



Canopy Porch
ADDITION PROJECT

Project Overview

Canopy Porch *Addition \$250,000 to \$500,000*

The Canopy Porch began with a simple problem: while the home offered plenty of indoor living space, its connection to the outdoors was limited, leaving a hilly, underused backyard that felt disconnected from daily life, and unsafe for young kids to play in. The homeowners wanted more than a traditional porch; they envisioned a true destination, an elevated outdoor room with its own architectural identity that still felt original to the home rather than an afterthought.

The design team responded by removing the original dining room window and replacing it with a dramatic bi-fold door system, turning a once-static boundary into a seamless connection between the kitchen/dining space and a new canopy-inspired porch. Infrared heaters and a fireplace — centered on the bi-fold doors for a striking interior view — extend the space into a comfortable four-season retreat, while Ipe flooring carries a natural, calming material palette from the porch straight through to the exterior deck.

Beyond the porch itself, the project reworked the site's access and grading to create a flat, safe play area for kids, and converted the space beneath the porch into a walkout lounge with a hot tub, with landscaping designed to tie it all together (featuring a stunning waterfall and koi pond). Practical engineering choices, like using the existing retaining walls as part of the new foundation, kept construction efficient without compromising the home's integrity. The result is a space built on precise craftsmanship at every connection point between old and new, one that flexes effortlessly from quiet, everyday use to large-scale entertaining.

The Canopy Porch is a successful example of how exceptional remodeling can transform both a structure and the way people live within it — going beyond the construction of an outdoor addition to create a new experience that seamlessly blends indoor and outdoor living.



Before, During & After



Clients Wants

- ❖ Create a meaningful connection between the interior of the home and the outdoor living space
- ❖ Improve flow for entertaining and everyday living
- ❖ Design an addition that felt original to the home's architecture, not an afterthought
- ❖ Create a comfortable, protected outdoor environment with climates controls
- ❖ Add a strong architectural focal point that elevates the property's overall look
- ❖ Maximize views and usability of a sloped site that was previously wasted space
- ❖ Build in a play area for kids
- ❖ Allow the space to shift easily between intimate family time and large-scale entertaining



Project Challenges

“Every challenge presented an opportunity to refine the design and elevate the final result.”



Problem: The existing home had the indoor space the homeowners needed, but a limited connection to the outdoors that left the property's potential underused.

Solution: Designed the "Canopy Porch" as a destination-level addition, not a traditional porch, to fully reimagine the relationship between home and landscape.

Problem: A new porch risked feeling attached to the home rather than part of it.

Solution: Gave extensive attention to proportion, detailing, and transitions to achieve full architectural integration rather than a bolted-on addition.

Problem: Converting an existing window into a large bi-fold door opening meant significantly altering a structural and architectural feature of the home.

Solution: Coordinated the modification carefully to turn that opening into a major architectural feature, dramatically improving the interior-exterior connection.

Problem: Executing an ambitious new vision risked compromising the integrity of the existing structure.

Solution: Kept protection of the existing home as a constant priority throughout construction, treating each challenge as a chance to refine the design further.

Functionality

- ❖ Replaced the original dining room window with a large bi-fold door system, removing the visual barrier between interior and exterior and letting the two spaces function as one when entertaining
- ❖ Reworked access to the deck and lower level, creating a flat, safe play area on the side of the house — the existing backyard's steep grade felt unsafe for young kids
- ❖ Bumped out and squared off the kitchen wall for additional interior space
- ❖ Added infrared heaters and a fireplace, extending the 3-season porch into 4-season use
- ❖ Used the concrete retaining walls as part of the new porch's foundation — the sandy, tight soil meant this required only one excavation and preserved the footing space
- ❖ Designed the porch's roofline and proportions to read as a natural extension of the home rather than a separate structure
- ❖ Improved natural light, views, and movement flow between indoor and outdoor spaces



Aesthetic Vision

- ❖ Centered the fireplace on the new bi-fold doors, creating a focal view from the interior kitchen and dining space
- ❖ Used Ipe flooring to feel natural underfoot and to flow visually from the porch to the exterior deck
- ❖ Kept the palette calm and natural, letting the surrounding landscape stand out
- ❖ Approached the porch as a destination in itself, not a conventional addition — giving it its own strong architectural identity
- ❖ Designed canopy-inspired architecture to create drama and a distinct outdoor room
- ❖ Balanced a sense of enclosure and comfort with an open relationship to the landscape
- ❖ Gave careful attention to proportion, scale, and the transition between the existing home and the addition
- ❖ Blended contemporary functionality with timeless detailing, so the result feels distinctive yet true to the original home
- ❖ Achieved a visual impact that's striking without overpowering the existing architecture



