



## star tribune/aia home of the month

Home of the Month appears in the Homes section the first Sunday of every month. The program, a partnership between the Star Tribune and the Minnesota chapter of the American Institute of Architects, features architect-designed houses selected by a jury of experts. The houses represent a range of prices, styles and locations.

Architect Kelly Davis' modern interpretation of Prairie style uses brick-red fins to give the stucco facade rhythm and color.



TROY THIES

A couple's yen for zen drove the design of their modern Asian-inspired St. Paul home.

## EAST MEETS



KELLY DAVIS/SALA ARCHITECTS

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When they lived in Japan, Sarah and Fred Deschamps had a gorgeous view of Tokyo Tower from their rented home. So when they returned to Minnesota in 2007 and decided to build a home of their own, they wanted to replicate that feeling of being nestled in the trees with an arresting point of interest.

"Instead of Tokyo Tower, we have a 100-year-old silver maple," said Sarah. "And in the summer, our bedroom feels like a treehouse."

It's one of the many ways the Deschampses re-created the flavor of life they experienced in Tokyo, where they lived with their daughters when Fred worked for Northwest Airlines. In part because their daughters were school-aged, the Deschampses jumped at the chance to move back to St. Paul when Northwest merged with Delta. But they didn't want to leave behind the serene and simple spaces they had grown to love. And being close to family members was also high on the list.

"In Japan, grandparents often live with you and are an integral part of your life," Sarah said.

In the Mac-Groveland neighborhood of St. Paul, they found the perfect site to build their Japanese-inspired house: a tree-covered lot right next door to Sarah's parents' home. While still in Tokyo, the Deschampses searched for a Minnesota architect to design an eco-friendly house that would fit in a traditional urban neighborhood. They hired Kelly Davis from SALA Architects' Stillwater firm.

"Kelly was on the same wavelength," said Fred. "He had a strong interest in Prairie-style architecture and in Japan. We knew we could work well together."

The Deschampses moved back to the Minnesota just in time for their builder to break ground.



TROY THIES

## MIDWEST



TOM SWEENEY • Star Tribune

Brick-red walls add a dramatic splash of color to the earthtone interiors. Two sliding pocket doors can close off the kitchen from the dining room. **ABOVE:** The screened porch.

### ABOUT THIS PROJECT

**What:** New home combines Asian and modern Prairie elements in St. Paul.

**Size:** Main floor, 1,760 square feet; upper floor, 1,664 square feet.

**Design team:** Architects Kelly Davis and Tim Old, and draftsman David Ferguson, SALA Architects, Stillwater, [www.salaarc.com](http://www.salaarc.com); 651-351-0961.

**Builder:** Andlar Construction, Lake Elmo.

**Interior design:** Talla Skogmo, Engler Skogmo Interior Design, Edina.

**ABOVE:** The view from the second-floor overlook. The translucent shoji screen, left, greets visitors at the front entry.

**RIGHT:** Fred and Sarah Deschamps lived in Japan for seven years before building a home in St. Paul.



To see a photo gallery of the Deschampses' home go to: [startribune.com/lahomes](http://startribune.com/lahomes)