

NARI Minnesota 2026 RotY

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

The team reconfigured the main floor of this 1931 Tudor Revival to combine Scandinavian-inspired design with improved function. The renovation addressed limited kitchen workspace and storage, insufficient gathering space and inefficient circulation on the main level.

Rather than relocate, they chose to invest in the home and community they had valued for two decades, adapting the residence for the next stage of their lives. The completed remodel created an open kitchen and living area, added a functional mudroom/main level laundry and balanced refined design with everyday practicality. The result is a welcoming home suited to aging in place, family life, and entertaining.

The Client's Needs

- Expand the kitchen for preparation, storage, and entertaining.
- Open the main floor to add seating and entertaining space.
- Relocate laundry to the main floor.
- Add built-in cat towers.
- Integrate firewood storage and conceal fireplace media cords.
- Improve entry circulation and add a mudroom.
- Improve the home's aging infrastructure



BEFORE
PHOTOS

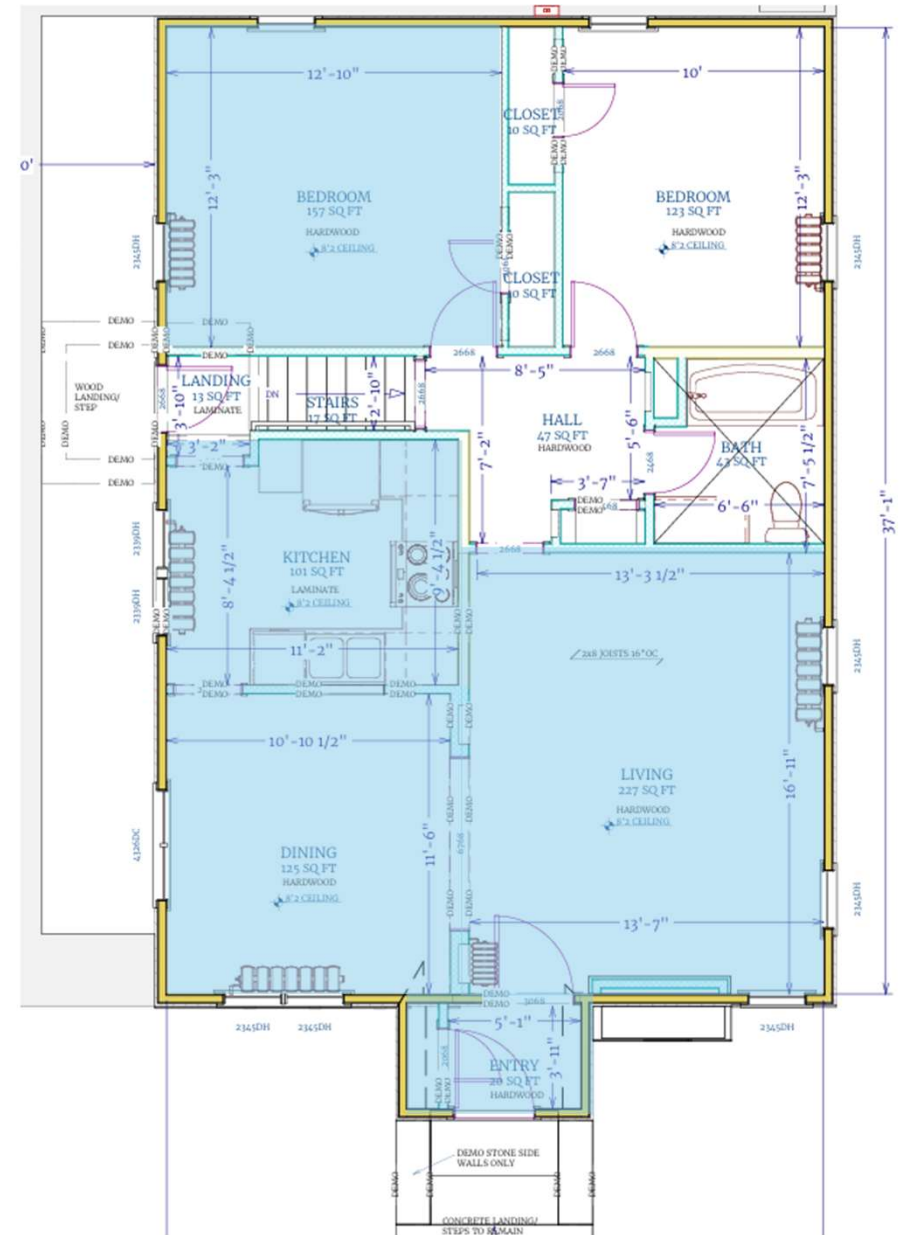


AS-BUILT MAIN LEVEL FLOOR PLAN

The as-built plan tells the story of a house organized the way 1930s architecture intended, but that isn't this family's story.

