

Legacy on Prior Lake

Entire Home Over \$1 Million



Project Overview

Set on a wooded bluff overlooking Prior Lake, this 1991-built home held deep sentimental value for its longtime owners but no longer supported how they lived. The failing exterior, segmented layout, and dated finishes limited both comfort and connection to the lake. The clients envisioned a transformation that would honor the home's footprint while reimagining it inside and out — a residence designed for multigenerational gatherings, year-round livability, and seamless integration with its setting.

The renovation respected strict zoning restrictions while dramatically expanding functionality. The exterior was stripped to the studs and fully rebuilt: deteriorating cedar siding was replaced with durable fiber cement, cedar accents introduced warmth, and Andersen windows maximized daylight and views. The garage was widened by over six feet and expanded upward into a second-story guest suite, providing flexible accommodations without exceeding hardscape limits. New gable rooflines brought symmetry and rhythm, while a covered front porch with its own roofline created both a functional shelter and a welcoming focal point.

Inside, strategic reconfiguration maximized flow and light. Walls dividing the kitchen, dining, and great room were removed to form an open lake-facing hub anchored by a new island kitchen. Former barriers — including partial walls, ceiling bulkheads, and redundant doors — were eliminated to enhance sightlines and circulation. The stairwell was reframed for a natural traffic pattern, while a new loft improved vertical connectivity.

Every detail balanced beauty with purpose. Built-in seating, storage, and custom millwork elevated daily function, while high-contrast finishes created cohesion and modern appeal. The result is a complete reinvention: a timeless lakefront home that honors its original footprint yet lives entirely anew, ready to welcome family and friends for generations.



