



# Small Addition, **BIG IMPACT**

## A 2-ft. bump-out brings a midcentury home into the next century

BY PAUL BUUM

I first worked with Stacy and Eileen to remodel their Wisconsin vacation cabin, and we were in the process of drawing plans for the remodel of their existing house in Edina, Minn., when a good-looking house in a neighborhood they admired suddenly came on the market. Built in 1958 on a tree-lined street, the house is in a neighborhood known for its midcentury homes. These homes have low rooflines, large windows, and bright and airy rooms. When Stacy and Eileen's offer was accepted on the house, we quickly abandoned remodeling plans for their existing home and went to work on this new project. Our aim was to update the house without sacrificing its midcentury charm.

With any remodel, I first ask clients to list what they like and don't like about the house. For starters, Stacy and Eileen loved their new home's 1950s character, with its open plan, large windows, and light-filled living areas. They also liked the expansive yard, mature trees, and the neighborhood's welcoming feel.

### **Kitchen and bath drove the remodel**

Neither of them liked their new kitchen, however. They thought it was too dark and too small, and they wanted a center island. They also wanted to update the hall bath and add a separate shower. A larger garage with storage and a real

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## FROM DRAB TO FAB

When Stacy and Eileen bought their home in Edina, Minn., the drab exterior made it look like every other midcentury home in the neighborhood. A new color palette, better landscaping, and a new garage door transformed its appearance. The blue-gray exterior (Benjamin Moore Navy Masterpiece) is a combination of old and new materials. The original redwood siding was cleaned up and repainted, and new fiber-cement siding was installed on the garage and rear addition. The vertical siding on the house and the horizontal siding on the garage complement the scale and texture of the old redwood. The darker siding color helps to bring out the existing limestone veneer, which emphasizes the home's solid-looking base and reinforces the other horizontal elements. The translucent garage door provides balance for the front windows.

# STEEL DOES THE HEAVY LIFTING

Due to the length of the span, we decided to use a steel beam to support the roof over the new addition. The advantage of steel is that it can have a smaller cross section than a wood beam of comparable strength, so it takes up less space. I told Stacy and Eileen and the interior designer early on that I wanted to expose the steel beam and column to help with the more-modern aesthetic they wanted. They



quickly agreed, and we continued the steel look with some of the cabinet doors and appliances. More conventionally, we would have buried the beam in a wood or drywall soffit, but the visible steel was a fun way to set off the new space and call more attention to an otherwise simple design feature.

To further distinguish the new space from the old, we decided to use a stone tile on the floor instead of the oak flooring in place elsewhere. This new floor provides the landing for the large sliding French doors and carries into the kitchen, where it serves as a base for the steel column and continues under the cabinets. It's also heated, creating a nice spot to take off your shoes on a cold day and making it really comfortable to work at the kitchen sink.

To make up for the cabinets lost to the wall of windows installed over the sink, we added floor-to-ceiling storage on the opposite wall.





**Sophisticated mudroom.** Carved from the inside of the garage, the new 6-ft. by 12-ft. mudroom offers plenty of storage and a bench for putting on shoes. The large window and maple cabinets give the small space a lightness that contrasts with the dark-gray tile floor and countertop. The counter includes a half-dozen outlets for charging electronics.



**Revamped bath.** Keeping fixtures in their original locations and converting what was a hall closet at the end of the tub into a shower kept costs down for the bath remodel. The ribbed-glass partition next to the vanity was inspired by a partition wall with a ribbed-glass window that was in the same spot in the original bathroom.

## SPECS

**Bedrooms:** 3

**Bathrooms:** 2

**Size:** original, 1848 sq. ft.; renovated, 2003 sq. ft. (finished basement not included)

**Location:** Edina, Minn.

**Architect:** Paul Buom, AIA, SALA Architects, salaarc.com

**Designer:** Christine Frisk, InUnison Design, inunisondesign.com

**General contractor:** Choice Wood Company, choicecompanies.com



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mudroom connecting the garage and kitchen rounded out their wish list.

### **Making more room**

There wasn't enough room in the kitchen's existing floor plan for a center island, so we designed a 2-ft. addition. This small bump-out was all we needed to make room for an island. To support the roof above the addition, we used an exposed steel beam to carry

the roof load and to define the new workspace. We also added a full-height pantry to make up for the cabinets lost to the new windows that frame the view onto the backyard.

With the addition, the family room also grew by 2 ft. We added a four-panel sliding French door that provides a view onto the stone terrace and backyard from the family room. We updated the hall bath with new finishes and fixtures, but we didn't move any of the plumbing, which simplified construc-

tion and saved money. We found the space for adding the new freestanding tile shower by taking over a neighboring closet.

The garage addition, which made the space about 250 sq. ft. bigger than it was before, allowed us to carve a section from the original garage footprint for a 6-ft. by 12-ft. mudroom with a bench, a closet, and built-in cabinetry. The new mudroom and a larger garage reduce clutter and make this everyday entry more welcoming.

## BACKYARD OASIS



Vertical fiber-cement siding, which complements the home's original redwood siding, helps the 2-ft. addition blend seamlessly into the rear elevation. The addition is highlighted by large kitchen windows and a new sliding French door that provides wide views of the backyard from nearly everywhere in the main living area.

Compared to the small concrete slab that served as the original patio, the new bluestone terrace provides plenty of room to spread out. A single step along the perimeter provides easy backyard access and plenty of overflow seating. The outdoor dining area, accessed by the new sliding door, has table seating for six and enough space to comfortably walk around seated guests.

The fire pit is a natural gathering spot for guests and provides soft light for evening conversation and cocktails. A door off the mudroom provides additional access to the hot tub and the rest of the patio space.

Stacy and Eileen have lived in their new home for over a year now, and they tell me they love it. I like the house, too, and I think the whole team, including the owners, InUnison Design, and Choice Wood Company did a great job updating the house while showing it the respect it deserves. □

Paul Bum, AIA, is an architect at SALA Architects in Minneapolis. Photos by Troy Thies, except where noted.

