A revitalized city icon lets the light back in

COVER: ST. PAUL UNION DEPOT
PAGE 32
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page 31
By Christopher Hudson

32 Arrival Revival
By Linda Mack
It's not often that a partially shuttered landmark is brought back to life to resume its original use. Such is the good fortune of St. Paul Union Depot, a city icon whose soaring, barrel-vaulted waiting room is once again home to travelers after a challenging multi-year renovation.

38 Minnesota's Best-Kept Architectural Secrets
By Christopher Hudson
Think you know your modern Minnesota landmarks? We've assembled a chronological selection of tucked-away or far-away gems built after 1950, and we're betting you haven't seen all of them. Join us on a photographic tour of the state's best under-the-radar modern buildings.
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[PHOTO CREDIT]

One of the things I enjoy most about my job is the nearly daily interaction I have with architectural photographers and filmmakers. And it’s not only because they are talented and help Architecture Minnesota win awards. They also happen to be some of the nicest and most interesting people I know.

Unfortunately, the enormity of the contributions they make isn’t fully reflected in the credit they receive—we use a squint-inducing 5.5-point Whitney Book type for photo credits. That doesn’t seem sufficient, especially for an issue like this one, in which several photographers went above and beyond the call of duty. So allow me to open this picture-perfect edition of Architecture Minnesota by waxing photographic.

Paul Crosby may be the most in-demand architectural photographer in Minnesota, but you wouldn’t know it talking to him. The exceedingly modest Crosby used a rare day off this spring to get us additional images for the cover story on the recently renovated St. Paul Union Depot (page 32). A few days later, architect-turned-photographer Pete Sieger dashed from Minneapolis to Duluth on short notice to bolster “Minnesota’s Best-Kept Architectural Secrets” (page 38), a feature that’s teeming with his work.

Of course, we also love “people photography” (that we distinguish in this way says a lot about us!), particularly when it comes from the camera of Chad Holder or Brandon Stengel. Holder, who’s shot several Dwell magazine covers, photographed our Town Talk interview with St. Paul mayor Chris Coleman (page 17), and we ended up choosing one of the images from that shoot for the cover. Stengel has captured all three of our Videotect events at the Walker Art Center, and now we’ve got him shooting our Studio department (page 13).

Speaking of Videotect, photographers Ryan Siemers and Peter VonDeLinde have been instrumental in making that competition a stirring success. VonDeLinde edited the video segments of the Videotect 3 screening event in March—his Videotect Remix got the show off to a raucous start—and Siemers has produced a fun highlight reel of the event that’s now playing on architecturemn.com (page 9).

We at Architecture Minnesota extend a heartfelt thanks to these and other photographers—George Heinrich, Don Wong, and Christian Korab leap to mind—who support our efforts to spotlight Minnesota architects and their design-forward buildings and ideas. If you like what you see in this issue, do me a huge favor: Read the fine print. It’s important information.

Christopher Hudson
hudson@aita-mn.org
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Get to know our writers and photographers. They're an interesting bunch.

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Previously the managing editor of Midwest Home magazine.

COLBY JOHNSON is a Minneapolis freelance writer specializing in arts, culture, architecture, and design.

CAMILLE LEFEVRE teaches arts journalism in the Twin Cities and writes on the arts and architecture.

Minneapolis-based LINDA MACK writes on architecture and design for local and national publications.

Twin Cities architectural photographers DENES SAARI and MARIA FORRAI SAARI (www.saariphoto.com) recently traveled to Barcelona to photograph Gaudi’s La Sagrada Familia, La Pedrera, and Park Güell.

PETE SIEGER (www.siegerarchphoto.com) is a Minneapolis architectural photographer.
When it comes to renovating 72-year-old landmarks, you'd better perform at historic levels.

Originally built in 1924, as a 125,000 sq. ft. science research library, the University of Minnesota's famed Walter Library recently underwent massive renovation and expansion to bring the library's aging resources into the present while leaving the classic and historic beauty right where it was.

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The project required extensive demolition and a massive effort in trade coordination to bring everything together efficiently and with minimal disruption to campus life.

If you have a project where you want to meld the best of the past with the best of the future, Egan should be in your current plans.

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PICTURE PERFECT  We fill each of our issues with as much great architectural photography as we can, but there's plenty more that we don't have the pages for. So beginning this summer we'll be posting additional photos of the buildings and landscapes profiled in the magazine, plus other new images shot by our roving photographer friends.

