



MODERN TEXTURES

CATEGORY IS:
RESIDENTIAL INTERIOR OVER \$500,000

This comprehensive residential transformation redefines modern living by seamlessly blending sophisticated, crisp lines with a soulfully warm and inviting atmosphere. The primary objective was to modernize a dated structure, opening the first-floor layout to embrace expansive lake views and foster a natural flow for entertaining large groups. By repurposing underutilized garage space, we introduced a highly functional mudroom, dog wash, and laundry center, providing essential organization and smart storage solutions for a busy household.

A neutral, clean palette serves as the canvas for exceptional craftsmanship and material innovation. The interior celebrates the natural warmth of wood, showcased through grain-matched walnut veneers, custom textural walnut ribbed paneling, and a hand-welded, walnut-capped handrail. This organic richness is balanced by the artisanal application of tadelakt finishes on the stove hood and fireplace, and a custom stain on red oak doors that unifies the home's aesthetic. Attention to detail is evident in the challenging execution of drywall return extension jambs at the windows and new patio doors, creating a sharp, trimless look that emphasizes the project's modern architectural language.

Innovation drives the home's daily functionality. The kitchen features a walk-through pantry and height-accessible, down-lit storage at the stove. We utilized FENIX—a self-healing, fingerprint-resistant material—throughout the laundry, pantry, and stove areas to ensure long-term durability. Significant technical planning went into integrating a Strutter window system capable of withstanding the harsh Minnesota climate, ensuring the new design is as resilient as it is beautiful. From the once-confusing front entry to the deep integrated storage at the fireplace, every square foot was reimagined to offer sophistication at ease, delivering a design-forward sanctuary that remains profoundly welcoming.



Meeting Client Objectives:

- Modernize home design
- Open views to lake
- Warm, inviting, design-forward space
- Incorporate smart storage

Functionality:

- Integrated living room storage
- Converted garage to utility space
- Clarified front entry experience
- Accommodate large family gatherings

Aesthetics:

- Modern, crisp lines
- Open and inviting
- Neutral, welcoming palette
- Effortless sophistication

Craftsmanship:

- 2nd floor structural bump out
- Artisanal tadelakt finishes
- Trimless, crisp window returns
- Custom ribbed walnut paneling
- Hand-welded, walnut-capped rail

Innovation:

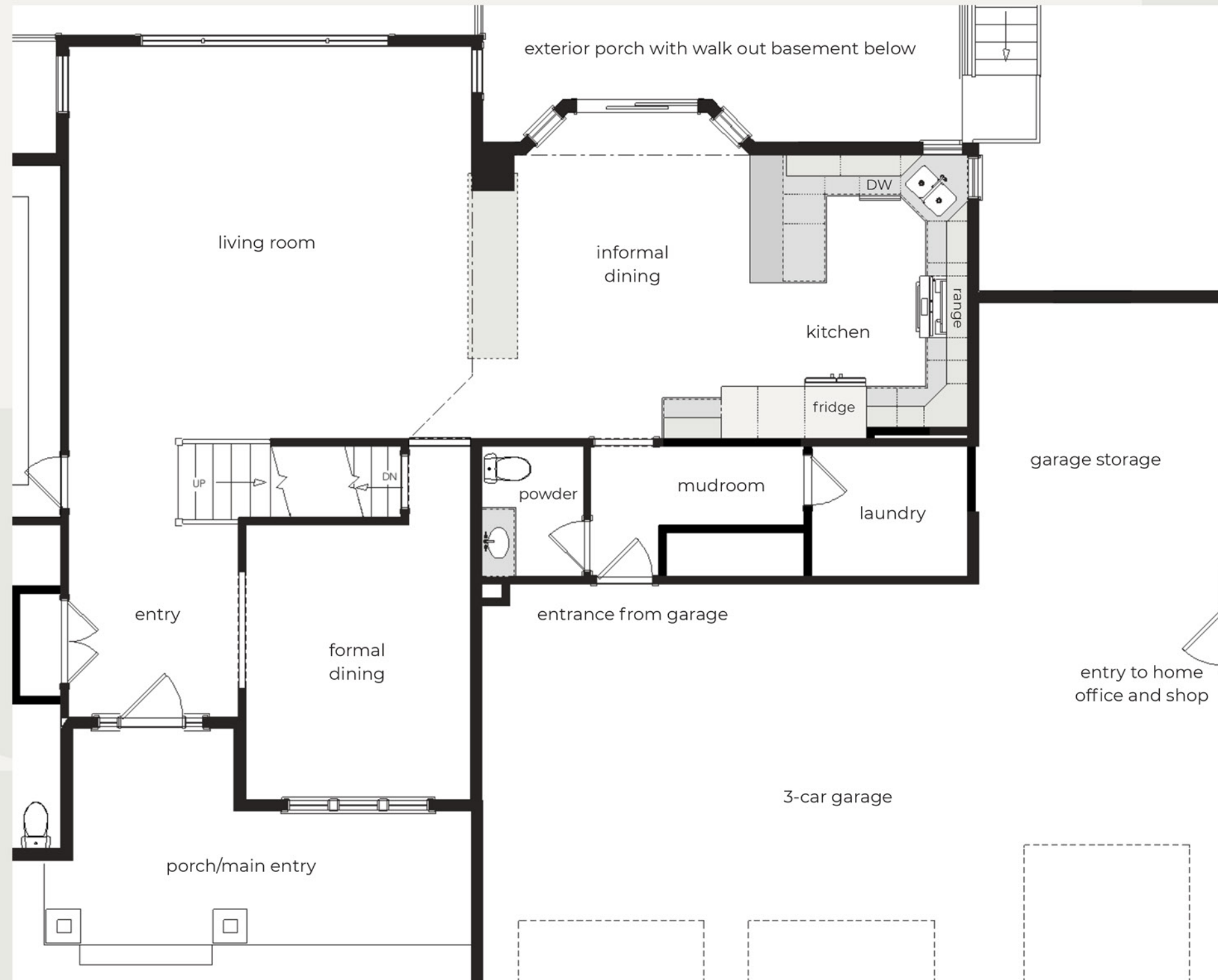
- Climate-resilient service window
- Accessible down-lit hood storage
- Systems with seamless integration
- Durable, self-healing FENIX surfaces

