

Minnetonka Elevated Entertainer

Residential Interior \$100,000 to \$250,000



Project Overview

After more than 20 years in their Minnetonka home, the clients wanted a brighter, more functional main level that could handle daily life and frequent entertaining. The original layout was segmented and dated: the kitchen was walled in on three sides, cut off from the living room, and filled with outdated appliances and limited storage. The small dining room was tucked away, rarely used, and disconnected from the rest of the home.

The biggest obstacle was a central load-bearing wall that divided the main level. To achieve the open plan the homeowners envisioned, the roof and truss system were removed and rebuilt as a vaulted structure. This bold move redistributed structural loads and allowed the wall to be eliminated, creating uninterrupted openness across the kitchen, dining, and living areas.

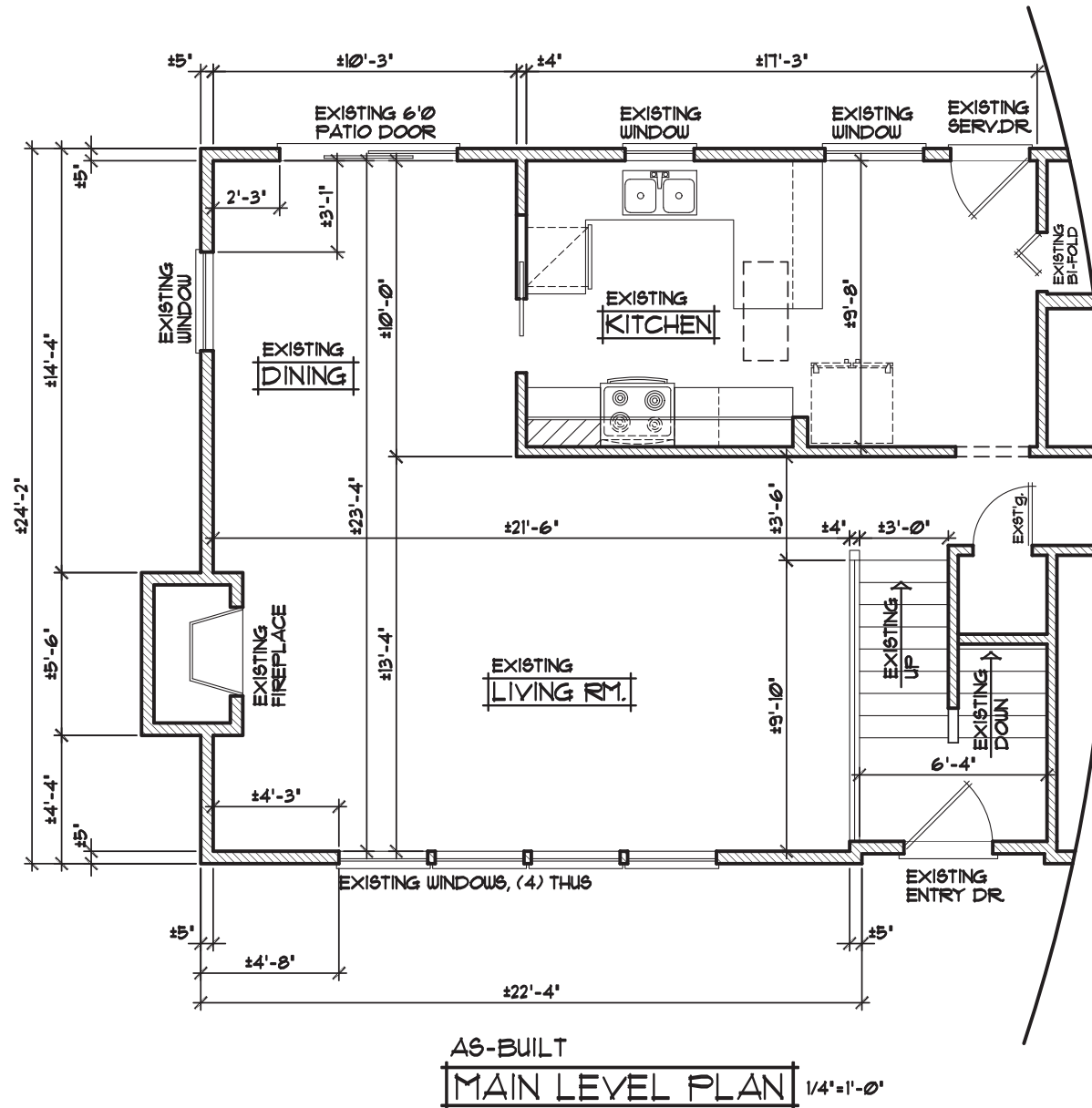
With the walls gone, the dining room was relocated adjacent to the kitchen and behind the living room, transforming wasted square footage into a central entertaining zone. The vaulted ceiling amplified natural light, while Andersen 400 Series windows expanded views and brightness. Wide-plank oak flooring tied the open plan together.

