

Legacy on Prior Lake

Residential Exterior Over \$200,000



Project Overview

Perched above Prior Lake, this 1991-built home had potential but no longer met the needs of its long-time owners. The façade was flat and dated, with failing cedar siding, inefficient windows, and a too-small garage that lacked function. Disjointed rooflines and minimal architectural presence meant the home didn't reflect its lakefront setting. Inside, blocked sightlines left the home dark, segmented, and disconnected from the outdoors. The homeowners wanted to preserve the footprint but transform both the structure and envelope into a modern, durable retreat ready for multigenerational gatherings.

The renovation began with a complete rebuild of the exterior. The exterior was stripped to the studs, and new continuous insulation, fiber cement siding, and Andersen windows provided durability, efficiency, and long-term performance. The garage was enlarged and rebuilt with a full second story, creating much-needed functionality and guest accommodations while staying within strict zoning and hardscape limits. The entry was reimaged with a covered porch and bold black front door, giving the home a welcoming focal point and architectural balance.

Rooflines across the front, west, and lakeside elevations were extended and refined, bringing order and cohesion to the home's form. On the lakeside, enlarged black-trimmed windows and a reconfigured roofline over the deck created a seamless connection to the outdoors, with daylight and sweeping views flooding the interiors. Cedar corbels and gabled detailing added structural strength and visual rhythm, grounding the home in its natural setting.

The result is a whole-home transformation that balances planning precision with architectural impact—durable, functional, and designed to last for generations.



