

NARI- ROTY 2025 Awards

Project Category:

Residential Detached Structure

Project Name: Outdoor Oasis

Project Statement

This project delivers a bespoke outdoor pavilion, meticulously designed to serve as a luxurious, multi-season extension of the main residence in Minnesota's challenging climate. Tasked with creating a detached structure for year-round cooking and three-season entertaining and relaxation, our design solution integrates seamlessly with the existing home.

Every architectural detail, from the siding and molding profiles to the cedar shake roof and beadboard ceiling, meticulously replicates the traditional aesthetic of the main house, ensuring the pavilion feels like a natural, long-standing extension.

The interior boasts a sophisticated lounge area with integrated entertainment, complemented by a fully equipped outdoor kitchen featuring a grill and Blackstone griddle. Crucially, the design preserves vital sightlines across the property. The result is a stunning, highly functional outdoor oasis that promises years of enjoyment, effortlessly blending luxury, robust four-season usability, and architectural harmony.





Client's Needs and Design Objectives

- NEED: A detached, three-season structure that could withstand the Minnesota climate, allowing for nearly year-round outdoor living.
 - SOLUTION: A fully engineered pavilion was designed with robust construction, an integrated heating system, and retractable screens to provide comfort and usability from early spring through late fall.
- NEED: A dedicated, all-weather cooking station that could accommodate both a grill and a Blackstone griddle.
 - SOLUTION: A custom outdoor kitchen was integrated into the design, featuring durable countertops, dedicated ventilation, and ample storage, allowing for year-round cooking regardless of the weather.
- NEED: A versatile space for both relaxation and entertaining, including the ability to watch sports and host guests.
 - SOLUTION: The layout includes a comfortable lounge area with a fireplace, integrated media, and flexible seating, creating a sophisticated and welcoming environment for both intimate family gatherings and larger social events.
- NEED: The new structure must feel like a natural part of the property and not obstruct key views of the yard.
 - SOLUTION: The pavilion was strategically sited to preserve crucial sightlines. All exterior architectural details—from the siding and molding profiles to the roof and beadboard ceiling—were meticulously replicated from the main house to create a seamless and authentic extension of the home.

