



NARI MINNESOTA 2025 ROTY AWARDS

ENTIRE HOUSE OVER \$1,000,000

MEETING CLIENT NEEDS

PROJECT: Skaters Pond

CATEGORY: Entire House Over \$1,000,000

In 2014, our client purchased a cozy cottage on a pond, seeking a peaceful retreat for herself and her dogs. Over time, she befriended a local skating club that used the pond in winter and welcomed them into her basement as a warming hut. When she needed more space, she chose to stay rooted in the community she loved. Throughout the design process, she emphasized preserving the cottage charm while adding thoughtful, personal touches.

Before



VISION FULFILLED

PROJECT: Skaters Pond

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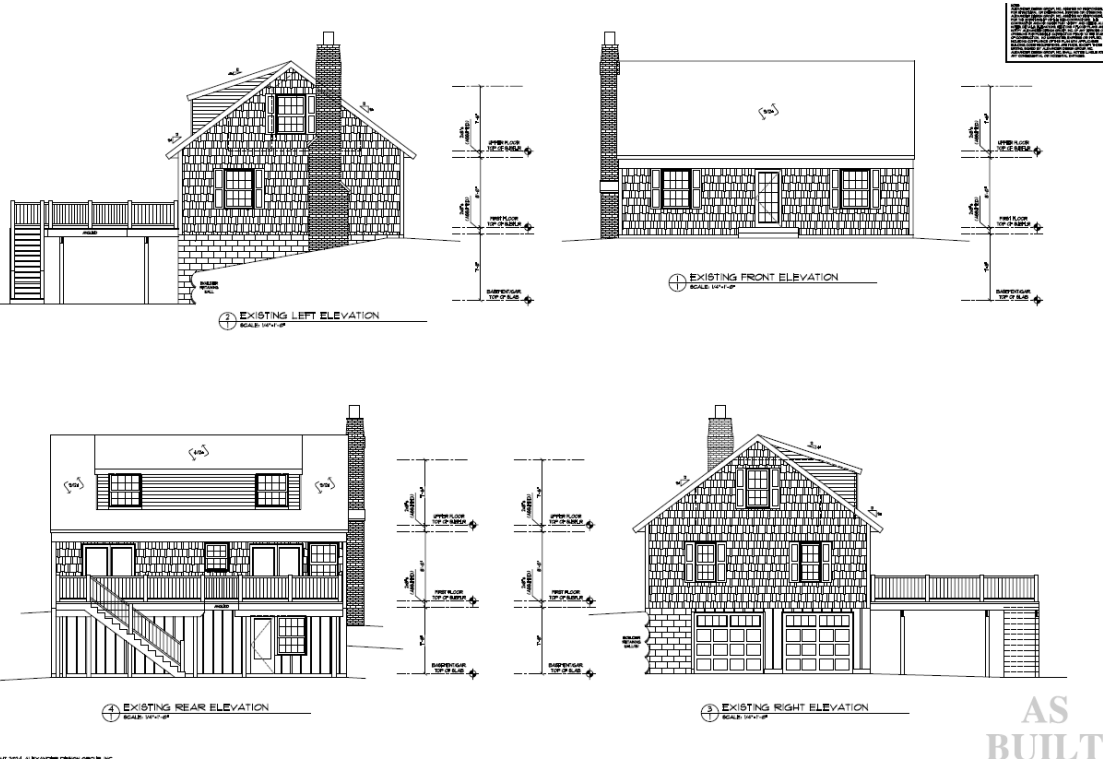
The result is a beautifully expanded home—twice the original size—blending warmth, character, and exceptional craftsmanship.