AFTER

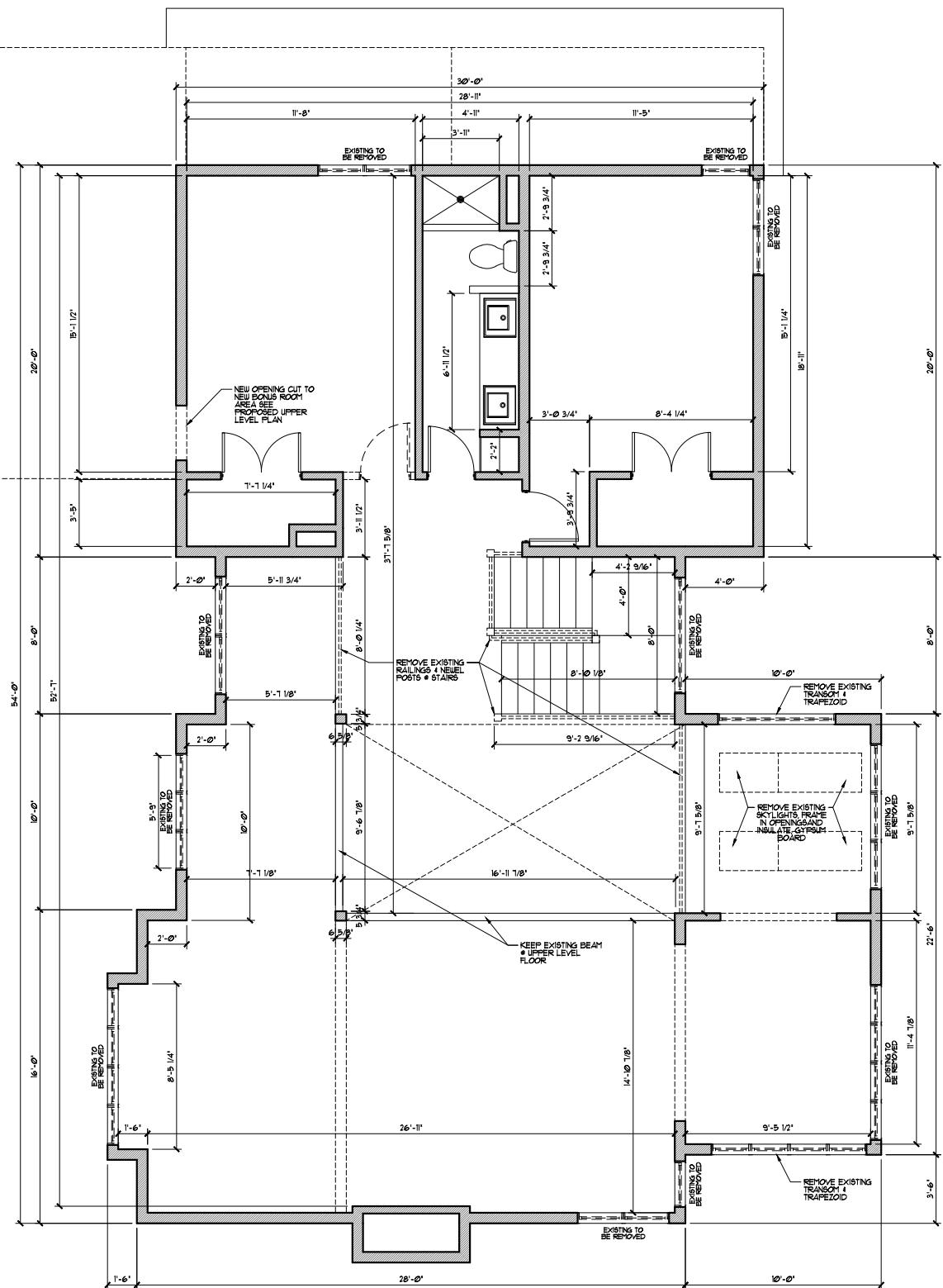
Floor Plan Upper Level

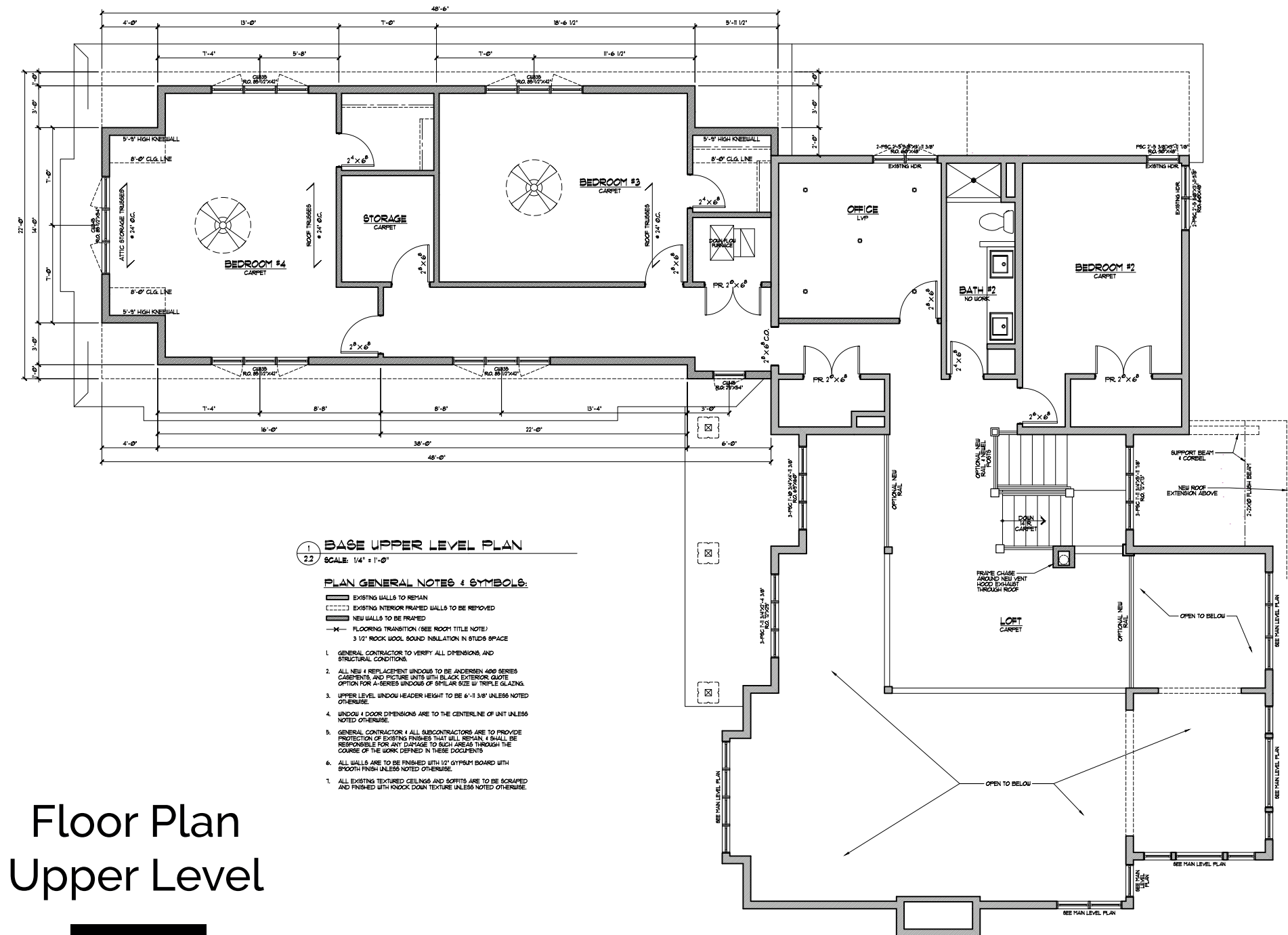
BEFORE

1 UPPER LEVEL DEMOLITION PLAN 3.2 SCALE: 1/4" = 1'-0"

PLAN GENERAL NOTES & SYMBOLS:

1. GENERAL CONTRACTOR TO VERIFY ALL DIMENSIONS, AND STRUCTURAL CONDITIONS.
2. ALL EXISTING INTERIOR DOOR, PATIO DOORS, WINDOWS, & TRIM TO BE REMOVED AS NOTED, & REPLACED SEE PROPOSED LOWER LEVEL PLAN.
3. REMOVE ALL RECESSED FLUORESCENT LIGHTS.
4. GENERAL CONTRACTOR & ALL SUBCONTRACTORS ARE TO PROVIDE PROTECTION OF EXISTING FINISHES THAT WILL REMAIN, & SHALL BE RESPONSIBLE FOR ANY DAMAGE TO SUCH AREAS THROUGH THE COURSE OF THE WORK DEFINED IN THESE DOCUMENTS.
5. ALL EXISTING CEILINGS & SOFFITS ARE TO BE SCRAPPED AND PREPARED FOR NEW KNOCK DOWN TEXTURE UNLESS NOTED OTHERWISE.





Floor Plan Upper Level

AFTER

Front Exterior

Before:

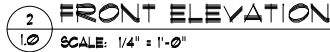
The home's front and west elevations lacked character and balance. Failing cedar siding, inefficient windows, and an undersized garage left the exterior feeling flat and dated. The entry was minimal and exposed, while the garage dominated the façade without offering flexibility or upper-level living space.

After:

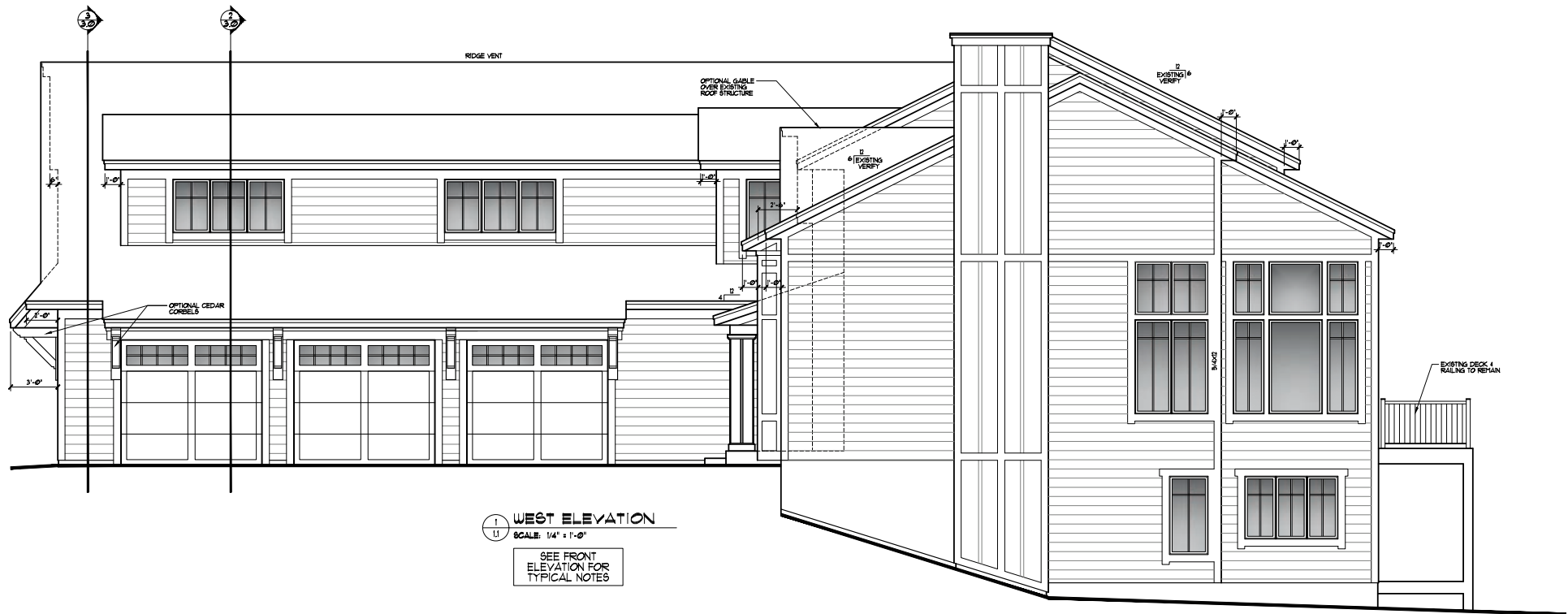
The exterior was stripped to the studs and rebuilt with durable fiber cement siding, continuous insulation, and Andersen windows for long-term performance. A covered front porch and bold new entry create a welcoming focal point, while refined gables and cedar corbels add both architectural depth and structural integrity. The garage was enlarged and expanded upward with a full second story, introducing guest accommodations—a thoughtful solution that respected zoning constraints while meeting the family's multigenerational needs. Unified siding, trim, and detailing across the front and west elevations give the home a cohesive, modern lakefront presence.



2 FRONT ELEVATION
1.0 SCALE: 1/4" = 1'-0"



Proposed Drawing West Elevation



Back Exterior

Before:

The lakeside façade felt heavy and cluttered. Small, unevenly placed windows limited light and views, while aging siding and deck details lacked cohesion. The exterior did little to highlight the home's prime lakefront setting.



After:

The rebuilt rear elevation features enlarged black-trimmed windows arranged symmetrically to frame sweeping lake views and brighten the interiors. Clean rooflines, fiber cement siding, and structural trim details bring order and durability. The existing deck was integrated into the new design with upgraded railings and a sheltered lounge below, creating year-round indoor-outdoor living. The transformation gives the home a modern, cohesive lakeside presence that matches its setting.



Back Exterior

Before:

The existing home sat on a substandard lot with strict zoning restrictions. The garage was undersized, and the overall footprint left little room for functional guest space or improved circulation. Hardscape coverage was near city maximums, limiting the ability to expand.



After:

Through detailed coordination with the architect and civil survey team, the garage was rebuilt on its original footprint with an added second-story guest suite — staying fully compliant with setback and hardscape limits. Existing decks were retained, while patios and paving were reconfigured for flow and zoning compliance. On the lakeside, the roof was replaced and extended to cover the deck entry, creating a sheltered transition between indoors and out. The result is a significantly expanded, multigenerational home that maximizes livable space without exceeding code restrictions.