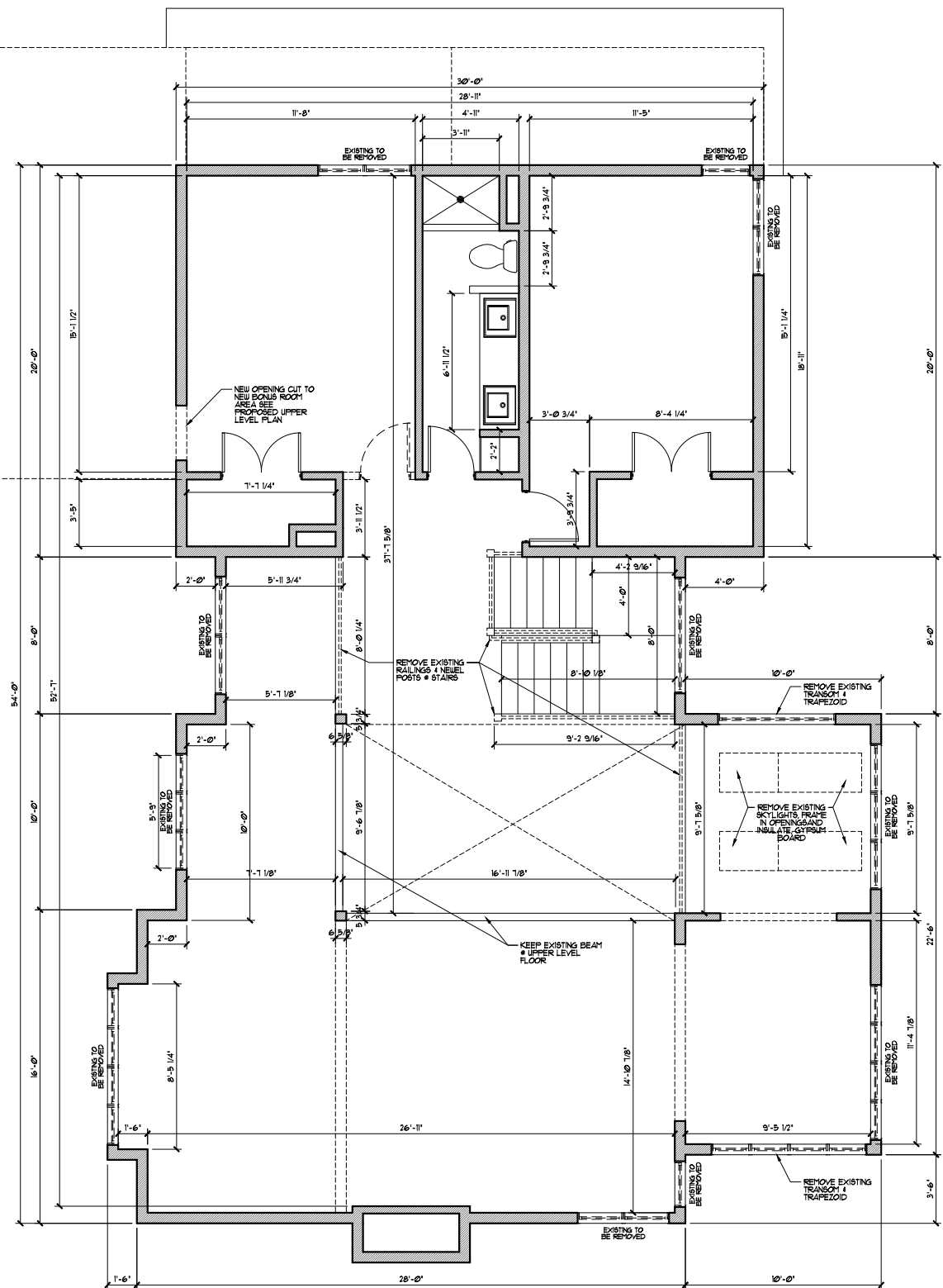
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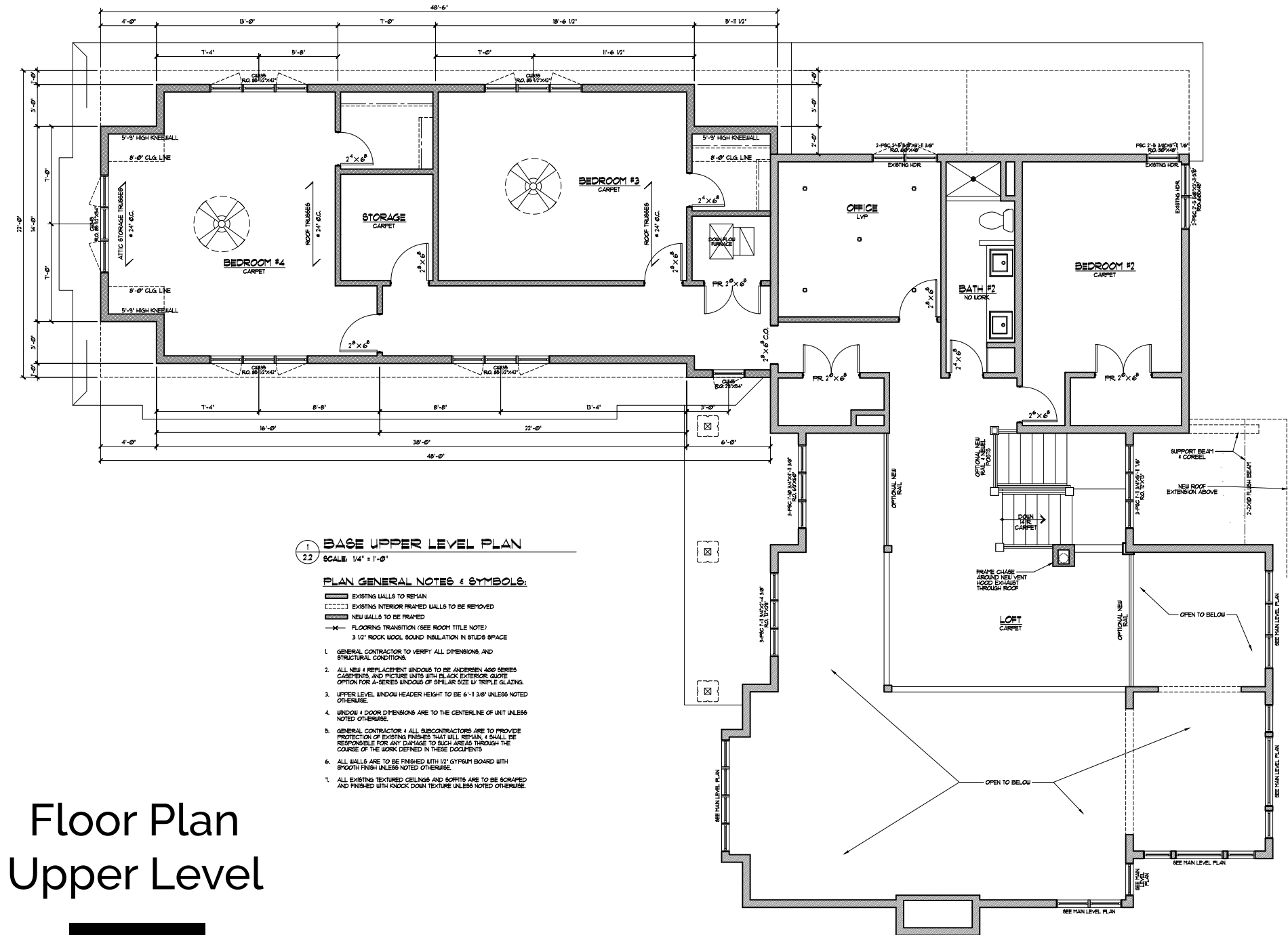
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PLAN GENERAL NOTES & SYMBOLS:

1. GENERAL CONTRACTOR TO VERIFY ALL DIMENSIONS, AND STRUCTURAL CONDITIONS.
2. ALL EXISTING INTERIOR DOOR PATIO DOORS, WINDOWS, 4 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. 4 SHALL BE RESPONSIBLE FOR ANY DAMAGE TO SUCH AREAS THROUGH THE COURSE OF THE WORK DEFINED IN THESE DOCUMENTS
5. ALL EXISTING CEILING 4 BOARDS ARE TO BE SCRAPED AND PREPARED FOR NEW KNOCK DOWN TEXTURE UNLESS NOTED OTHERWISE.

BEFORE





Floor Plan Upper Level

AFTER

Front Exterior

Before:

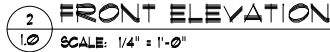
The home's front and west elevations lacked character and balance. Failing cedar siding, inefficient windows, and an undersized garage left the exterior feeling flat and dated. The entry was minimal and exposed, while the garage dominated the façade without offering flexibility or upper-level living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

After:

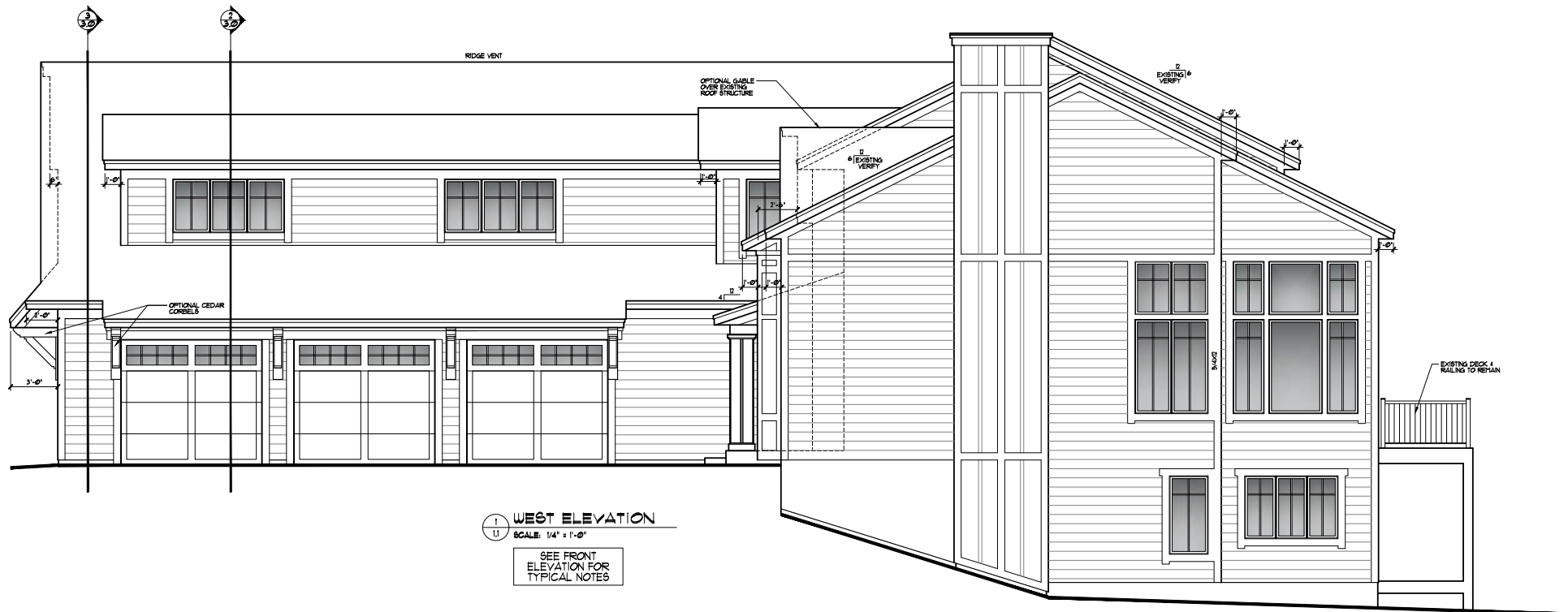
The exterior was stripped to the studs and rebuilt with durable fiber cement siding, continuous insulation, and Andersen windows for long-term performance. A covered front porch and bold new entry create a welcoming focal point, while refined gables and cedar corbels add both architectural depth and 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



