

September 2014

A SOCIAL MAGAZINE FOR RESIDENTS OF CATHEDRAL, CROCUS, RAMSEY & SUMMIT HILL

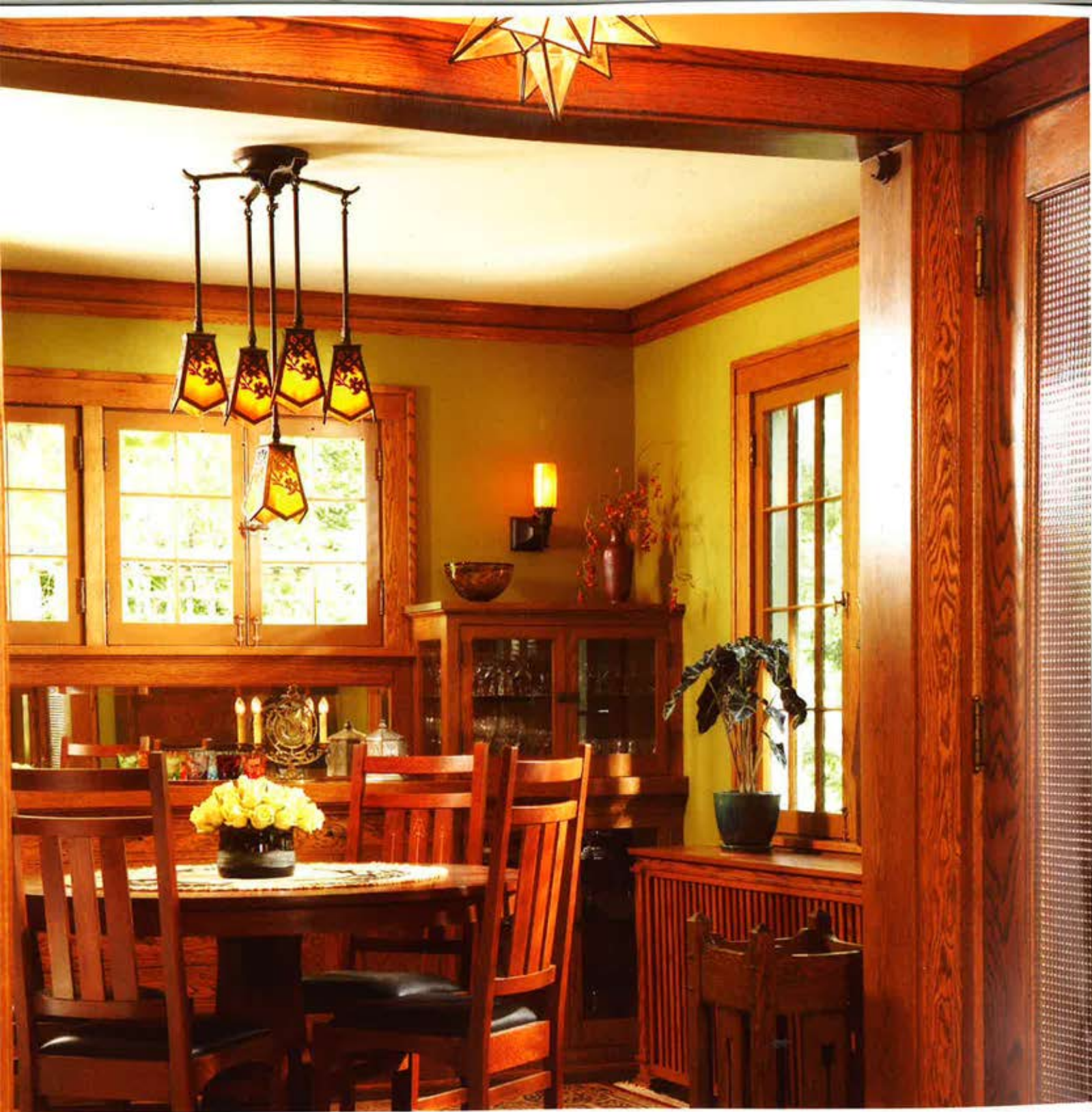
# SUMMIT HILL

## *Living*

**A Block Party Reunion**  
on Fairmount Avenue, July 19th, 2014







*Home*  
OF THE *Month*

**235 Lexington Parkway S**

Summit Hill residents David Heide and Michael Crull have taken an interesting path to get to their Prairie-style home of 14 years at 235 Lexington Parkway South, where they have completely transformed the 1922 structure.