PLAN TIME

90's angles and curves prevailed throughout from the windows to the kitchen and bay window

dated built-in features broke up the space making it feel extremely disconnected

the pushed back entrance was easy to miss, with dated brick and cement stoop



BEFORE

with a multi-level separated workshop and garage connected to the home office, the former garage storage area was not needed (second garage and home office not shown)

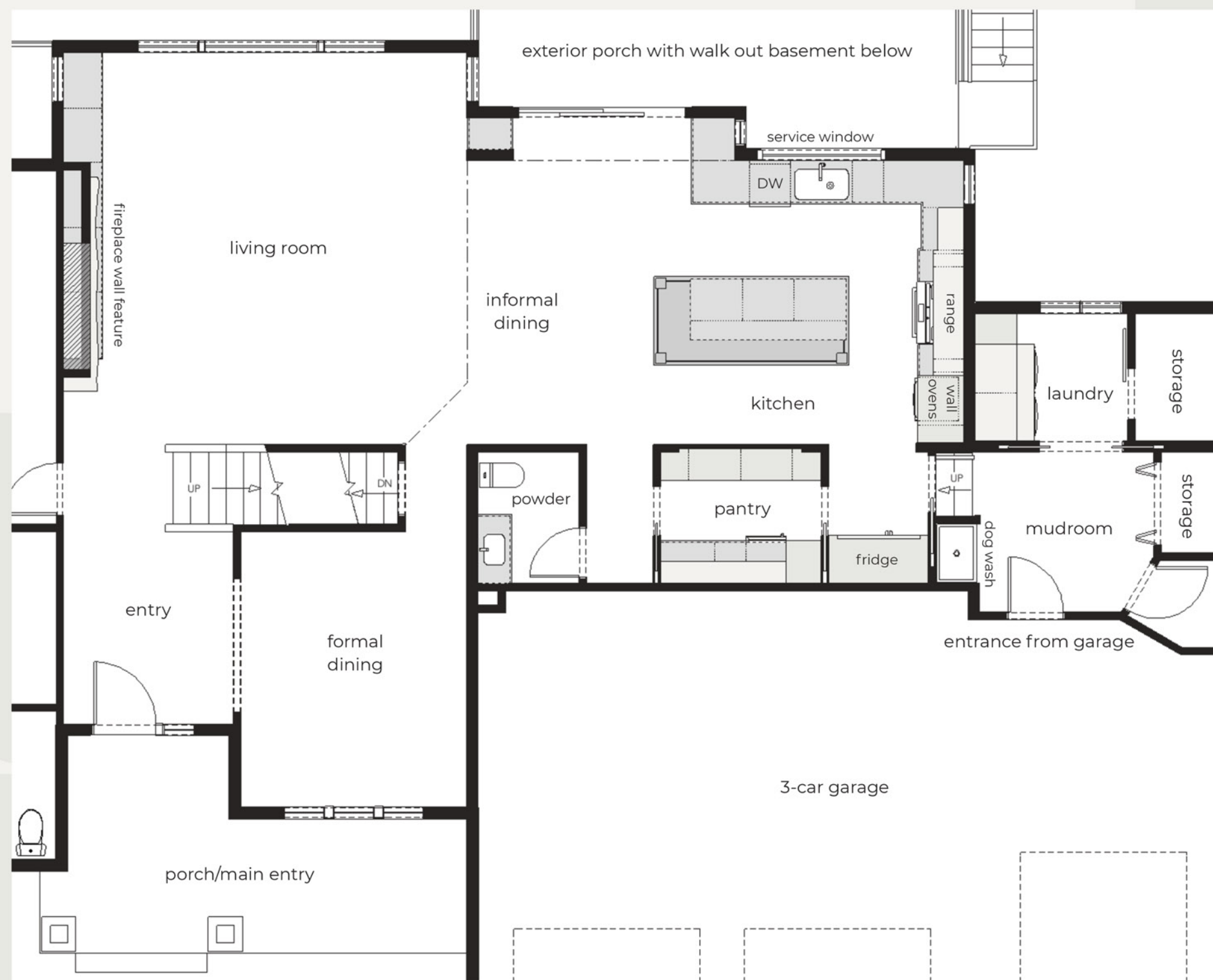
the entrance to the home office was disconnected and riddled with piles of storage. It also has it's own entry from the driveway which would often be confused as the homes main entry