AFTER

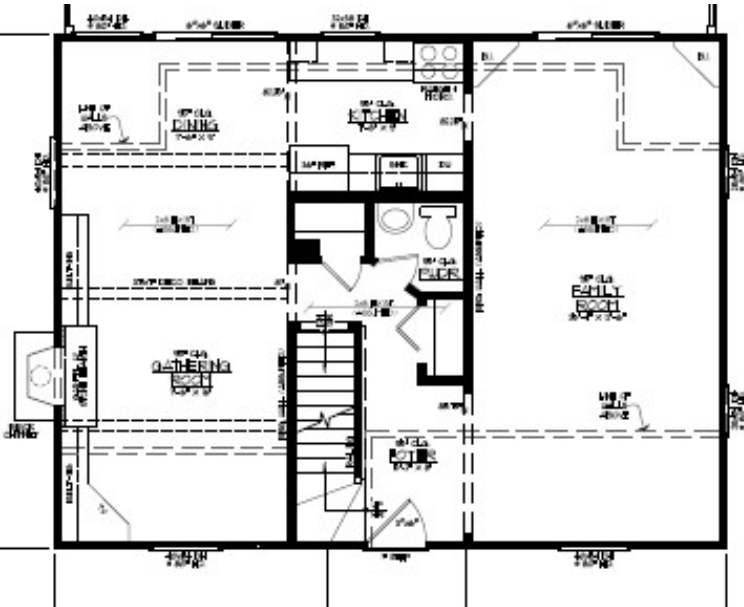


NARI ROTY AWARDS

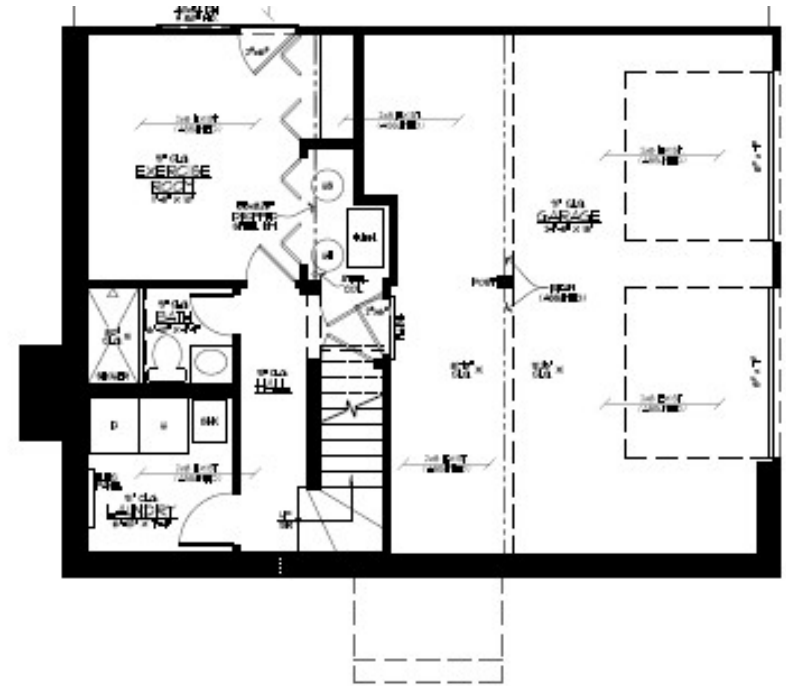
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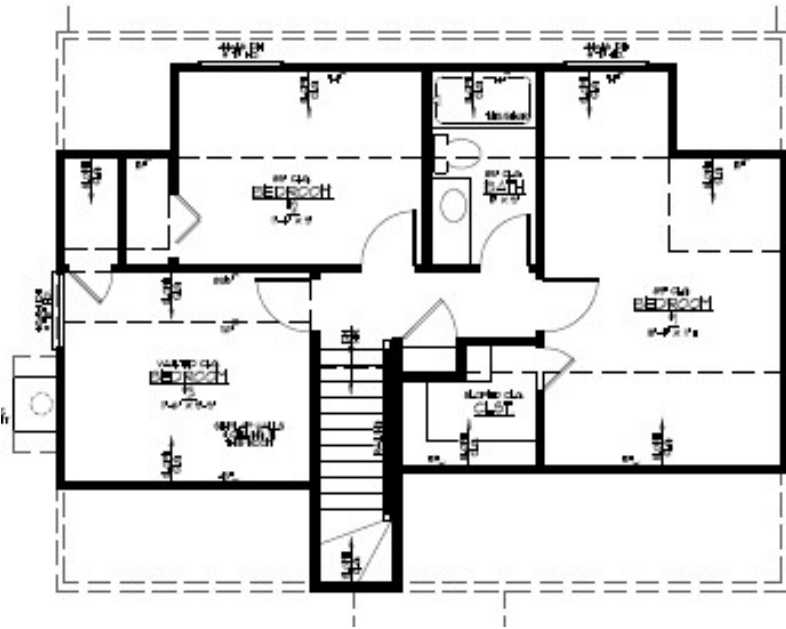
Main Level