The original bones of this home were beautiful, like the classic Tudor arch between the dining room and living room, and the white oak floors that ran throughout. As with many other older homes, though, our clients' 1931 Tudor Revival wasn't keeping up. It was designed according to a specific architectural logic: a private kitchen, a small service entry, and walled-off rooms with rigidly assigned functions. That logic made sense in the 1930s. With over ninety years of life layered on top of it, the gaps between what the house was designed for and what this family needed had grown wide enough to trip on. Then there was the original building technology to consider.

The side-entry door of a 1931 South Minneapolis Tudor had been a problem for our homeowners since they purchased the property in 2005. At only 29 inches wide, the door could not even fully open from the outside. From carting sports gear and groceries to carrying pets and bulky strollers, the entire experience of getting into and out of such a tight area has been a recurring frustration over the years. In fact, once the family managed to get inside, they still needed to step onto a three-foot landing and navigate up two stairs past a radiator, only to arrive in an 8'x9' kitchen with no ideal drop zone.

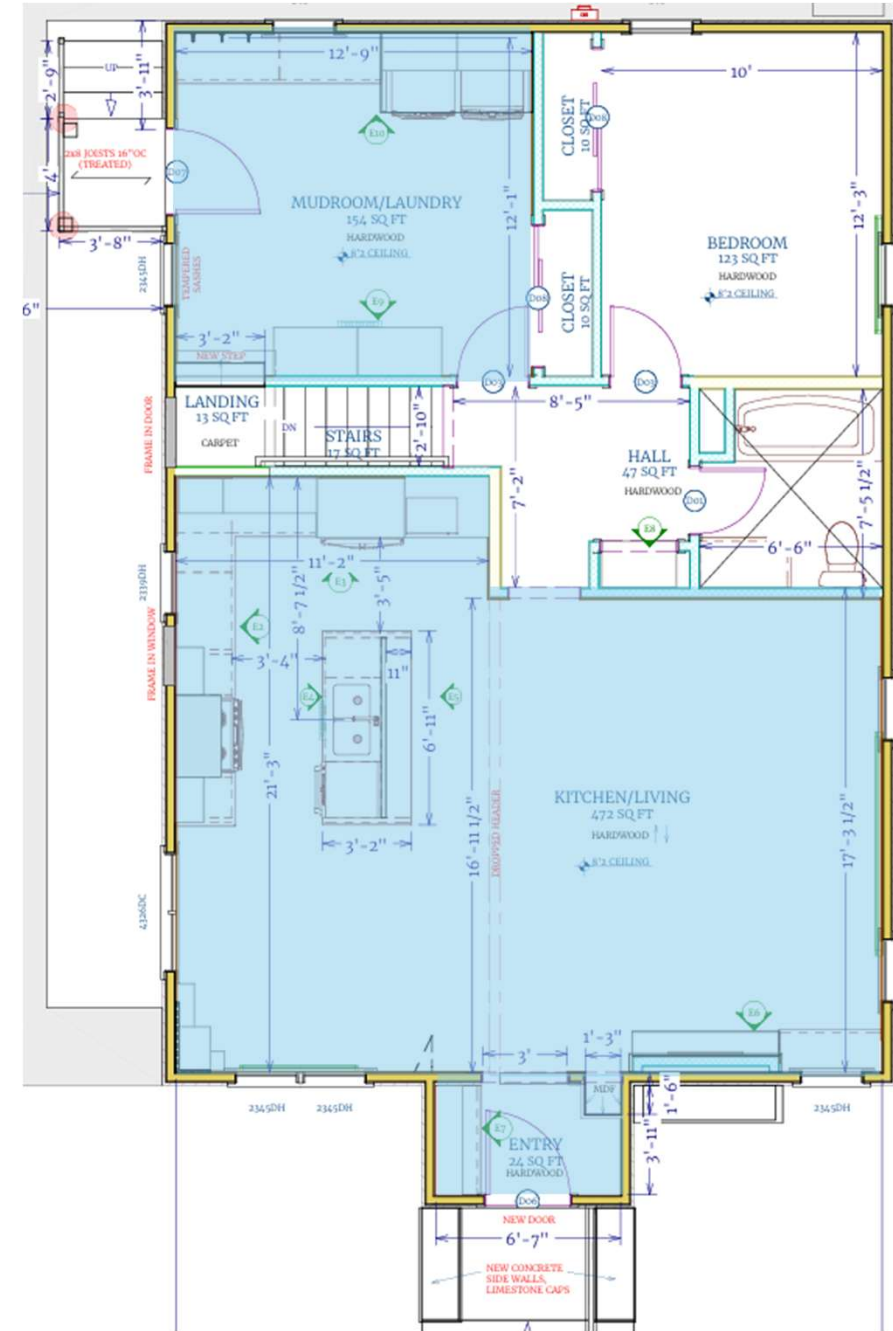


PROPOSED MAIN LEVEL FLOOR PLAN

With a strategic main level remodel, we'll help our clients stabilize the home's aging infrastructure. We'll also improve cramped circulation throughout the home, address daily frustrations, and revamp how they will live in their home as empty nesters who love to host family & friends.

Once compartmentalized rooms will be able to breathe as we demo the interior walls surrounding the kitchen, keeping the bathroom, all but one window, the original hardwood flooring, stone fireplace, and most of the kitchen appliances. Moving to a more open plan also means reworking the stairs to the lower level, maximizing the kitchen & entertaining spaces.

One of the back bedrooms was completely reimagined as a proper entryway into the home. With new exterior stairs, a larger entry door & multipurpose Mudroom, Laundry and Entry space, the homeowners can finally enter their home comfortably.



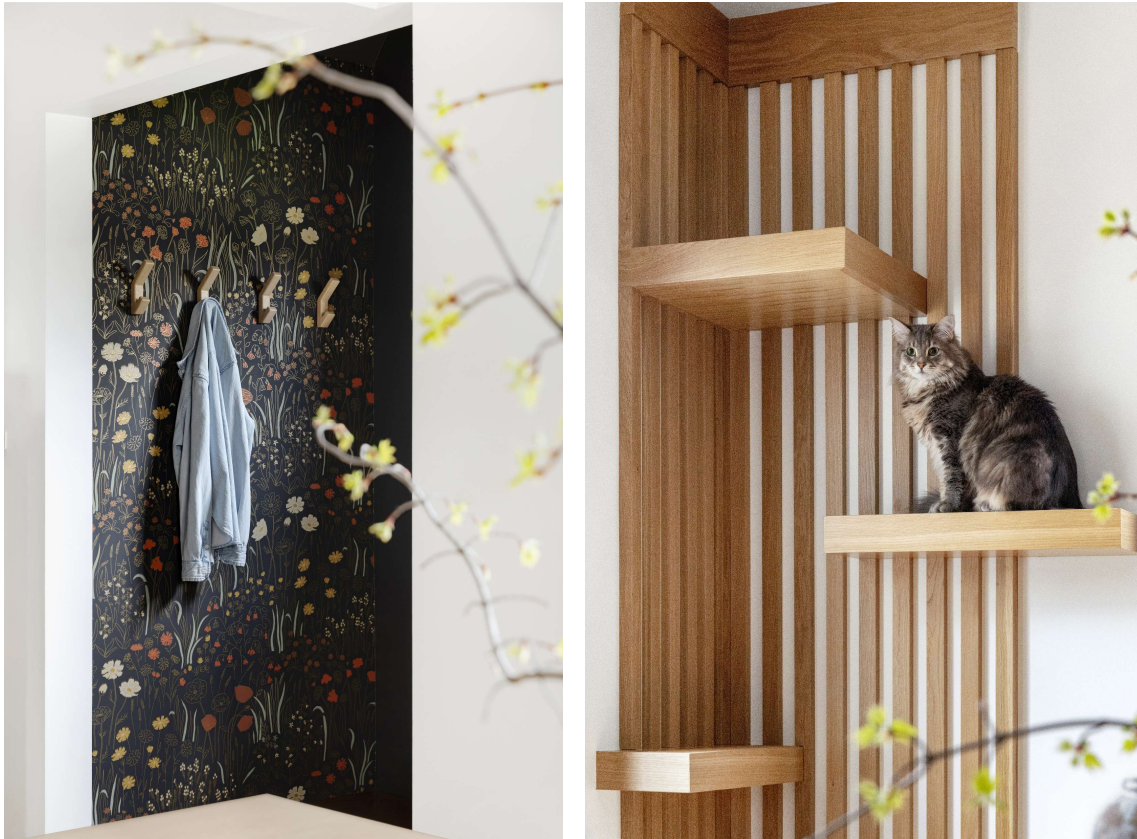
3D RENDERINGS & DESIGN DEVELOPMENT

A Scandinavian-inspired palette provides the architectural language for this remodel.