PLAN TIME

a micro-addition/bump out squares off the entrance to the 2nd level porch. A structural beam is concealed with a wall hosting component storage and and accent light above

the space is opened up for easy large group entertaining, a frequent activity in this household

added maintenance-free 'wood' applied to the existing beams and ceiling make the front entry shine. With a new modern door and some fresh porch decor, there is no confusion on where to enter as a guest



AFTER

under-utilized space turns into productive utility space for a new mudroom, organized storage and a dog wash feature (3 lake-swimming pups live in this home!)

there is still plenty of space to park (x3) cars. There is now a direct walkway to get to the main part of the house from the office and garage/workshop

MEETING CLIENT OBJECTIVES

- Open views to lake
- Modernize home design
- Warm, inviting, design-forward space
- incorporate smart storage

Lake views.

Reconfiguring the main level layout and introducing expansive patio openings establishes uninterrupted, dramatic sightlines to the water while bathing the interior in rich natural light.

Modernize.

Transforming a once-segmented floor plan into an open-concept sanctuary creates a fluid visual flow defined by crisp architectural lines and high-end material finishes.



Design-forward yet warm and inviting.

Clean modern minimalism is balanced by organic textures, layering grain-matched walnut and artisanal tadelakt finishes to cultivate an atmosphere that is both design-forward and deeply welcoming.



Smart storage.

Engineered for effortless daily living, concealed storage solutions—including integrated living room joinery and a walk-through pantry—keep the home beautifully uncluttered.



FUNCTIONALITY

- Integrated living room storage
- Converted garage to utility space
- Clarified front entry experience
- Accommodate large family gatherings

Feature storage.

Multi-functional storage extends throughout the main floor, featuring deep hearth cabinetry, custom-designed sofa tables, and touch-activated hidden storage integrated directly into the kitchen hood surround.

Garage to utility.

Repurposing underutilized garage space creates a high-performance utility hub complete with a custom mudroom, laundry center, closet storage, and dedicated dog wash station with inclusive storage in the pull out steps.



Front entry clarity.

Redesigning the front entrance replaces a once-confusing arrival experience with an intuitive, gracious threshold featuring low-maintenance 'wood' elements, custom large door handles, and an enlarged sidelight.



Accommodate large gatherings.

Removing a heavy central fireplace and storage unit, opens up the main level format, creating a seamless indoor-outdoor layout tailored effortlessly for hosting large family gatherings.