Lower Level



Upper Level



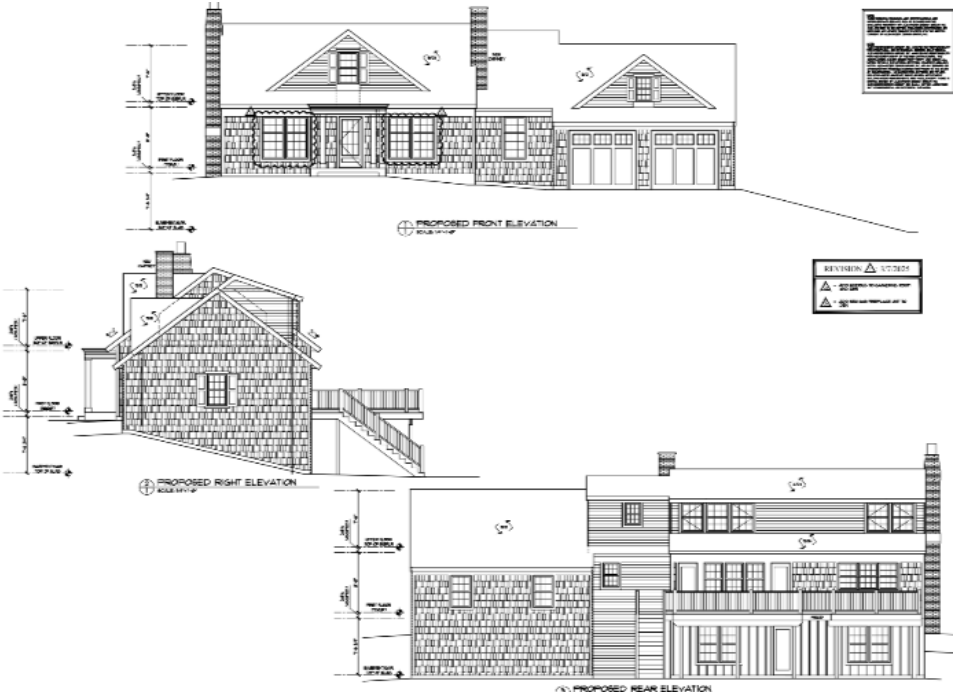
BEFORE

Nestled beside a peaceful pond, this charming cottage offered cozy appeal but limited space.