Site Plan & Floor Plans

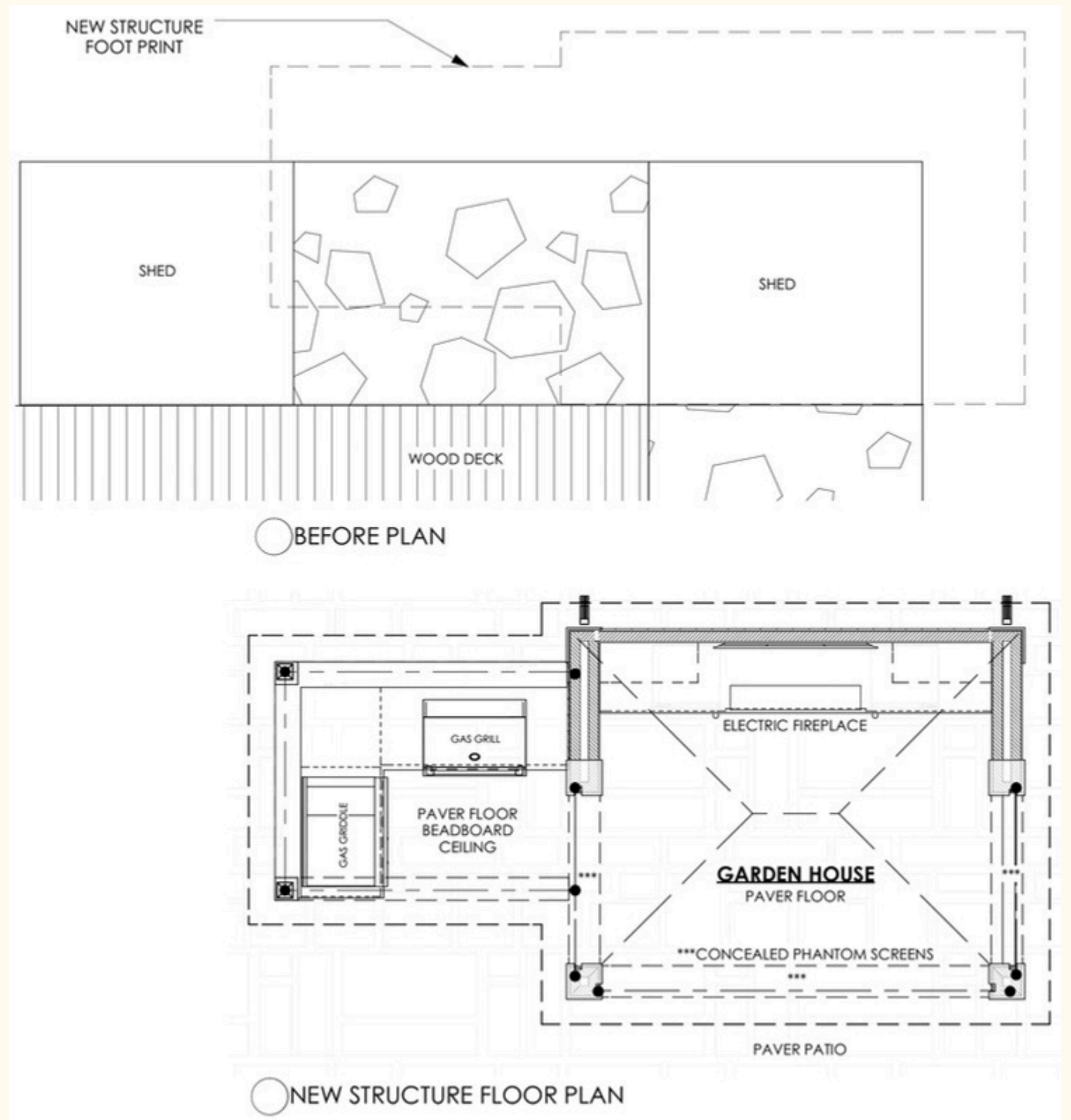
BEFORE

The site was occupied by two poorly placed sheds that served no practical purpose. Their positioning created a significant visual barrier, obstructing key sightlines from the main home and blocking the natural circulation path from the side yard into the backyard.

AFTER

The sheds were removed and replaced with a single, highly efficient 100-square-foot pavilion. The new structure was meticulously designed to maximize every inch of its constrained footprint without intruding into the main yard. By thoughtfully siting the pavilion and creating open circulation paths around it, the new design not only opens up the previously blocked views but also establishes a purposeful and welcoming landing point for guests and entertaining.

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Before

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After

BEFORE

The view from the main home was obstructed by two poorly sited sheds that cluttered the landscape and created a visual barrier to the rest of the yard.

AFTER

The new pavilion was meticulously designed to be an open-air structure. By eliminating solid walls in favor of wide, expansive openings, the final design houses all the clients' needs for cooking, lounging, and entertaining while perfectly preserving—and even framing—the critical sightlines from the home into the backyard.



Deteriorating and non-functional sheds consumed valuable yard space, offering no practical use, detracting from the property, and completely blocking views of the surrounding bluff

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In place of the obsolete sheds stands a functional entertainment pavilion. Designed as a perfect architectural extension of the home, the new structure serves as a hub for cooking and hosting while strategically capturing breathtaking, unobstructed views of the bluff.



Living Space

The Entertainment Hub: A Study in Functionality

The main wall of the pavilion was designed as a self-sufficient hub for year-round entertaining. Tall, traditionally-styled cabinets provide ample storage for outdoor dishes and create a seamless visual link to the main home's kitchen. To complete the indoor-outdoor connection, the patio pavers flow directly into the structure, truly unifying the yard and pavilion.

The Soaring Ceiling: Maximizing Volume and Glamour

To make the compact footprint feel as spacious as possible, the pavilion was designed with a soaring vaulted ceiling. This architectural choice dramatically enhances the sense of volume, creating a bright and open atmosphere. Suspended from the peak is a statement chandelier, which was intentionally selected to introduce a touch of glamour and sophistication to the rustic space, beautifully illuminating the lounge area below.

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Details in the Cabinetry

A long countertop offers generous space for serving, while clever pocket doors retract to reveal a dedicated beverage station.

To ensure design continuity, the new cabinetry features a traditional profile that precisely mirrors the millwork in the client's previously remodeled kitchen, while also incorporating dedicated shelving for display.

This single wall masterfully integrates a fireplace, two undercounter refrigerators, and concealed trash, all while perfectly framing the central television.

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The All-Weather Grilling Porch

A key requirement for this project was the ability to cook outdoors year-round, even when the main lounge is closed for the winter.

To achieve this, we designed a dedicated grilling porch, a distinct zone that remains accessible in all seasons. This space features an adjacent grill and Blackstone griddle to allow for versatile, dual cooking.

To create a strong architectural link to the main residence, the ceiling is finished with the same stained beadboard found on the home's front porch.

The station is elevated with a durable granite countertop and a full waterfall edge, a luxurious detail typically reserved for an interior kitchen, which reinforces the structure's status as a true extension of the home.



All Seasons

A critical challenge was to enclose the pavilion for multi-season comfort without sacrificing its open-air integrity or the crucial sightlines from the home.

The solution was a fully integrated, motorized screen system. The specific screen material was selected for its exceptional transparency, ensuring that even when the pavilion is fully enclosed, the views of the yard remain unobstructed.

Our team engineered a custom concealment solution within the structure's headers, making the entire roll-up mechanism completely invisible when not in use. This preserves the clean architectural lines of the pavilion, providing robust, on-demand protection from insects and weather without any aesthetic compromise.



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Blending into the Home

These images showcase how we seamlessly integrated the existing home's details—columns, trim, roof lines, and materials—into the new detached structure.

Also shown is the existing stained beadboard ceiling on the clients porch showing continuity in design.

The new detached structure brings the backyard together, optimizes site lines and gives the clients a space to enjoy for years to come.

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