROIX VALLEY appreciates its impressive combination of rich colors and textures that evoke wonder in the eye of the beholder. When a local family decided to remodel their cabin overlooking the river, their mission was to create an intimate space that would capture their exclusive view like art on a wall.

"It's like we live in a tree house," says homeowner Donna Avery, describing the foliage she sees from her porch, nestled in the wooded bluffs. Recently renovated with the help of the team at David Heide Design Studio, the Wisconsin retreat is designed to showcase the landscape in the homeowners' home away from home.

Donna Avery and Tom Kigin purchased the cabin in 1995 as a quick vacation from their St. Paul home, a place where they enjoyed time with their two daughters and respite from their hectic careers. The 1970s structure was originally 1,000 square feet, with two bedrooms, a small kitchen, a living area and a porch.

After a pipe broke in winter 2009, they gutted the entire space, began discussing a renovation in 2011 and completed the project in fall 2014. "We wanted to respect the original structure, and we wanted to further it and to create something that appears to have always been that way," David Heide says. They also hired local builder Tom Patnode.

"I wanted it beautiful, but I didn't want it fussy, where small children couldn't be in it, or I'd worry about sand coming in," Avery says. "I wanted it to take advantage of the view."

The renovation maintained the original external framework, moving the wall of the kitchen back to create a larger space with room for a dining table. The kitchen is centered on a new and sizable island, which was built from redwood reclaimed from the cabin's original porch. New custom cabinets provide added storage; finishing touches include a honed granite countertop and glass-tile backsplash, which offer a friendlier space



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PHOTO BY GREG PAGE

for cooking and entertaining.

The renovation also included an addition to the home, which created a new, larger living room with more area for seating and a table. A new staircase of reclaimed Douglas fir leads down to an additional bedroom added on the lower level, which also has reclaimed-wood flooring.

"We really wanted to bring the outside in and create shelter that made you feel actually as if you were out in nature," says Heide, who explains how the 15-foot vaulted ceilings and 13-foot windows allow for a larger expanse to see sky and foliage.

Durable bluestone floors provide an easy-to-maintain surface throughout the main level and help makes the space, now 1,320 square feet, seem even larger.

The color scheme is natural, with pops of green and blue in accessories.

Consistency was key. "If you can resist the urge to shift from this material to that material and changing color, it feels so much larger," Heide says.

To achieve the homeowners' desire for a contemporary aesthetic, Heide created a clean look with natural design elements, including the cedar beam ceiling, stone floor and veneered-wood wallpaper.

Heide's team also collected custom furniture pieces such as the mod tulip-style dining table with a cerused wood finish. "We agreed to put a few things in as a nod to the Mid-century, to make a link to the building," he says. "The other pieces are much more contemporary. In any design ... there are things that need to step forward and be the feature."

After dusk, the fireplace becomes the room's focal point, with a floor-to-ceiling blend of stacked bluestone and Wisconsin Bedford limestone. The space also includes a new screened porch, which both Avery and Heide describe as magical.

"Tom would sleep on the porch; he adores it," Avery says. "He takes his computer out there on our big wood table. It's a place where the family wants to eat together. We often have big groups out there for dinner, or sitting out there by candlelight is perfect." She says they often see wildlife, including deer, turkeys, badgers and eagles: "It's just wonderful." //



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