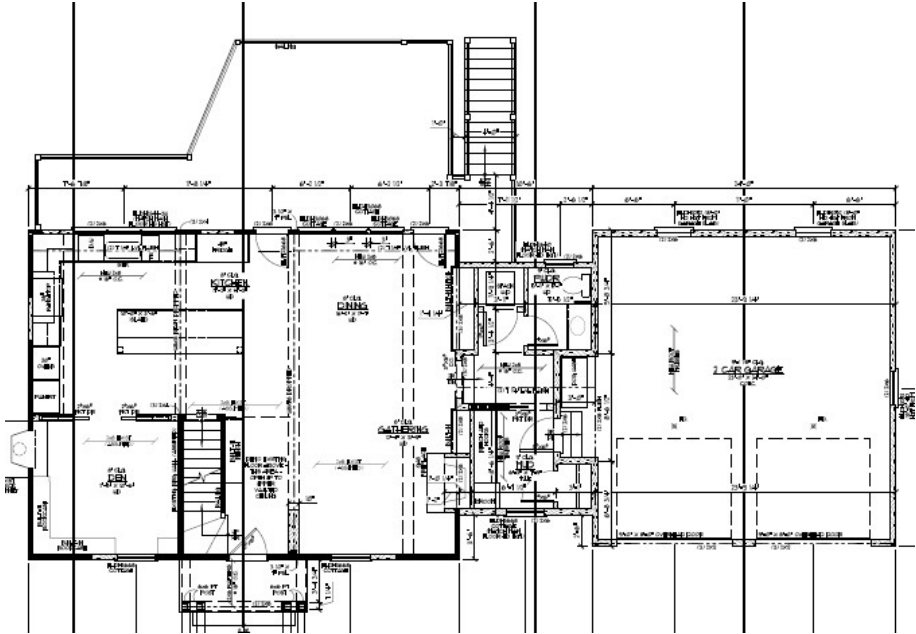
Our client cherished the original character and ambiance of the home and wanted to preserve its nostalgic charm.

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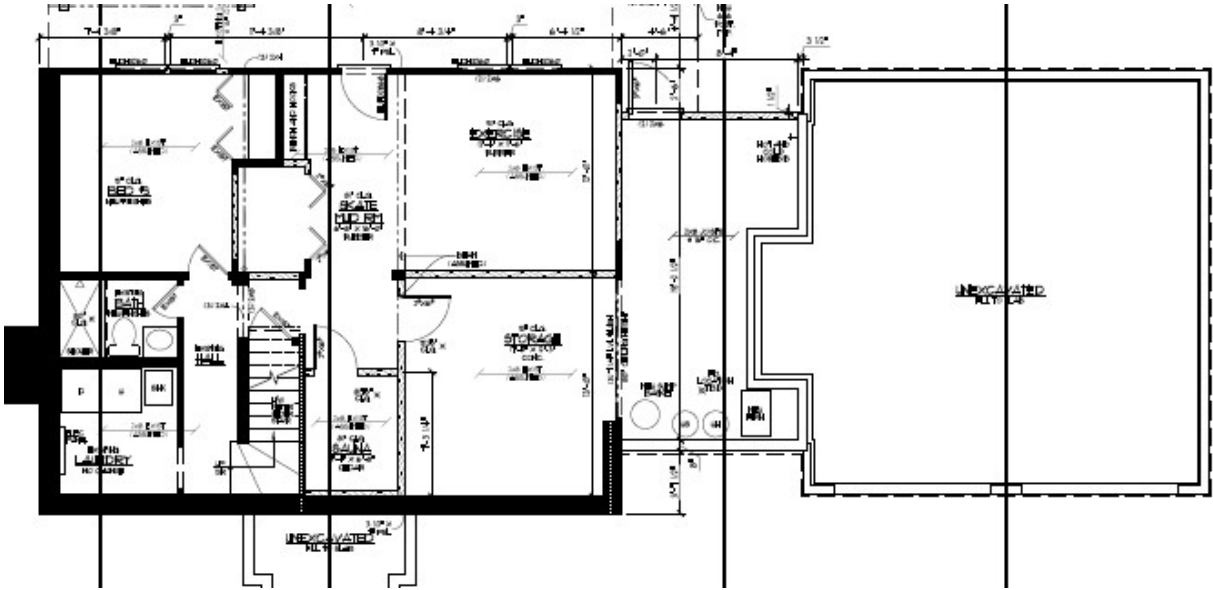
AFTER



