



*LAKE*

HARRIET HOME



# *HARRIET LANDMARK*

written by ellen olson photography by susan gilmore & Steve Henke

BUILDER: Streeter & Associates

ARCHITECT: Kurt Baum Architects

INTERIOR: Fiddlehead Design Group



## HARRIET HOME

When this landmark Lake Harriet home caught the eye of a young couple with two children, they arranged for a showing and invited Bob Near of Streeter & Associates, and Kurt Baum, AIA, to brainstorm ideas on how they might transform the three-bedroom house into a family home, while preserving the grandeur of the exterior and the intimacy of the interior spaces.

“The home was originally designed in 1911 by the architecture firm of Bertrand & Chamberlin,” stated Baum. “It’s one of the few homes in the Twin Cities designed in the Vienna Secession style, a late 19th century design movement distinguished by geometric architecture and linear ornamentation.” The interior of the home was rather formal, and not ideally suited for a young, growing family.

The team from Streeter & Associates, along with Baum, reworked a former porte-cochère and pergola and created a new, two-story addition on the back of the house that allowed for the expansion of the kitchen, plus the addition of an informal eating and family area on the main floor. The second floor of the addition created space for two additional bedrooms and a laundry room. Baum redesigned the main floor plan to include a spacious new kitchen, pantry, breakfast area, office, powder room, and mud room. The back yard was reworked to encompass an inviting outdoor dining and seating area, which accommodates gatherings of family and friends. The overall result of the collaboration between Streeter & Associates and Kurt Baum Architects was a more open, family-friendly floor plan and a better connection between interior and exterior living spaces.

Using the original 1911 blue prints, architectural details from old photographs, and a trove of original corbels and brackets found in the basement, Baum and the Streeter & Associates team ensured that the rehabbed elements and the addition blended seamlessly with the original structure. Floors throughout the home were refinished and main level spaces were repainted to create a seamless transition between new and existing spaces.

Fiddlehead Design Group was brought into the project not long after construction was completed on the large-scale renovation and two-story addition. The owners tasked the design group with adding personality and improving the visual flow of their home. “We began by layering vibrant wall coverings, statement lighting, bold area rugs, colorful upholstery, and unique artwork to their spaces,” stated Jen Ziemer, co-owner of

Continued on page 48







continued from page 46

Fiddlehead Design Group. Jen and her business partner, Andrea Dixon, are known for their bold use of color.

One of the primary design goals of the project was to create a family friendly and comfortable home for the young family of five. The views of Lake Harriet inspired the vibrant color palette. Rich blues bring the water to the forefront of the living spaces, and the collage of other colors brings the seasonal changes from the outside in.

The home itself has quirky and historical details that were played up whenever possible. The fireplace in the master bedroom has a peacock motif that both homeowners loved. A beautiful Cole and Son wall covering with that same motif was used on the walls in the foyer. The hide rug in the foyer also has a subtle “peacock” motif that is a fun nod to the home’s history.

As evidenced during the painstaking renovation phase of the project, the homeowners both felt very strongly about bringing the home to life while still respecting it’s unique history and place on Lake Harriet. They both also had very different design aesthetics that the team from Fiddlehead Design Group needed to marry. “We incorporated their existing mid-century modern pieces and mixed in more traditional pieces that relate back to the home’s architecture and style,” commented Andrea Dixon, co-owner of Fiddlehead Design. “The result is a fun, eclectic mix that feels collected over time and not purchased.”

The stunning Lake Harriet landmark, nearly 100 years after it was originally designed, has been renovated for another generation by Kurt Baum Architects and Streeter & Associates, and brought to life by Fiddlehead Design Group.