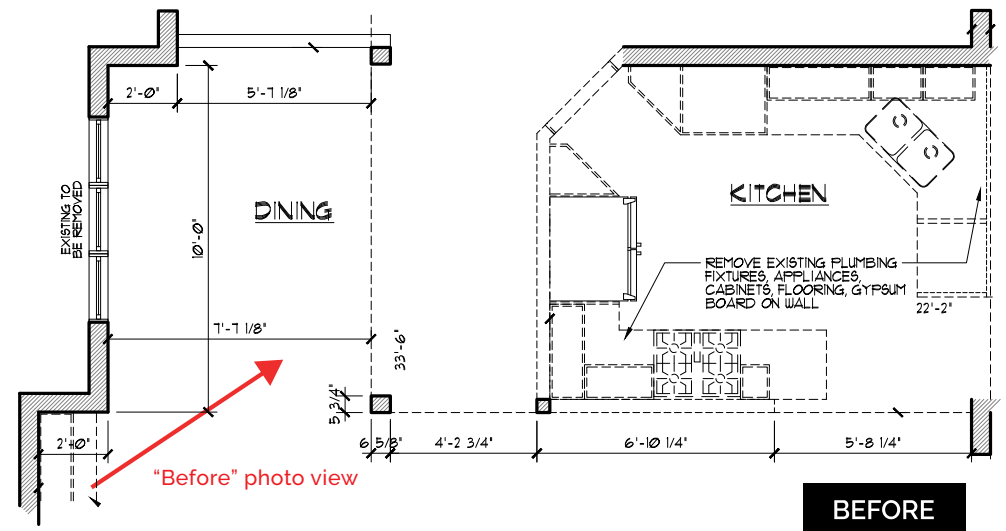


Before:

The original dining room was cut off from the kitchen by a solid wall, creating a bottleneck between two key living zones. This wall reduced natural light penetration, limited circulation, and made the kitchen feel isolated from the rest of the main floor.

After:

The wall was fully removed, allowing the kitchen to open seamlessly into the great room and new nook. This reconfiguration not only expanded sightlines but also established a central hub for entertaining. The addition of a long island with seating unites cooking, dining, and living zones, while bright finishes and black-trimmed Andersen windows maximize natural light and cohesion. The transformation resolves the former congestion and creates a modern open-concept flow that aligns with today's lifestyles.



Before:

The original kitchen was boxed in by a solid wall that cut it off from the living room, isolating the home's main gathering spaces. An angled peninsula with raised bar seating consumed floor space, created circulation bottlenecks, and left little flexibility for cooking or entertaining. Outdated cabinetry and appliances reinforced the sense of a segmented, dated home with limited natural light



After:

By removing the dividing wall, the kitchen now opens directly to the great room with a connected bar that encourages conversation and flow. The angled peninsula was replaced with a long central island, offering expanded prep space, integrated seating, and clear circulation paths. A commercial-grade range, double ovens, and full-height cabinetry bring performance and storage, while layered lighting and refined finishes deliver cohesion with the rest of the home. What was once an enclosed, outdated workspace has been transformed into a bright, highly functional hub — the centerpiece of a main level designed for gathering.



Before:

A solid wall on the left enclosed the kitchen and cut off circulation to the living room. Beige walls, carpet, and a corner fireplace limited furniture placement and natural light. There was no defined media wall or meaningful storage.

After:

The left wall was removed to create an open bar with seating that connects the kitchen and living areas for effortless entertaining. The corner fireplace was replaced with a centered stone fireplace flanked by custom built-ins—including a designated TV zone and concealed storage. Black-trimmed windows, bright finishes, and layered lighting complete a cohesive great room with clear sightlines and vastly improved flow.

Figure C: Blocked Loft Wall: A solid upper wall cut off natural light and interrupted vertical sightlines, making the vaulted great room feel closed in.

Figure D: Corner Partition: A partial wall above the dining windows created unnecessary segmentation and visual clutter, limiting openness and reducing daylight.