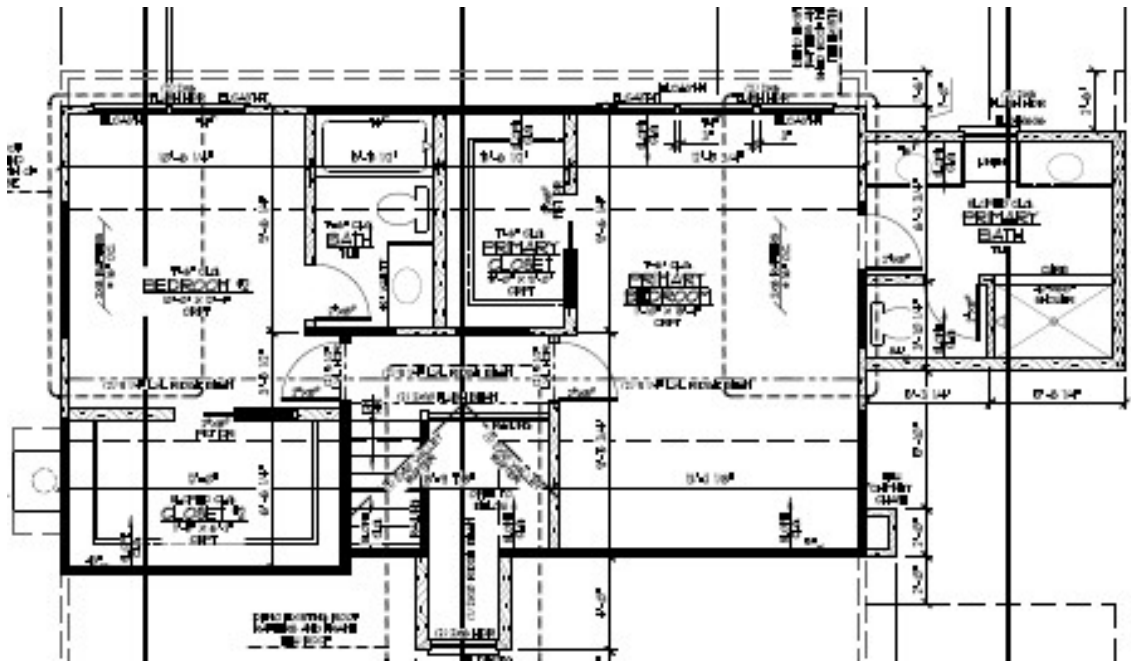
Main Level



Lower Level



Upper Level



The goal was to thoughtfully modernize both the interior and exterior of the cottage while expanding its footprint to better suit contemporary living—all without compromising the charm of the original retreat.

Extensive renovations were made to the existing structure, along with an addition of over 1,000 square feet.