The kitchen became the centerpiece, featuring a large island with seating for six, professional-grade appliances, custom cabinetry, and a built-in wall that combines pantry storage, a beverage station, and concealed cabinetry for pets. The living room was modernized with a full-height Dekton fireplace surround and balanced with new windows on either side. The result is a dramatic transformation: a once closed-off and outdated main level is now a modern, warm, and highly functional entertainer's space.

Floor Plan

BEFORE

Before: Small, enclosed kitchen with 2 exterior doors, separate dining room, and living room divided by walls.



AFTER



REMODEL NOTES!!!

- REPLACE ALL EXISTING INTERIOR DOORS and TRIM @ MAIN LEVEL
VERIFY ALL EXISTING DOOR SIZES
w/ BUILDER
- EXISTING WINDOWS to be REPLACED,
VERIFY ALL EXISTING WINDOW SIZES
and ROUGH OPENINGS w/ BUILDER
- PROVIDE NEW LVP FLOORING THROUGH-
OUT MAIN LEVEL, EXCEPT @ BATHROOMS

Before

The original kitchen was boxed in by walls and partitions, with outdated cabinetry, laminate counters, and minimal lighting. The layout felt narrow and disconnected from the living spaces, making storage, hosting, and circulation difficult.

After

Walls were removed and a vaulted truss system installed, opening the kitchen into the living room for seamless entertaining. A large island anchors the space with prep area and seating, while professional-grade appliances and a farmhouse sink enhance function. Shaker-style cabinetry in a rich charcoal tone pairs with a custom slatted wood hood and open shelving, balancing modern style with warmth. Craftsmanship is evident in the precise alignment of cabinetry, windows, and tile, while the innovative structural work allowed this dramatic transformation without adding square footage.



Before:

The original dining room was small and closed off, with a sliding door to the deck. With another exterior door already in the kitchen, this second door was redundant and wasted valuable wall space. The room felt disconnected and underutilized.

After:

Relocating the dining room allowed the kitchen to expand while maintaining a dedicated dining footprint. Removing the extra exterior door unlocked a full wall for storage and a new window, improving both usability and natural light. A large island and professional appliances now anchor the space for entertaining, while Shaker-style cabinetry, open shelving, and a custom wood hood elevate the aesthetics. Precise craftsmanship ensured cabinetry, tile, and finishes aligned seamlessly. The innovative reconfiguration maximized functionality and flow without adding square footage.

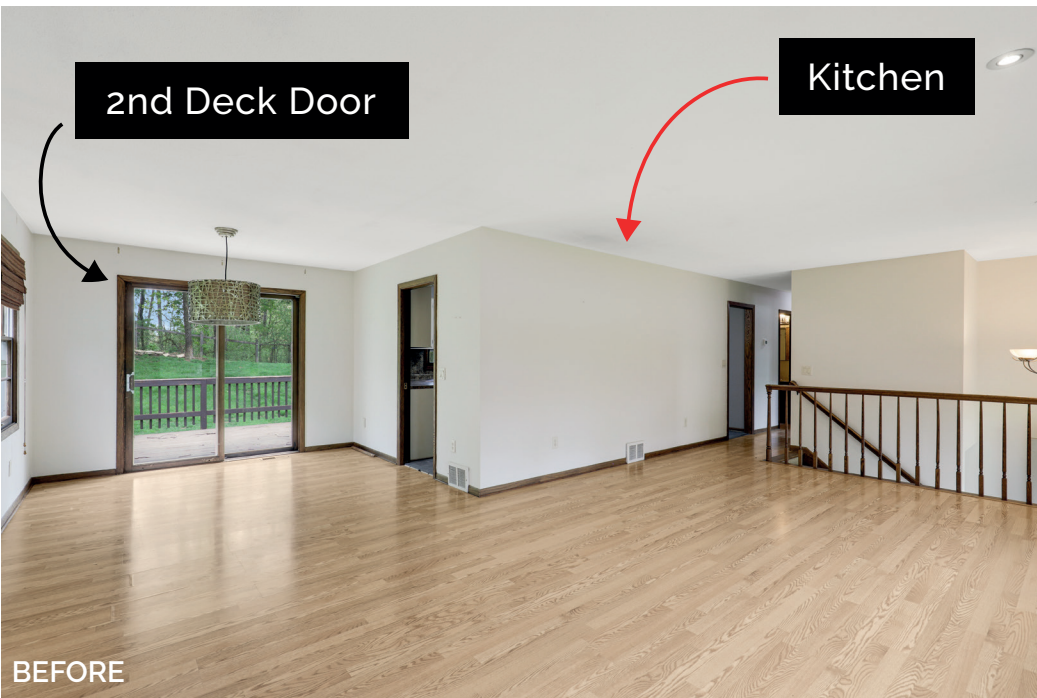


Before:

Walls separated the kitchen, dining, and living areas, making the main level feel cramped and segmented. The layout lacked storage, natural light, and flow, while two separate doors to the backyard limited wall space and created inefficiency.

