



Home-owners Teresa Morrow and Dale Pepin and pooch kick back with architect David Heide (center) on the backyard patio of their Macalester-Groveland home.

PHOTO BY BRAD STAUFFER

Just enough for the city

Sensitive expansion makes the most of century-old Mac-Grove bungalow

BY LARRY ENGLUND

A dog and a dishwasher were the catalysts behind two recent remodeling projects at the Macalester-Groveland home of Teresa Morrow and Dale Pepin. Architect David Heide designed the small addition and the small kitchen expansion, which fulfilled the couple's needs and retained the architectural integrity of their century-old two-bedroom bungalow.

"I always wanted a mudroom," Morrow said, "but with two people we just put up with boots in the living room or kitchen." Then, four years ago, they got a German shepherd. "We brought Ginger home and she was a messy disaster," she said.

Their initial plan was to install a new side entry, but the project morphed into something larger with the conversion of a bedroom to a mudroom, the addition of a sunroom and a new back entry, and the construction of a two-car garage to replace what Pepin de-

scribed as "a Model T garage."

Morrow was clear about what she and Pepin wanted: "We didn't want Woodbury on the back of the house, and David heard that. He made it look like (the new additions) had been here for 100 years."

"I wanted it to look like we hadn't been here at all," Heide said, "so a lot of care was given to roof lines and the overall effect of the size of the addition."

"David turned the house around a bit, so it's still a little house, but it lives a lot bigger," Morrow said.

The new 11-by-19-foot sunroom has a red birch ceiling and is filled with natural light. "From a resale viewpoint, it is also a bedroom," Heide said. "It has a closet and is just off the bathroom."

The spacious 11-by-11-foot mudroom has a slate tile floor, red birch wainscoting and woodwork, and a bench with room to store

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shoes and boots. "If it's wet, snowy or muddy outside, Ginger is sure to roll in it," Morrow said. "Now she can come in here and not wreck the house."

The new garage was designed to fit the aesthetics of the house. "People look out our back window and ask if that's a little cottage out there," Morrow said. It has a small portico over the service door, which is great when it is raining, according to Pepin.

Though the addition and the garage made an already small yard even smaller, "it's a lot more usable," Heide said, "and it feels larger."

"David's right," Pepin said. "The outdoors became another room by virtue of the design," which includes a curved brick path to the garage and a small table and chairs surrounded by greenery.

When the time came for a second remodeling project last summer, the couple turned again to Heide. "I wanted a dishwasher," Morrow said. "Dale says it's the most expensive dishwasher in St. Paul."

"The idea was to have a dishwasher, but also a kitchen that was more usable and had more storage," Pepin said.

With Heide's help, they quickly discovered that a new dishwasher would not fit. "We talked about whether they were going to give up the stove or the refrigerator," the architect said with tongue in cheek. "We ended up cantilevering out the side of the house about 18 inches, and that fixed everything."

Heide extended the kitchen wall without altering the foundation. "It was a small fix, but it was significant in the ease of living and the beauty of the kitchen," Pepin said.

The wall between the dining room and kitchen was eliminated, and a peninsular counter was created to house the dishwasher and a new farmhouse-style sink. New red birch cabinetry was installed on the existing kitchen walls and on the bumped-out wall. "Now we have this new counter and all of this

storage space," Morrow said. The new windows on the bumped out wall do not come down as far as the old windows, but they are higher, providing plenty of light without the need for curtains, she added.

The new kitchen counters are covered in black vein soapstone, and the walls are covered in the rectangular style of subway tiles.

Heide designed a couple of half-doors between the kitchen and dining room and the kitchen and mudroom, creating a feeling of spaciousness. "David also accommodated us with small openings in the half doors," Morrow said. "The cats use them quite happily. He even placed a feeding spot for the cats below the new cabinets."

The only real surprise in the remodeling was the discovery of a spring running through the backyard and up against the house. "The sill plate had sucked up water and rotted through the wall to the wood floor in the back bedroom," Morrow said. "We didn't know about it because it was under the bed. So a new floor was installed."

For the first project, Heide had Dovetail Renovation do the work. The kitchen project was handled by Filla Green Design+Build. "They're both small, owner-operated companies, so almost every day you had an owner on the property, which was huge," Morrow said.

"People talk about the nightmares of remodeling," Pepin said, "but it was so well designed and planned that it was really pretty easy. When we were thinking about the need for more space, we considered moving, but we like this house and this neighborhood, so we decided to remodel instead."

"These projects were about fitting into the neighborhood," Heide said. "You don't have to tear down and start over to accomplish what you want."

"We love living here and love the space," Morrow said. "And I love that this fits in and doesn't overwhelm the neighbors."



The new sunroom (above) and the cantilevered expansion of the kitchen (right) helped give Dale Pippin and Teresa Morrow the space they needed to make their Macalester-Groveland bungalow everything they wanted in a home.



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