Proposed Drawing Back Elevation



Proposed Drawing

East Elevation



Aerial (Front) Exterior

Before:

The original front elevation felt flat and dated. Failing siding and inefficient windows weakened energy performance, while the undersized garage and minimal entry lacked presence or flexibility. Disjointed rooflines made the structure appear segmented and unbalanced, leaving the home without curb appeal or architectural rhythm.



After:

The aerial transformation reveals a cohesive, modernized home with refined rooflines, balanced proportions, and a reimagined garage topped with guest accommodations. Durable fiber cement siding and a precision-built roof system unify the structure, while hardscape improvements provide clean circulation and enhance curb appeal. Enlarged Andersen windows strengthen the connection between indoors and out, while thoughtful site planning maximized livable space within strict zoning and hardscape limits. The result is a home that feels intentional, balanced, and deeply connected to its lakefront setting.



Aerial (Top) Exterior

Before:

The original roofline was long, flat, and unbalanced, dominated by a single sloping span above the garage. This not only emphasized the garage but also missed the opportunity for additional living space. The undersized garage lacked flexibility, and the minimal entry provided little architectural definition.



After:

The exterior was stripped to the studs and rebuilt for lasting performance, with durable siding, continuous insulation, and Andersen windows throughout. The garage was widened by over six feet and expanded upward to include a guest suite, with a new gable roofline that introduces symmetry and rhythm to the elevation. At the entry, a covered front porch with its own distinct roofline creates a welcoming focal point and improves everyday function. Together, these changes unify the façade, balance proportions, and establish a modern lakefront presence that blends durability, function, and architectural character.



Aerial (Top) Exterior

Before:

From above, the home appeared segmented and uneven. The rooflines lacked cohesion, the garage was undersized, and the overall footprint felt disconnected from the property. Limited hardscape planning created circulation challenges, while the exterior materials offered little durability or visual appeal.

After:

The aerial transformation reveals a cohesive, modernized home with refined rooflines, balanced proportions, and an expanded garage topped with guest accommodations. The exterior was stripped to the studs and rebuilt with durable fiber cement siding, continuous insulation, and a precision-built roof system that unifies the structure. Enlarged Andersen windows strengthen the connection between indoors and out, while hardscape improvements provide clean circulation and enhance curb appeal. Thoughtful site planning maximized livable space within strict zoning and hardscape limits. The result is a home that feels intentional, balanced, and deeply connected to its lakefront setting.



PROJECT RECAP

Client Objectives

- Multigenerational guest accommodations achieved with second-story addition above the garage.
- Improved connection to the lake through enlarged windows and open sightlines.
- Enhanced curb appeal and welcoming presence with a covered front porch and modern entry.

Functionality

- Rebuilt garage and hardscape reconfiguration improved circulation and storage.
- Covered porch and extended lakeside roofline created protected transitions to outdoor living.
- Redundant deck door removed, consolidating access and maximizing usable kitchen/dining space.

Aesthetics

- Refined rooflines and symmetrical window placement unified the home's appearance.
- Cedar corbels, gables, and trim details introduced architectural depth and rhythm.
- Crisp modern finishes and black-trimmed Andersen windows balance contrast and warmth.

Craftsmanship

- Entire envelope rebuilt to the studs with precision framing and weatherproofing.
- Structural roofline modifications and porch integration required detailed engineering

Innovation

- Rebuilt garage with second story met client goals while complying with zoning + hardscape limits.
- Roofline reconfiguration over the lakeside deck expanded covered outdoor living without altering footprint.
- Integration of interior and exterior upgrades (porch roof aligning with interior window band) created cohesion across spaces.



CLIENT REVIEW

Excellent experience from start to finish! [Company Name] transformed our home. They helped us understand the different renovation options and worked with us throughout the process to bring our vision to reality. We lived in the home throughout the renovation and the different trades on site were courteous, professional, on time, and their quality is excellent. I highly recommend anyone considering a major remodeling project to select the [Company Name] team. You won't be disappointed!

- *Homeowner*