Peter VonDeLinde, who's filmed several architecture videos for architecturemn.com, recently shot the Daniel Libeskind-designed Denver Art Museum.

VIDEOS

After you've read our print edition cover to cover, be sure to check out all the videos on architecturemn.com.

If you missed the packed-house Videotect 3 screening event at the Walker Art Center Cinema in March, or if you'd like to relive it, then hit the play button on Ryan Siemers' video of the fast-moving evening. The stars of this short film include a Galactic Pizza delivery person, WCCO's Jason DeRusha, and several of the winning entrants.

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GUIDE TO WORKING WITH AN ARCHITECT

Haven't yet worked with an architect? Our introductory guide and resources are for you.
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Photo taken by George Heinrich Photography
Facility designed by Wold Architects and Engineers

Tri-City United Schools (formerly Montgomery-Lonsdale and Le Center Schools) in Montgomery, MN used Alliant Energy's Commercial New Construction program for their new Elementary/Middle School and High School buildings. They are expected to save $58,607 in energy costs annually.
Mill City Summer Opera returns to **Mill Ruin Courtyard** for five unforgettable nights

**Musical Mill-ieu**

Since it opened in 2003, Mill City Museum’s Ruin Courtyard has served as a magical backdrop for weddings, Fringe Festival performances, and the Mill City Live music series (see sidebar). Last summer, the historical site became the in-situ set for another creative venture: The Mill City Summer Opera (MCSO), Minnesota’s only outdoor opera company, launched its inaugural season by performing Leoncavallo’s *Pagliacci* to capacity audiences.

This summer, MCSO is back with five performances of Rossini’s *Barber of Seville*, a comedic masterpiece in which love and deceit intertwine in 18th-century Spain. “There was always a sense that opera needed to happen here,” says MCSO artistic director David Lefkowich of the Ruin Courtyard. “It’s an incredibly dramatic, beautiful, and awe-inspiring space. For the audience, it feels operatic the moment they enter. The music also fits perfectly inside of it.”

The courtyard’s natural acoustics, Lefkowich explains, cause the instrumental sounds of the live orchestra to mix perfectly with the singers’ voices. “The music is never so loud that it’s overwhelming, but it’s loud enough that you feel like you’re inside the music,” he says. “For me, that’s the most exciting way to experience opera. It urges interaction between music and the audience.”

MCSO takes great care in negotiating the ruins’ uneven ground, building platforms on gravel areas—which unfortunately can cause the platforms to shift. Despite the occasional spill by a performer, says Lefkowich, “the platforms are worth the trouble. If we put everyone on the pavement, we’d lose half of the space. Still, it’s kind of a shock when we move from the indoor rehearsal room to the outdoor museum on our first day.”

Performing “guerrilla opera,” as Lefkowich calls MCSO’s productions, is exciting for all involved. “There’s a sensation in the ruins that we capitalize on with these well-known operas. We’re showing them off in a new way—presenting the operas as they are but with a special electricity that the space gives to them so beautifully.”

—Caroline LeFeve

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July 13, 15, 17, 19, & 21 **Mill Ruin Courtyard**, Mpls
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Got some free time and an interest in design? Culture Crawl rounds up the latest cultural offerings from around the state.

**ALTERNATIVE MUSIC**

If opera isn’t your thing, simply wait a few weeks for Mill City Live, a series of Wednesday–evening concerts in the Ruin Courtyard in August. For its 10th season, Mill City Live has assembled a diverse lineup:

**August 7**   Alison Scott with Kevin Bowe and the Okemah Prophets
**August 14**   Communist Daughter
**August 21**   Cactus Blossoms
**August 28**   Chastity Brown

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CityDeskStudio founders Bob Ganser, AIA, and Ben Awes, AIA (page 28), talk dreams, drives, and dream drives

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Photo courtesy of David Heide Design Studio
A new book looks back on the rich history of the recently revived St. Paul Union Depot

ST. PAUL UNION DEPOT
By John W. Diers
University of Minnesota Press, 2013

"This book is about the St. Paul Union Depot," writes transit historian John W. Diers in his new book on the city's 1923 Beaux Arts landmark and the buildings and train sheds that preceded it. "But it is also about what economists call creative destruction, the process by which technology and innovation drive out the old and bring in the new." Construction of the Interstate Highway System and the growing popularity of air travel, among other factors, led to the closing of Union Depot in 1971, but in its post-Depression heyday the building was a bustling monument to the city's commercial growth and prosperity.