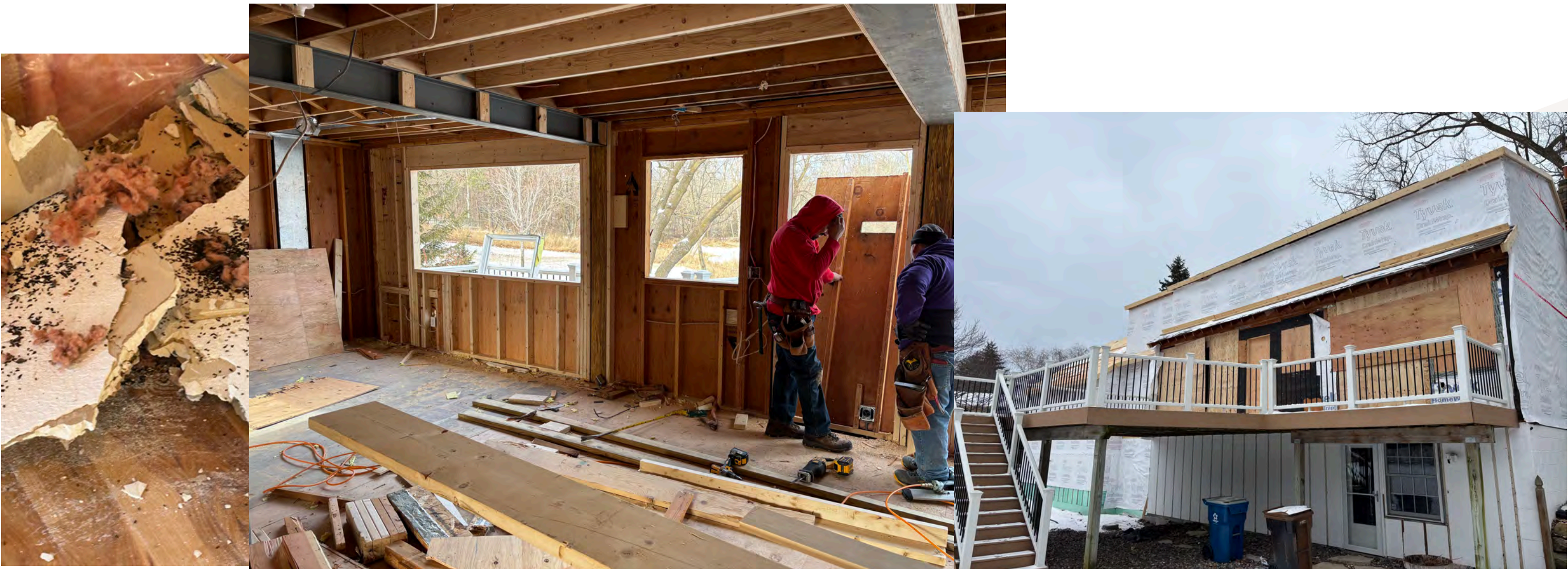
The final result is exactly what the client envisioned: a beautifully updated, modern cottage that still feels perfectly at home on her serene pondside property.

WORK IN PROCESS

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This project presented a variety of unexpected and complex challenges. Early demolition revealed extensive rot in the walls and a significant mouse infestation that required thorough remediation. Structural updates included the installation of two large steel beams to replace load-bearing walls, allowing for a more open and functional layout. Additionally, integrating the new construction with a previously built rear deck required careful planning and modification to ensure seamless transitions and structural integrity. Each obstacle was met with creative problem-solving and precise execution, contributing to the success of the final transformation.



REFINING SPACES

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AFTER

This kitchen renovation showcases a stunning transformation from a dated, narrow galley layout into a bright, open-concept space that beautifully embodies the charm of cottage style.

BEFORE



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FUNCTIONALITY & STYLE

The re-imagined kitchen design features a spacious footprint anchored by a custom furniture-style island, which serves as both a functional centerpiece and a visual nod to the cozy, timeless aesthetic our client envisioned. Thoughtful details like the ship-lap coffered ceiling, wall paneling, warm finishes, and a harmonious blend of vintage and modern elements bring the cottage feel to life, creating a welcoming environment that's as practical as it is picturesque.

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BEFORE



INSPIRING

The living room renovation showcases the dramatic impact of this project. By removing key load-bearing walls and replacing them with structural steel beams, the space was opened up to reveal a striking new entryway and staircase. Large windows were added to flood the room with natural light, enhancing the connection to the scenic pond views. The expanded footprint allowed for a cozy sitting area anchored by a new fireplace, blending warmth and comfort with a fresh, modern aesthetic.

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AFTER



TRANSFORMATION

This Primary Suite renovation redefines luxury and comfort, transforming a standard bedroom into a true retreat. By reimagining the layout and introducing new windows, the space now opens up to breathtaking views of the pond and surrounding nature—bringing the outdoors in and flooding the room with natural light. The result is a serene, elevated environment that blends elegance with tranquility, perfectly tailored to our client’s vision of a peaceful sanctuary.