AESTHETICS

- Modern, crisp lines
- Open and inviting
- Effortless sophistication
- Neutral, welcoming palette

Modern.

Precision trimless drywall return extension jambs across all window and door installations reinforce a sharp, minimalist architectural language throughout the home.

Open and inviting.

Broad connections to the surrounding landscape fill the space with light, pairing open-concept living with warm, tactile materials that invite comfort.



Effortless sophistication.

Built in modern appliances upgrade the kitchen experience. Each appliance was not only selected for it's functionality, but also had to be completely black, or panel-ready.



Neutral, welcoming palette.

A family that loves the character of wood ensured this design would be filled with inviting, natural warm tones. The trick was getting a variety of wood species to flow seamlessly by custom staining red oak doors and ensuring warm walnut and light floors would balance throughout.



CRAFTSMANSHIP

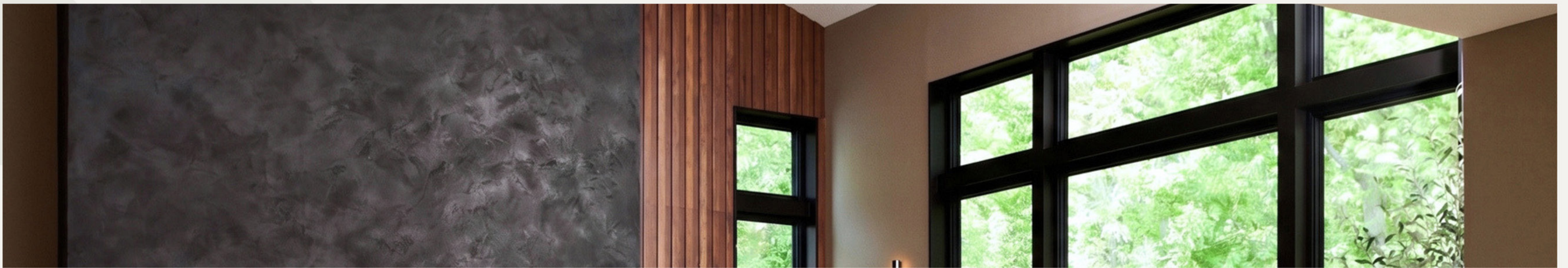
- Artisanal tadelakt finishes
- 2nd floor structural bump out
- Trimless, crisp window returns
- Custom ribbed walnut paneling
- Hand-welded, walnut-capped rail

Black tadelakt.

Hand-troweled plaster finishes on the stove hood and fireplace surround introduce soft, tactile texture and bespoke artisanal character to the contemporary architecture.

Second floor bump out.

Replacing a bay window, a complex structural cantilever was created to expand the main-level living space, offering a more clean and modern experience



Window returns.

Borderless drywall returns eliminate traditional casing across all primary windows, creating a clean, modern frame around natural views.