The clients came in with a clear direction: Scandinavian-inspired architecture. Part of the designer's job was creating a newly informed palette that could live comfortably inside a 95-year-old Tudor Revival without competing with its existing character. The result emphasizes warm white walls, natural white oak, and carefully placed dark cabinetry that enriches rather than overwhelms the home's original character.



AESTHETICS & STYLE



- The design was guided by Scandinavian principles, prioritizing simplicity, functionality, and a sense of calm throughout the home. Clean lines, thoughtful storage solutions, and a restrained material palette create a minimalist aesthetic while maintaining warmth and livability. A hygge-inspired approach influenced features such as the integrated firewood storage, adding both function and character to the living spaces.

- The renovation balances contemporary design with the character of the 1930s Tudor home. White oak cabinetry seamlessly integrates with the restored white oak flooring, and a hygge-inspired firewood storage feature adds warmth and texture. While the floor plan was opened to improve flow, select walls were retained to showcase meaningful artwork and personal collections, including a treasured wooden deer mount and a historic Minneapolis art piece.
- Thoughtful built-ins, including window seats, integrated storage, and custom cat towers, provide function without visual clutter, ensuring every element feels intentional and purposeful.



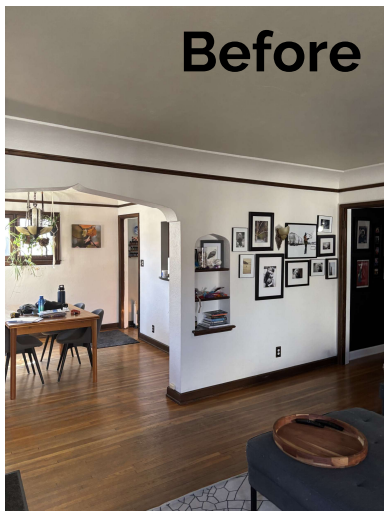


BEFORE VS AFTER REMODELING

Public spaces are now actually built for gathering.

One of the biggest motivators for the remodel was the connection among the kitchen, dining room, and living room, now envisioned as a single interconnected space.

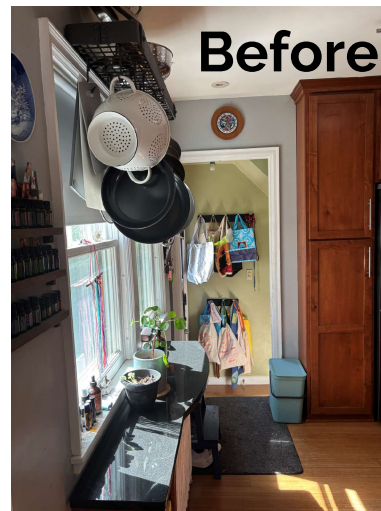
- The team worked with an engineer to specify a new LVL beam spanning the length of the dining room and kitchen to completely open that space to the living room beyond. Eating, enjoying a good show, sitting by the fireplace, cooking, entertaining: all of those things can now happen together in one open floor plan.
- With the walls gone, we could provide a spacious kitchen island with expansive prep space and offering a secondary dining zone for the family and for future get-togethers.
- By taking out a single window near the range, we could further adjust the kitchen layout, improve storage, and find the best placement for our clients' appliances. Likewise, with fewer interior walls, daylighting would not be a concern.



Before



Before

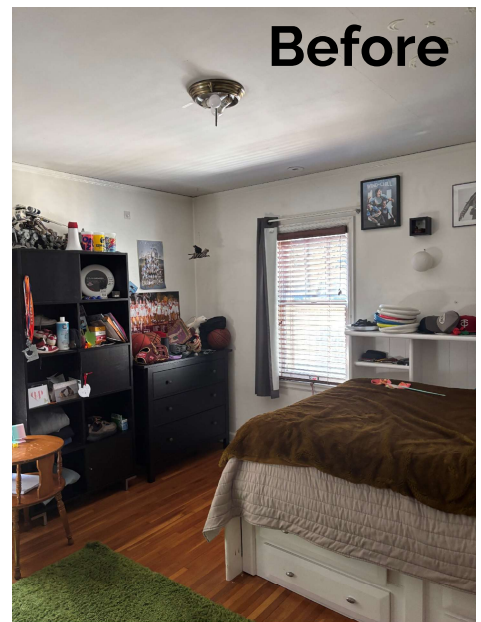
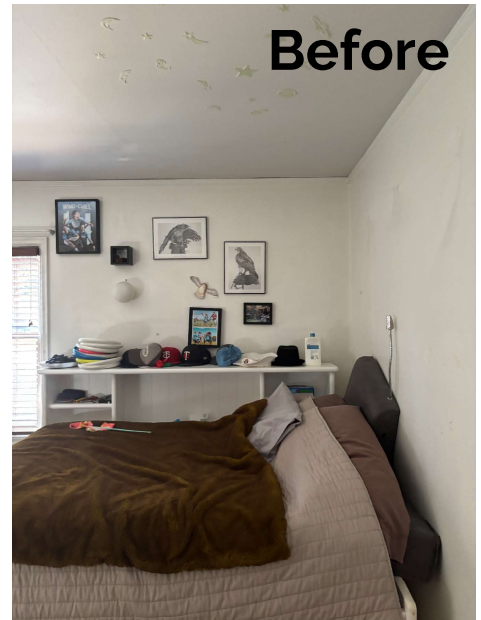