BEFORE



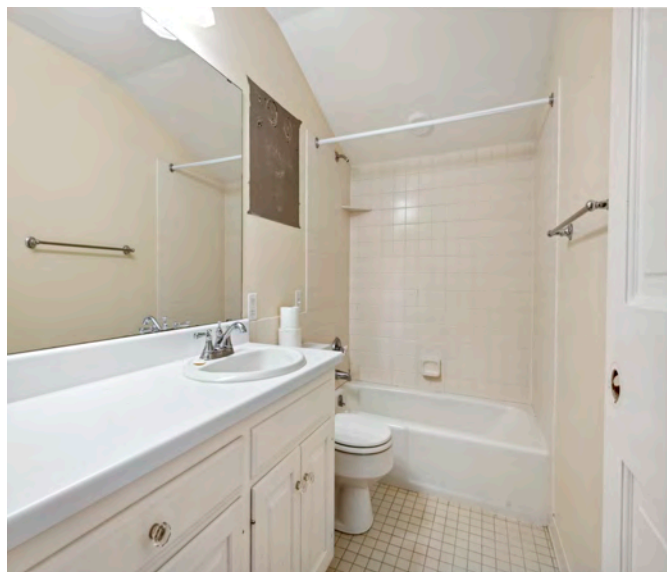
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REIMAGINED

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The Primary Bath was completely gutted and re imagined with new windows, finishes, shower, cabinets, lighting and closets.

BEFORE



AFTER



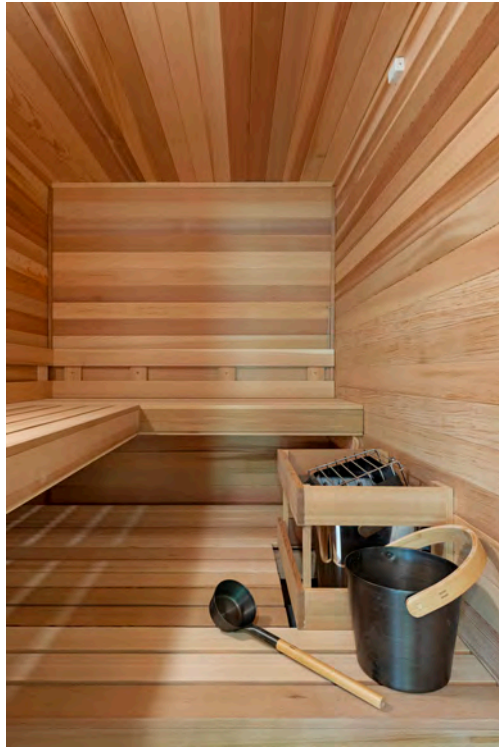
REFRESHING

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This renovation turned a once dark and confined space into a bright, inviting extra bedroom full of character and charm. By opening and extending the roof line, we were able to dramatically increase the room's volume and natural light, creating a spacious yet cozy retreat.

The thoughtful design and architectural changes gave us the opportunity to craft a “cute” and functional space that feels both fresh and timeless—perfectly suited for guests or family.





WARMING HUT

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The lower level was designed as a multi-functional retreat that reflects the client’s active lifestyle and love for winter sports. At its heart is a cozy skating warming hut, offering a welcoming space for the client and her skating friends to gather and escape the cold. This thoughtfully designed area includes a full exercise space, a rejuvenating sauna, custom lockers, and ample room for relaxation and socializing. The integration of wellness and community creates a unique lower level that’s both practical and inviting—perfect for warming up after a skate or winding down with friends.



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DETAILS



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DETAILS



BATHROOMS

PROJECT: Skaters Pond
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AFTER

BEFORE



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OPENING SPACES

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EXTERIOR

PROJECT: Skaters Pond

CATEGORY: Entire House Over \$1,000,000

AFTER

BEFORE



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EXTERIOR

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FURRY FRIENDS

PROJECT: Skaters Pond
CATEGORY: Entire House Over \$1,000,000

BEFORE



AFTER



KICKING BACK

PROJECT: Skaters Pond

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The End