Diers and the University of Minnesota Press chose the perfect time to assemble their colorful black-and-white history: The recent $245 million renovation of the complex as an intermodal transportation hub (page 32)—a project that brought the concourse and football-field-size waiting room back to their former glory—has ushered the landmark back into the media spotlight and sparked curiosity about its past.

Diers' narrative and the many absorbing historical images that accompany it more than satisfy that curiosity. The author opens the volume with his own personal history with the building—he frequented the depot in the late 1940s as the young grandson of a Great Northern Railway employee, and again in the 1960s as an avid train traveler—and his fondness for the subject matter carries through the well-researched chronicle that follows. The book offers both a nuanced account of the forces that shaped rail travel through the decades and an intimate portrait of the countless workers and passengers who made the depot hum.

Today, as rail transit regains popularity, Union Depot is poised to become a thriving regional transportation hub once again—and an engine for continued Lowertown revitalization. Diers' book is a healthy reminder of how the old can become new again. "With energy increasingly expensive," he writes, "there could, and should be, a large-scale revival of the intercity passenger train and a bright future for the St. Paul Union Depot."

—Camille LéFèvre
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The 2005 Chris Coleman, newly elected mayor of St. Paul, might not recognize the Lowertown St. Paul of today and tomorrow. Union Depot, largely mothballed at the time, has been beautifully renovated and reactivated as a major intermodal transit hub (page 32). It will anchor one end of a light-rail line that will itself have an enormous impact on the character and rhythm of downtown. And a new 7,000-seat, arts-friendly ballpark for the St. Paul Saints is scheduled to open next door to the farmers’ market in spring 2015.

Union Depot, which enjoyed a huge turnout for its grand reopening in December, won’t see heavy traffic until the Central Corridor line begins service in 2014. But it’s already a destination. On the day we met the mayor there for an in-depth conversation on Lower-town’s growing momentum, a bridal party posed for pictures around the Doric columns in front of the building and also in the grand lobby. The bride got so much attention from the diners at Christos Greek Restaurant that no one even noticed when the city’s top official strolled through.

**St. Paul is on the cusp of several big changes in terms of transportation and development. How will they change its character?**

Our character will remain the same, but we’ll be better. We reached our peak of development in the 1940s and 1950s; after that things began to stand still in terms of new buildings. But the great thing about that is that we were able to save a lot of the old places until we were ready for them, and that time is now. We’re seeing tremendous new investment and laying plans for the future of the city, and because these great old buildings were still available, we’re reusing the ones that capture the best of what St. Paul is all about.

>> continued on page 50

Nearing the end of his second term in office, St. Paul mayor CHRIS COLEMAN reflects on the momentous changes occurring in and around Lowertown under his watch.
IT'S TIME TO SHOW THE ARCHITECTURAL INDUSTRIES
THE BEST OF WHAT'S NEW.

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**Garden Variety**

Antoni Gaudí's renowned Park Güell in Barcelona offers a dazzling assortment of architectural encounters.

What comes to mind when you hear the words *public park*?

If you’re like us, you picture open green space with a handful of trees and possibly some gardened walkways. But Twin Cities architectural photographers Denes Saari and Maria Forrai Saari discovered so much more on a recent visit to Barcelona’s historic Park Güell. Built between 1900 and 1914 as a residential enclave for the affluent, the wooded hillside estate was purchased by the city in 1922 to serve as a public garden with a range of distinctive structures. Two storybook gatehouses flank the park entrance, beyond which lies the Sala Hipóstila, a Doric temple supporting a broad terrace above. Elsewhere, viaducts and roadways built into the hillside boast unforgettable pedestrian arcades below. This Saari & Forrai image shows the colorful mosaic tile lining the perimeter of the terrace, with the spiral tower of one of the gatehouses beyond. The long, winding bench integrated with the tile work is known as the Banc de Trenca. The city and the sea are visible in the hazy distance.