Before

BEFORE VS AFTER REMODELING

Mudroom and Laundry

- We removed the passageway from the stairs to the kitchen, which completely changed how we could adjust the kitchen layout beyond, from more cabinetry to improved circulation throughout the home.
- We positioned a larger entry door further toward the backyard, closer to their garage. Partnered with an added patio and adjustments to the interior stair, the frustratingly tight entry sequence will be fully resolved.
- We've added new laundry equipment, multiple storage cabinets, and an entry bench.



BEFORE VS AFTER REMODELING



Our clients presented a unique and delightful challenge: seamlessly integrating their love for their two large cats into a newly remodeled, open-concept kitchen and dining area without sacrificing the home's sophisticated aesthetic. The solution was a striking, custom-designed slat wall that serves a dual purpose as both a modern architectural focal point and a dedicated feline lounging space positioned adjacent to two large windows, so they'd be just as happy with the new space as everyone else.



Before



Before

AFTER PHOTOS



- The record collection had grown into a shared family hobby. A custom pull-out record station built into the cabinetry near the fireplace keeps it protected from the cats while still easily accessible.
- A large aerial print of Minneapolis has been waiting for the right wall for years. In the new plan, it anchors the back wall of the living room, opposite the fireplace, with downlighting planned right above it.

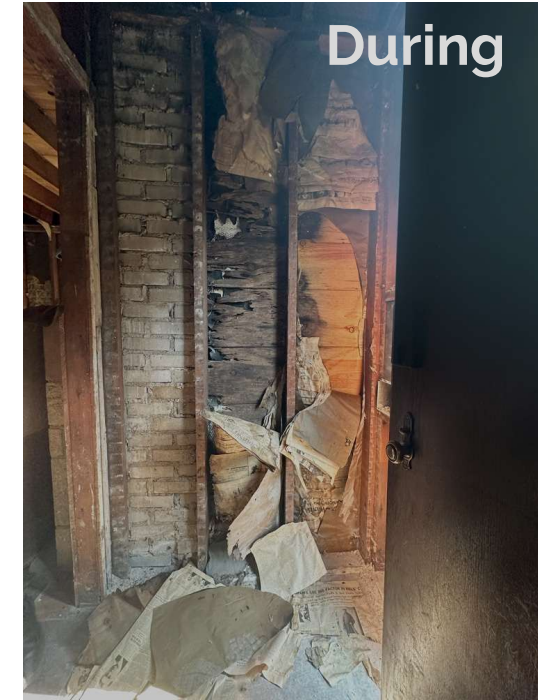


AFTER PHOTOS



PROJECT CHALLENGES

- The renovation began with a comprehensive energy audit, which uncovered several performance issues that informed the scope of the project. Insufficient insulation, aging building materials, and poor overall energy efficiency contributed to cold winters, stuffy summers, and inconsistent comfort throughout the home. These findings guided a series of upgrades aimed at improving durability, efficiency, and indoor comfort.
- As construction progressed, additional deficiencies were uncovered. Water intrusion through the stucco exterior had caused localized damage to the sheathing, and a deteriorated rim joist near a former dryer vent required replacement. Elevated radon levels detected in the basement also led to the installation of a radon mitigation system, enhancing the home's health and safety.
- To address both comfort and long-term performance, the main floor was fully gutted to the studs, allowing for the replacement of outdated 95-year-old electrical systems and the installation of spray-foam insulation throughout. The project also included an upgraded heating and cooling system with improved ventilation to better regulate temperatures year-round. To preserve the home's original character, the existing white oak floors were refinished and seamlessly patched where needed, blending new materials with the historic fabric of the house.



“From our very first meeting, their team stood out for their ability to truly listen. We have lived in the home for 21 years and love our neighborhood but came into the project with a long wish list of things we would change about our home. They translated that vision into a design that exceeded what we thought was possible.”

-South Minneapolis Homeowner