Craftsmanship & Innovation

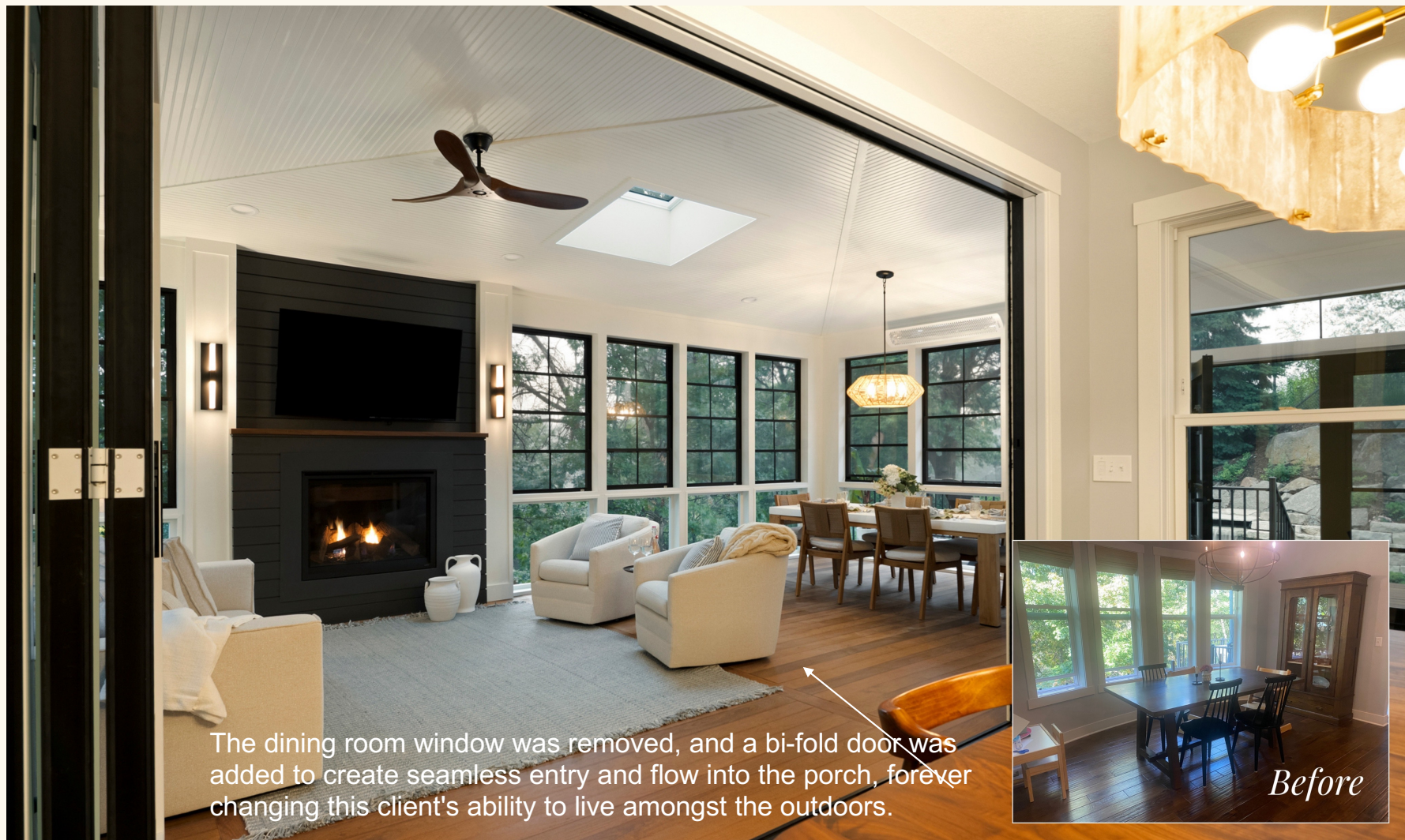


- ❖ Converted the space beneath the porch into an easy walkout from the basement, adding a lounge area and hot tub at ground level
 - ❖ Designed the landscaping around this walkout, creating a seamless connection from the addition above down to the hot tub lounge area below
- ❖ Used EZ screens to retain warmth and natural breeze while helping lower overall construction cost
- ❖ Added insulation to the deck below and the ceiling to address winter drafts
- ❖ Used the retaining walls as footings, letting one feature serve a dual purpose
- ❖ Carefully considered every connection point between old and new for continuity in appearance, performance, and long-term durability
- ❖ Demanded a high level of craftsmanship in:
 - ❖ Architectural integration with the existing home
 - ❖ Structural transitions between the original structure and the new addition
 - ❖ Coordination of the large opening and bi-fold door system
 - ❖ Material transitions between interior and exterior spaces
 - ❖ A cohesive relationship between architecture, outdoor living, and landscape
- ❖ Replaced a traditional window opening with a dramatic operable wall system, turning a static boundary into an adaptable connection between two living environments
- ❖ Gives the homeowners a home that feels different depending on season, weather, and occasion

Before, During & After



Before and After



The dining room window was removed, and a bi-fold door was added to create seamless entry and flow into the porch, forever changing this client's ability to live amongst the outdoors.



Before



The Canopy Porch Project

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