

2017 LUXURY HOME TOUR RECAP p. 34

CELEBRATING  
**25**  
YEARS  
1992-2017

# MIDWEST **Home**®

# *Lux* IN THE CITIES



HANGING OUT ON A  
**PERFECT PORCH** p. 17

LIGHT-FILLED EDINA  
**TRANSFORMATION** p. 102

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# TEAM TRANSFORMATION

*A home is reimagined for a new owner and era*

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*Use of the same  
light wood in both  
floor and ceiling  
lends warmth and  
cohesion to the  
clean-lined kitchen.*







**I**T WAS THE SITE AS MUCH AS THE HOUSE THAT EXCITED THE BUYER. Perched atop a hill in Edina, the house overlooked wetlands, terraced gardens, a gently sloping lawn, and mature trees. The buyer could envision walls of windows, through which she'd observe the natural surroundings, and a new stairway encased in glass connecting the main and lower levels. But could the house become what she imagined?

She showed it to an interior designer she knew. "What do you think?" she asked. Talla Skogmo concurred that the property was amazing: "The site was huge and glorious and gorgeous and private and secluded." The buyer then posed the question to architect Paul Hannan, who assured her the house had potential as well.

So even before making an offer on the house, the buyer had begun assembling the team to transform it, calling on experts with whom she had worked before—and trusted—at Talla Skogmo Interior Design and SALA Architects. Soon Erotas Building Corp. and Keenan & Sveiven Landscape Architecture came on board as well.

Previous owners had turned the house, which began life as a walkout rambler, into a two-story, and added a main-floor family room and architectural touches such as crown molding, arches, and columns. The

**LEFT** Reconfiguring the kitchen and dining room opened both to the light.

Walnut, stainless steel, glass, and marble create a sleek-yet-inviting area for food preparation and formal dining.

**ABOVE** A new wall of windows allows views of gardens formerly hidden by heavy cabinetry. Strategically placed chairs offer a vista of a nearby wetland.



The sculptural staircase is attached only at the top and bottom.



house was solid and spacious. But all agreed it didn't fully take advantage of the site. "It was internally rather than externally focused," Hannan observes. And it didn't offer what the now-owner, an empty nester, wanted: main-floor living and a more open, modern feel.

With owner and interior designer very much engaged, Hannan set to work, reconceiving the main level in terms of a public area with two large rooms and a private area that includes a new master bedroom, laundry room, and his and hers baths, closets,

and studies. "The house is laid out beautifully to have those spaces be very separate," the owner says.

**"I DIDN'T WANT THE KITCHEN TO LOOK LIKE A KITCHEN."**

The kitchen is the centerpiece of one of the now light-filled rooms, and includes a banquette for formal dining and two sitting

areas. Hannan replaced cabinetry on one wall and added windows to let in morning sun. Two islands made of walnut define the space as well as serve needed functions. One, with bar seating and stovetop, allows for food preparation and informal dining. The other, wrapped in marble, serves as a buffet. Cabinets on the perimeters are painted white and conceal kitchen gadgetry, and a walk-in pantry hides behind a "secret" panel in a passageway. "I didn't want the kitchen to look like a kitchen," the owner says.

With two walls of windows, the living room offers vistas of woods, the newly landscaped pool area, and the wetlands beyond, where on a spring morning five wild turkeys parade. Anchoring one end is a wood-paneled





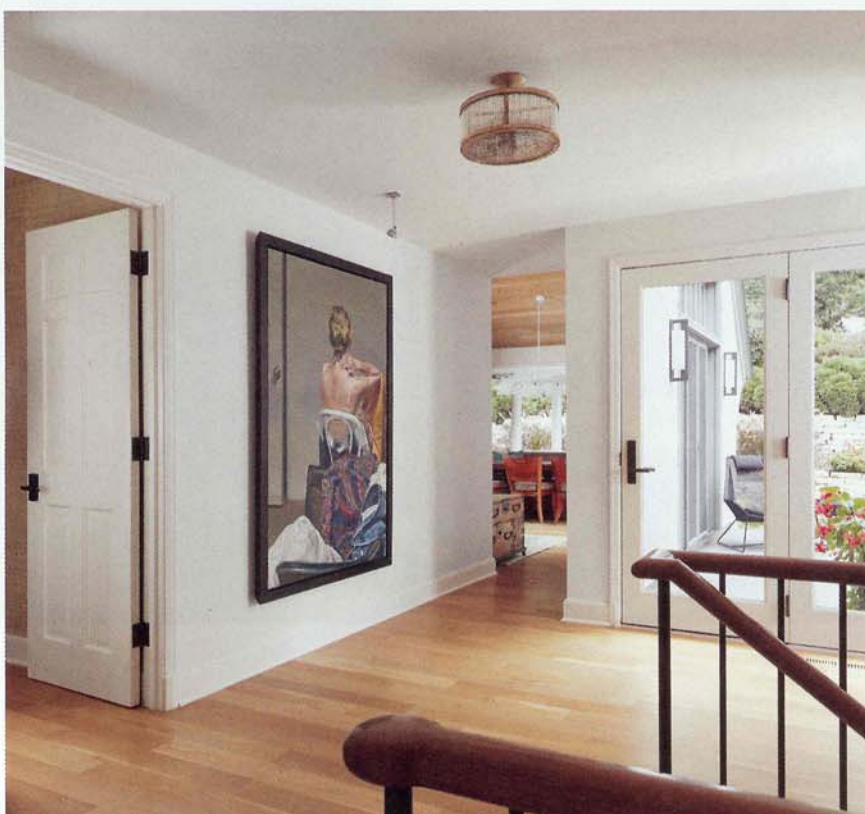
alcove displaying a favorite painting. “That painting was very important to her, so we were very careful we had a wall for it,” says Skogmo, who notes inspiration for the alcove was the Four Seasons bar in New York.

A central hallway leads from the public area to his and hers studies. Both baths, dressing areas, and closets are accessible from the master bedroom. There, the bed and side tables, designed by Skogmo, lend the space symmetry and sophistication.

In the house’s lower level, one stall of the old garage was turned into a large informal entryway, where a redone stairway and new elevator now offer easier access to the main floor. Light pours into a new glass-walled terrace room off the once-dark family room. And glass doors open onto a blue stone patio.

The focal point of the house is the gently spiraling stairway envisioned by the owner, conceived by Hannan, and built by master stair builder Jonathon Scott of JDS Stair Building. Seeming to almost float unattached in the window-lined space (Hannan directed the builder to attach it only at the top and bottom) and crowned with a Lindsay Adelman light fixture, the structure seems like sculpture.

Overall, the home feels cohesive, which Hannan credits to teamwork. “We have all worked together to achieve this beautiful result,” he says. He attended to details such as referencing the design of panels in the old entryway in new parts of the house. The



**OPPOSITE PAGE LEFT** The new spiral staircase seems to float in a tower of glass. **ABOVE** The interior designer worked with the owners to find new spots for furniture the couple already owned and loved, such as these two Barcelona chairs. **BELOW** A painting from the owners’ extensive collection hangs at this junction, where it can be appreciated from multiple angles.