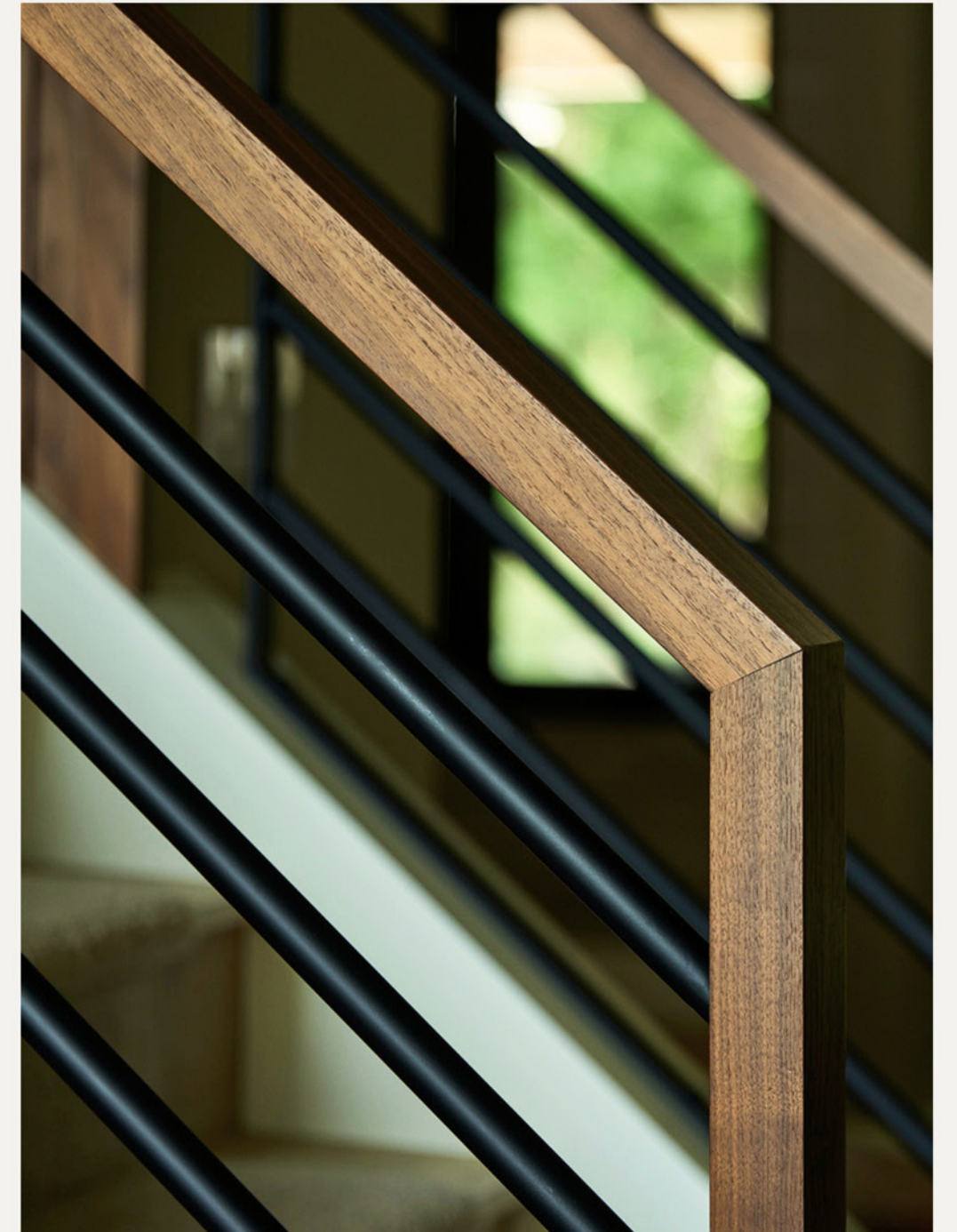
Ribbed walnut paneling.

Custom-milled floor-to-ceiling walnut paneling adds architectural depth, acoustic dampening, and rich tactile texture.



Walnut and metal railing.

A custom hand-welded steel railing capped with a warm walnut rail that waterfalls to the floor anchors the main staircase as a central visual focal point.



INNOVATION

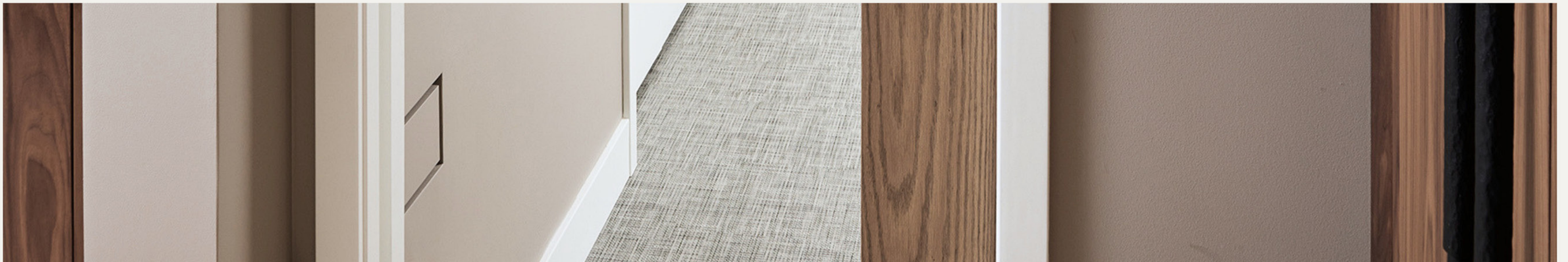
- Systems with seamless integration
- Climate-resilient service window
- Accessible down-lit hood storage
- Durable, self-healing FENIX surfaces

Seamless integration.