After:

Meeting the clients' objective of a true entertaining hub, walls were removed and the ceiling vaulted to create one expansive kitchen-living space. Functionality improved with a large island for prep and seating, professional appliances, and abundant storage including custom bar cabinetry. The removal of the second deck door unlocked a full kitchen wall, adding flexibility and improving circulation. Aesthetics were elevated with Shaker-style cabinetry, layered lighting, and warm oak flooring. Craftsmanship shows in the structural precision required to replace load-bearing walls with a vaulted truss system, an innovative solution that transformed the home's flow without an addition.



Before:

The kitchen was closed off with laminate counters, basic lighting, and a small pantry that offered minimal storage. Upper cabinets stopped short of the ceiling, wasting valuable space and limiting efficiency. The layout felt dated and disconnected from the main living areas.

After: The former pantry wall was reimagined as a full expanse of floor-to-ceiling cabinetry, paired with a built-in bar that's perfect for entertaining — offering quick grab-and-go access without crowding the kitchen. Professional-grade appliances elevate the cooking experience, while deep charcoal finishes, designer lighting, and wide-plank flooring tie the design together. Every inch of space was maximized for function, and craftsmanship is evident in the precision of cabinetry installation and detailing. This innovative transformation turned wasted space into a highly functional, stylish hub for both daily living and hosting.



Before

A load-bearing wall cut the kitchen off from the rest of the home, leaving a cramped workspace with outdated finishes and no connection to the main level.

After

The wall removal made way for a chef-inspired kitchen anchored by an expansive island with seating for six. A custom slatted wood hood crowns the professional 6-burner range, complemented by a full-height artisan tile backsplash that adds texture and refinement. Shaker-style cabinetry in a deep charcoal tone contrasts with warm wood accents, while open shelving provides both function and display.



Load-bearing wall removed to open the kitchen and create a connected main-level entertaining space.

Before:

The living room felt dated and dark, with low ceilings, heavy trim, and a brick fireplace. A small dining area sat disconnected and underused, limiting functionality and flow.

After:

Vaulted ceilings and recessed lighting brighten the space, meeting the clients' goal of an open layout for hosting. Wide-plank oak flooring, light paint, and modern baseboards create continuity and warmth. Two new Andersen windows flanking the fireplace add symmetry and natural light, while the fireplace was rebuilt with a sleek Dekton surround as a modern focal point. The relocated dining area now connects seamlessly to the kitchen and living, an innovative reconfiguration achieved with precise craftsmanship in structural work, finishes, and detailing.



Before

The living space felt plain and outdated, with basic trim, heavy blinds, and dated railings. The room lacked light, character, and connection to the rest of the main level.

After

Meeting the clients' goal of a brighter, modernized space, the room was refreshed with wide-plank oak flooring, light paint, and streamlined baseboards. Sleek new railings modernize the stairway, while larger Andersen windows flood the space with natural light and emphasize the vaulted ceiling. Layered ceiling lighting improves visibility and balance throughout the open plan. Relocating the dining room opened this area further, allowing the living room to feel integrated with the kitchen and dining spaces. These updates improved functionality, aesthetics, and flow, executed with precise craftsmanship and innovative detailing that elevated the entire main level.



Before:

The kitchen and dining were separated by walls and doorways, creating a cramped, segmented layout. The small dining space was isolated, while the kitchen lacked storage, modern appliances, and the ability to host comfortably.

After:

Relocating the dining room freed space for a larger kitchen and created open flow across the main level. The expansive island provides prep space and seating for gatherings, supported by professional appliances and ample storage. Vaulted ceilings and Andersen windows flood the home with natural light, while woven pendants warm the design. Most importantly, the new open layout makes the kitchen, dining, and living feel connected — allowing conversations and hosting to flow easily no matter where you are in the space.



BEFORE

THE KITCHEN



AFTER

THE KITCHEN



PROJECT RECAP

Client Objectives

Create a brighter, open main level for hosting by removing the kitchen's dividing walls, improving light, and reorganizing the dining area without adding square footage.

Functionality

Walls came down and the roof was rebuilt as a vaulted system, connecting kitchen, dining, and living. The kitchen gained a six-seat island, professional appliances, floor-to-ceiling storage, and a dedicated bar/serving wall.

Aesthetics

Shaker cabinetry with a custom slatted wood hood, artisan tile backsplash, wide-plank oak floors, and a Dekton-clad fireplace deliver modern warmth. Andersen 400 Series windows increase natural light and symmetry.

Craftsmanship

Replacing the roof/trusses to remove a load-bearing wall required precise engineering and framing; finishes align cleanly with the new geometry (tile, cabinetry, windows, lighting).

Innovation

Achieved openness entirely within the existing footprint: vaulted truss strategy enabled full wall removal; redundant deck door was eliminated to unlock a full storage/serving wall.



CLIENT REVIEW

Our home is now BEAUTIFUL! [Company Mention] completed an entire first floor and exterior remodel on our home. The project was huge and the timeline short. [Company Mention]'s trades were professional and talented. The final product is SPECTACULAR! A huge thank you to our designer, [Staff Mention], for her elevated design concept, attention to every detail and solution driven approach. What a great partner! Also, thanks to [Staff Mention] for making it happen and just in time. Happy to be HOME!

- Homeowner