David Heide & Michael Crull



*In early June this spring, Heide went back to his hometown of Des Moines, Iowa, to tour historical sites with a group from the Minnesota Chapter of the Society of Architectural Historians. Heide, an accomplished architect and board member of the MNSAH, was very pleased to tour and share information about the historic Salisbury House and Gardens — a 1920s mansion based on a famous English manor — and also be reminded of where his love of architecture and historic preservation began.*

“My mother was on the Iowa Board of Education and had meetings quite regularly at the Salisbury House. I got to tag along and spend countless hours exploring,” said Heide. “And we lived in a new house that was a big deal to my mom as she had designed and built it, and there were other houses under construction in the development where I grew up - I was constantly in there figuring out what was going on.” At home with his graph paper and LEGOS, he would draw and build various, detailed versions of the old mansion as well as the newer homes which helped fuel a passion for design.”

Later in early adulthood, with an emphasis on architectural and interior design history, he received a bachelor of architecture degree from Drake University after studying classical languages at Macalester College. He performed post-graduate studies at both the University of Minnesota and the Minneapolis College of Art and Architecture.

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In the mid-eighties, Heide joined the prestigious firm, MacDonald & Mack Architects, and worked on historic preservation projects, spending ten years honing his craft and building his portfolio before deciding to start his own firm in 1997. Just prior to starting his company, the home that he owned and had substantially renovated at 761 Linwood was part of the Summit Hill Association Home Tour. "I certainly had been thinking about starting my own firm, but the Home Tour was a catalyst, because the exposure led to some important residential project opportunities," recounts Heide.

The sale of 761 Linwood provided the capital for Heide and Crull, an interior designer, to launch David Heide Design Studio in 1997. A risk for anyone to venture into business ownership, two years into the development of their company, they were prudently watching their budget and renting a home which was sold out from under them. The new landlord was moving in a different direction, so Heide and Crull had to find different digs. While nurturing their new company with its time and sober financial constraints, their home search began with the realistic expectation that they would qualify for and most likely settle in a very modest, two-bedroom Mac-Groveland bungalow "with a falling down garage" (said Crull), not necessarily ideal for on-the-rise, historic home specialists.

Instead, after driving by the tired looking home with overgrown hedges at 235 Lexington several times, "Sight unseen we felt





1999 photo, 235 Lexington Parkway S.



there was something special behind the hedges,” said Heide. “Mary Hardy got us in the house, and once we walked in we knew we could work with it.” And work they did, the couple began with electrical which failed on day 1, soon after the washer and the boiler gave out. It didn’t take them long to get the first floor livable. Crull remembers that over the years, “We basically had to set up camp in every single room at some point.” Not that they needed to take on their own whole house renovation, but it certainly brought them closer again to the highs and lows that many of their clients experience.

Their most significant change to the home came five years into ownership when they decided to add 400-square feet to the back of the house, which included a new kitchen, powder room and rear entry. “There is no on-street parking on the busy Lexington Parkway, so it made sense to facilitate a more welcoming rear entry,” said Heide. The original kitchen became a breakfast room, and the addition succeeds in being a seamless extension of the house. In 2008, they added a 14-by-14 foot “summer house” in the back to go with extensive and beautiful landscaping.

The original owners built the home at an estimated cost of \$8,000 and added a first floor sunroom and second floor space above in 1927. Heide and Crull learned that one of the longest tenured owners of about 40 years, the Olson Family, ran the Bungalow Bake Shop, which was purchased by Woulet Bakery in 1997.

In the 14 years since Heide and Crull purchased their home in 2000, there has been quite a transformation of 235 Lexington. Along with the major additions, they finished the basement, extended the dining room buffet, converted a bedroom into a cozy library and TV room, and designed many of the functional and decorative elements — cabinets, light fixtures, shades, stenciling, custom tile and the beautiful art glass panel at the rear door.

It’s safe to say, they have honored the original design while also making the home into their own personal haven. It’s also true that Heide and Crull have combined the best of historic and contemporary home design in finding their path forward together in the neighborhood. *Publisher’s Note: The home at 235 Lexington Parkway South can be seen on this year’s Summit Hill House Tour, Sunday, September 14th.*