

## Everything Old is New Again

A turn-of-the-20th-century Minneapolis home gets a modern makeover.

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Everyone knows when it comes to real estate, it's all about location. But what happens when you find a great location, but the house doesn't meet all your expectations? Remodel, of course.

When the owner first came across this 1908 house in Kenwood, a friend owned it. "I loved the eclectic nature of the house. It reflected almost all the eras of the previous owners," she says. "And, obviously, the location is tremendous." Three years later when the house came up for sale she bought it on a handshake, but not before





**Above:** Dark Peruvian walnut cabinets below the counter offset amber-colored European steamed-beech cabinets above. A foot pedal operates the kitchen faucet. A 27-inch LCD TV sits above the double oven.

bedroom, bathroom and office.

Jeff enlarged the master bathroom to approximately 12 by 14 feet and designed a room that rivals the luxuriousness of any high-end spa. "We reused the existing stained glass window panel and tied it in with Tiffany lamps," he says. The glass mosaic floor tiles pick up colors in the window and light fixtures. The room also includes a private toilet and a steam shower lined with copper-colored artistic tiles. Jeff describes the room as a "modern use of materials, with a

nod to the traditional."

What started as a second floor remodel soon "crept into the kitchen," laughs Jeff. The room had been partially renovated by the previous owner. Jeff tore down a chimney to make the room more spacious and put the old dumbwaiter shaft to work as the main trunk for the air conditioning. He added amber-stained European steamed-beech cabinets to complement similar cabinets the owner wanted to keep. He also added Peruvian walnut cabinets, granite countertop and





consulting with Streeter Design & Renovation Group. She had worked with the company twice in the past and liked them for their dependability and standards. "I know when I ask for something, it will be done to the highest level," she says.

The house had some maintenance issues," says Jeff Lindgren, the lead designer on the project. "The wood on the exterior was rotting, there were cracks in the walls and ceiling, and there was a lack of continuity between the floors," he explains. The house also needed freshening up and the owner, a

former interior designer, wanted any renovations to reflect her "eclectic with a hint to modern," style. "I wanted to mix old with new and change the things I could without destroying the home," she says.

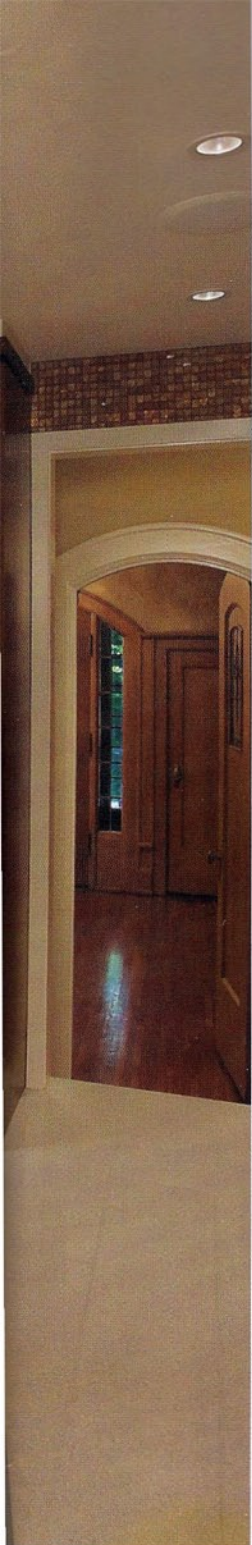
"I threw out a design that was loft-like," says Jeff, "and we went from there." The owner was happy with Jeff's plans and work on the project began in September 2005.

"Her main objective was to make the second floor more livable," says Jeff. To that end, he designed an owner's suite, complete with

**Opposite Page:** Tiffany light fixtures complement the stained glass window that was original to the house, and the walls covered in Venetian plaster.

**Above:** The master bathroom features modern materials and amenities such as Peruvian walnut cabinets, a granite countertop and brushed nickel faucets.





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a strip of Peruvian walnut near the ceiling to tie everything together. Glass mosaic tiles make up the backsplash and some of the walls.

But that was hardly the end of the renovation.

When the house was completed 18 months later, it boasted a third floor theater room with a 110-inch motorized movie screen that doubles as a shade; a basement exercise room; a three-season porch with gas fireplace and floor-to-ceiling stone chimney, and a three-car garage with in-floor heat and a slate patio on top. The patio has a stone

kitchenette with granite countertops and built-in gas grill, not to mention a retractable sunshade attached to a cedar-timber overhang.

All of which combine to make a great location an even better place to call home. "Every day I walk into my home and say, 'I love my house,'" the owner says. "I had been looking for the right place in Kenwood for seven or eight years and it was worth the wait."

*Heidi Losleben is a St. Paul freelance writer.*

**Above:** The clean-lined modern maple table takes center stage in the contemporary kitchen.

The ambered-colored cabinets and glass-paneled pantry to the left of the 48-inch refrigerator were part of a previous renovation. The restaurant-style island features a butcher-block top and provides an additional prep area.