Before:

The dining area was congested, with two separate deck doors competing for space in the same area. Segmented walls — including a partial wall at the ceiling and another in the corner — blocked natural light and interrupted sightlines to the lake. Green walls and golden wood trim further dated the space.

After:

One of the two deck doors was removed to improve traffic flow and make the dining room more functional. The upper wall and corner partition were also eliminated, opening the space to natural light and extending sightlines across the great room. Enlarged black-trimmed windows frame sweeping lake views, while white walls and warm wood floors provide modern contrast. A custom built-in bench adds storage and seating, turning the dining area into a bright, welcoming hub fully connected to its surroundings.

Figure A & B: Blocked Sightlines: A ceiling bulkhead, upper wall, and a corner partition all interrupted sightlines, segmented the room, and reduced natural light.

Figure C: Removed Extra Door: Simplified circulation by keeping only one deck access near the kitchen.



Before:

The kitchen and dining circulation was cluttered and inefficient. The peninsula allowed only two seats while narrowing the path to the deck. A small window bench lacked purpose, and the layout forced the trash can to sit outside the kitchen. There were two separate doors to the deck: one in the dining room and another here in the kitchen. This redundancy created congestion and left valuable wall space underutilized. The sliding glass door further limited how far the kitchen could expand.



After:

The dining room deck door was removed, consolidating deck access to this single location. The sliding glass unit was replaced with a swing door, freeing wall space so the kitchen could extend fully. The peninsula was eliminated, improving flow, and a custom built-in bench with integrated storage was added beneath the windows for practicality and design impact. Enlarged black-trimmed Andersen windows now frame sweeping lake views and flood the space with natural light. Combined with bright finishes and modern detailing, the kitchen, dining, and deck are now seamlessly connected in one functional, cohesive hub.



Before:

The kitchen's angled layout and upper cabinets left the space feeling cramped and segmented. Soffits and closed sightlines interrupted the visual flow, while counter space was limited and storage inefficient. The overall effect was a kitchen that felt narrow, dated, and disconnected from the rest of the home.

After:

The kitchen was reconfigured into a long galley layout that maximizes both space and efficiency. Expanded counters provide generous prep area, while updated appliances and full-height cabinetry introduce modern performance and storage. Black-trimmed windows and clean lines flood the room with natural light, creating a bright, functional corridor that now connects seamlessly with the great room. The transformation balances elegance with everyday function — turning an isolated workspace into a streamlined central artery of the home.



Before:

The entry felt dated and uninspired. Yellow walls, golden trim, and a decorative glass door made for a heavy aesthetic that didn't reflect the rest of the home. The space lacked natural light and a sense of connection, leaving first impressions underwhelming.

After:

The entry was modernized with a bold black front door system with sidelights and enlarged Andersen windows to bring in daylight. White walls, warm wood flooring, and refined trim details create a clean, welcoming space. The result is a bright, connected first impression that sets the tone for the rest of the home.



Before:

The home had two dining spaces — a formal dining room and a smaller dinette off the kitchen. The duplication led to wasted square footage, with the formal dining area underutilized and visually dated. Golden trim, heavy blinds, and beige walls made the room feel uninspired, and the lack of built-in function left the space flat and impractical.

After:

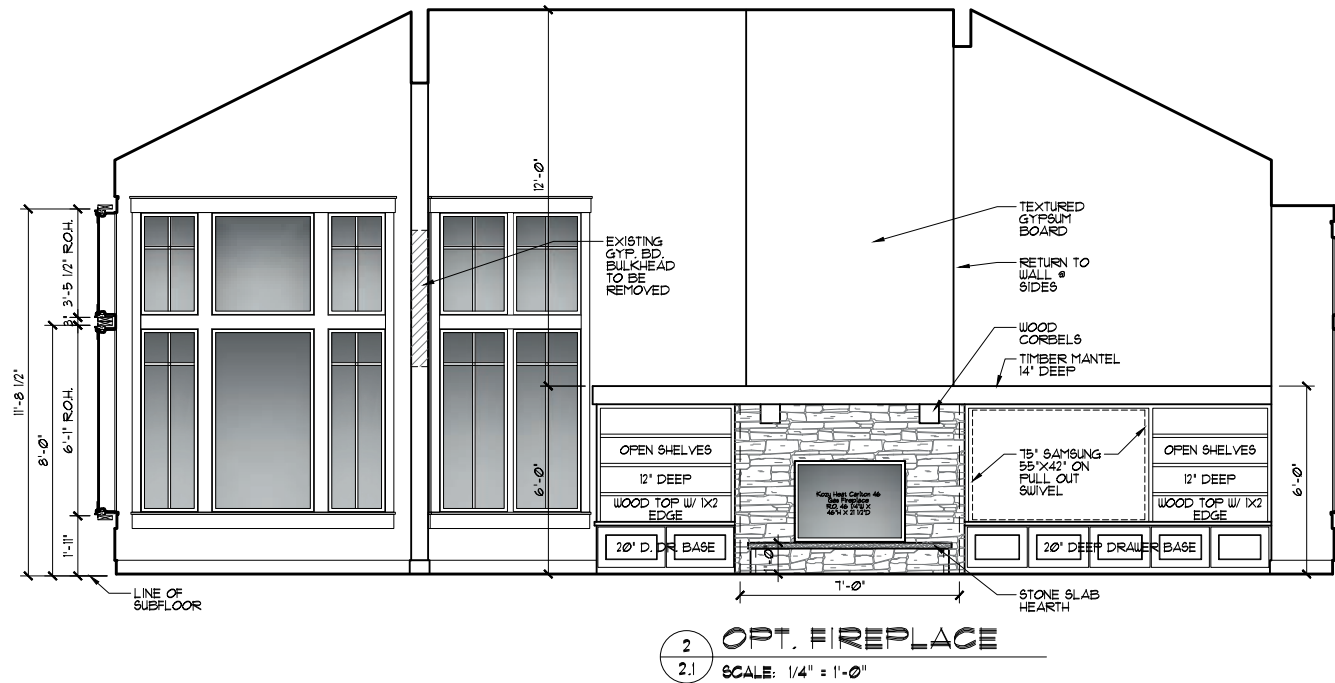
The formal dining room was reimagined into a seating nook with custom built-ins, a window bench, and cabinetry integrated into the half wall. This eliminated redundancy while creating a purposeful, everyday living space. Enlarged black-trimmed Andersen windows enhance natural light and lake views, while white walls and warm finishes unify the room with the rest of the home. The result is an innovative transformation of wasted space into a functional, inviting hub that better serves the family's lifestyle.



BEFORE



AFTER



PROJECT RECAP

This transformation turned a segmented 1990s lakeside home into a cohesive, functional, and light-filled retreat designed for modern multigenerational living. Every decision balanced the homeowners' goals with zoning limitations, craftsmanship, and innovative design solutions.

Client Objectives

- Expanded livable space without exceeding zoning setbacks or hardscape maximums.
- Created guest accommodations above the garage and a connected main-level layout for gatherings.
- Improved connection to the outdoors and maximized lake views through strategic window placement.

Functionality

- Removed redundant dining areas and reconfigured circulation to create one central, purposeful hub.
- Opened walls between kitchen, dining, and living areas to deliver a true open-concept main floor.
- Added storage and definition through custom built-ins, cabinetry, and a reimagined mudroom/bench zone.
- Consolidated deck access to one efficient primary Andersen door, improving flow and preserving kitchen space.

Aesthetics

- Transformed dated finishes into a crisp, high-contrast palette of black-trimmed Andersen windows, warm wood floors, and white walls.
- Introduced architectural balance with new rooflines, a covered front porch, and refined lakeside elevations.
- Centered a stone fireplace with built-ins as the focal point of the great room, replacing the awkward corner fireplace.

PROJECT RECAP

Craftsmanship

- Rebuilt the garage and added a second-story suite on the existing footprint, requiring precise structural coordination.
- Executed significant reframing to remove interior walls while maintaining vaulted ceilings and sightlines.
- Integrated structural cedar corbels, porch columns, and deck supports that blend function with architectural distinction.
- High-quality installation of Andersen windows and fiber cement siding ensures long-term durability.

Innovation

- Solved zoning constraints by expanding vertically (garage addition) while retaining existing decks and footings.
- Converted underused dining space into a functional built-in seating nook, maximizing every square foot.
- Coordinated interior/exterior design moves—such as aligning the covered porch roofline with interior window trim—to tie the home's architecture together.
- Reimagined circulation with a kitchen-to-bar connection that enhances both everyday use and entertaining.

Outcome

The result is a cohesive, energy-efficient, and highly functional whole-home renovation that feels entirely new while respecting the original footprint. This project exemplifies how thoughtful design, careful craftsmanship, and innovative problem-solving can transform a dated lakeside property into a timeless family retreat built for the next generation.



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