Concealed mechanical systems, such as sill outlets and flush vents, keep hard working systems from interfering with the clean aesthetic.

Climate resilient service.

A high-performance service window system was engineered specifically to withstand harsh local weather while maintaining effortless pass-through functionality to the lakefront deck.



Clever hidden storage.

Custom storage integrated directly into the stove surround features built-in ambient lighting for immediate, ergonomic access to essential items without disturbing the kitchen's visual profile.



Self-healing surfaces.

Ultra-matte, fingerprint-resistant FENIX surfaces bring long-term durability and thermal scratch recovery to high-use kitchen, pantry, dog wash, and laundry zones.



BEFORE & AFTER

Squaring off the original arched opening immediately establishes clean, intentional sightlines from the entryway into the main dining room. Replacing the dated railing, a custom metal and walnut handrail pairs with vertical wooden slatting to frame the staircase with architectural depth, while rich grasscloth wallpaper elevates the dining space with subtle, organic texture.



BEFORE



AFTER

BEFORE & AFTER

Replacing a dated railing and eliminating visual clutter transforms the once-disjointed entry into a welcoming, cohesive threshold. A sleek, modern railing opens up the sightlines, while a newly introduced corner fireplace feature serves as an architectural anchor, drawing guests naturally forward into the main living space.



BEFORE



AFTER

BEFORE & AFTER

Removing dated 1990s curved windows and heavy, light-blocking grilles completely revitalizes the primary view. In their place, expansive modern windows feature clean, uninterrupted glass, effortlessly framing the surrounding landscape and maximizing the lake's natural light.



BEFORE



AFTER

BEFORE & AFTER

Eliminating an awkward fireplace partition breaks open the layout, establishing a continuous and harmonious spatial flow. Aligning the adjacent corner window with the main feature window wall corrects original architectural misalignments and creates a unified, intentional design.



BEFORE



AFTER

BEFORE & AFTER

Repurposing underutilized garage space creates a high-performance utility hub anchored by durable FENIX cabinetry and designer-forward hard-working vinyl flooring. Built-in storage stairs pull out leading the way to a custom dog wash station, while the opposing walls (not shown) conceal closet storage, keeping daily household essentials organized and out of sight.



BEFORE



AFTER



AFTER

BEFORE & AFTER

Replacing a light-blocking front door with a modern glass door and sidelight immediately floods the entry with natural light. Removing the awkwardly positioned closet makes way for a simplified, high-end drop zone, beautifully grounded by a warm, organic accent fixture that sets an inviting tone upon arrival.



BEFORE



AFTER

BEFORE & AFTER

Removing heavy upper cabinets and replacing an awkward, small window with an expansive service window completely opens up sightlines to the outdoors. Eliminating the cramped peninsula in favor of a generous central island creates an open, connected layout tailored for effortless entertaining.



BEFORE



AFTER

BEFORE & AFTER

Replacing a clunky, closed-off partition and angled bay window with a clean, squared-off bump-out dramatically improves spatial efficiency and architectural flow. An expansive sliding patio door strengthens connection to the lake, while the newly structured footprint accommodates both expanded kitchen cabinetry and a dedicated, discrete internet hub on the opposing wall.



BEFORE



AFTER

BEFORE & AFTER

Eliminating a cramped peninsula, busy tile, and outdated appliances transforms the kitchen into a sleek, functional showcase. Highlighted by state-of-the-art integrated appliances and a custom tadelakt hood with hidden storage, the new design centers on a generous island that maximizes lake views and indoor-outdoor connectivity.



BEFORE



AFTER

BEFORE & AFTER

Thoughtful functional innovation extends into the adjacent pantry, where custom cabinetry conceals a dedicated Roomba dock and charging station to maintain sleek, uncluttered floor lines throughout the space.



BEFORE



AFTER



AFTER

BEFORE & AFTER

Removing restrictive objects converts a squeezed, informal dining area into a spacious, light-filled gathering hub. Opening the layout connects dining and cooking spaces effortlessly, allowing ample seating for large gatherings while establishing the redesigned kitchen as one of the home's primary architectural statement pieces.



BEFORE



AFTER



FIN.

Dismantling rigid boundaries and layering rich organic textures, transforms a dated floor plan into a high-performing, light-filled lakefront sanctuary.

The result is a design-forward home that effortlessly balances elevated indoor-outdoor entertaining with the intuitive demands of daily family life.