—Christopher Hudson
First Rate for Foodservice

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CHANGE OF SPACE


The words may have slightly different definitions, but they all signify the improvement of existing spaces, and the best examples of each all come down to a few key ideas that are well executed. We kept this in mind as we assembled the following showcase of transformed living spaces, calling out the architects' ideas and solutions one at a time. How did the designers manage to enhance flow and daylighting while still differentiating living areas? How did they better connect the homeowners to their natural or urban surroundings? Let us count the ways.

—Christopher Hudson
Located in a former blanket factory, this 1,700-square-foot loft was redesigned to provide a comfortable, minimalist backdrop for the homeowner's world-class collection of contemporary furnishings and art.
A homeowner and an architect refine an undistinguished loft into a simple, serene environment for artful living

When an arts patron first approached James Dayton, AIA, of James Dayton Design about remodeling her newly purchased North Star loft in Minneapolis’ historic Mill District, she had one simple design directive: “I told him that he could introduce any color he wanted to the design as long as it’s white.”

Downsizing from a 4,000-square-foot unit in neighboring Washburn Lofts to a 1,700-square-foot unit in the North Star building, the homeowner desired an open, inviting space where she could entertain large groups of family and friends, but also one in which she would feel comfortable when she was home alone with her small dog.

Quickly, the words peaceful, calm, and unified became the guiding design philosophies of the project. “Nothing about the homeowner’s life is ordinary,” says Dayton. “She’s extremely sophisticated and unique, so the space is meant to be a reflection of that mindset and quality.”

Floating in Space
To achieve the airy, refined effect the homeowner sought, Dayton and his team designed cabinets and other custom millwork to “float” in the various living spaces. “The homeowner’s design goal was to make a space that was incredibly serene,” says Dayton. “The architecture is meant to kind of recede so that you’re left with this quiet, peaceful envelope that’s all about the homeowner, her art, and her family and guests.”

Out of Sight
To preserve the lofted ceiling along the perimeter of the space, the designers consolidated the HVAC systems in the center of the unit, hiding them in a lowered ceiling in the entryway, kitchen, and master bedroom. “The transition from the lower, more private spaces to the higher, more public space creates a sense of expansion—it makes the living and dining space feel bigger and more generous than it actually is,” says Dayton.
An avid art collector, the owner wanted the space to provide a clean backdrop for her most cherished artworks and furnishings. A crisp, museum-quality shade of white for walls and ceilings achieved that objective perfectly. To reinforce the apartment’s flow and abundance of natural light, the designers specified a sliding etched-glass door both for the master bedroom and for the threshold between the entry foyer and the main living space.

Quickly, the words *peaceful, calm,* and *unified* became the guiding design philosophies of the project.
Bustle & Flow

BY LINDA MACK

A renovation and expansion of a busy midcentury kitchen blends airiness, functionality, and period detail.

Elizabeth Burnett and Adam Mans loved their 1950s rambler in Edina, but they didn’t love the original boxy kitchen or tramping through the bedroom wing to get from the garage to the heart of the house. They chose to renew existing rooms instead of adding on, so Jean Rehkamp Larson, AIA, and Ryan Lawinger of Rehkamp Larson Architects devised a simple plan: Expand the kitchen toward the backyard, add a much-needed mudroom, and tie a new back entrance to the garage with a sidewalk. The 275-square-foot addition opened up the whole back of the house, created an enviable new kitchen, and provided room for coats, boots, and gear of all sorts.

“The whole house lives dramatically differently,” says Rehkamp Larson.
Openness and Light

Gone is the claustrophobic kitchen and its table without a view. Instead the space flows from the back door through the mudroom to the kitchen, with its marble-topped island, and on to the original dining room. A rounded half-wall hides the mudroom clutter while letting in light. Another half-wall better connects the old dining room to the kitchen and spills light into the formerly enclosed stairway. “That wouldn’t have worked without taking down the wall,” says Rehkamp Larson.

Deco Detailing

Subtle details tie the new space to the old. The ceiling molding continues from the living and dining rooms. The open shelving and half-walls borrow their curves from the existing Streamline Moderne fireplace mantel. Simple metal drawer pulls recall the 1950s, while the custom star-pattern design of metal grates and the dog gate was taken from the front door’s back plate. Even a scallop detail from the old kitchen resurfaces in the custom range hood.
Command Center
Turn the corner from the mudroom and you've reached the kitchen's command center, where there's a place for everything—from mail to an electronics charging station to the computer—and everything is in its place. "There's something about having the work desk big enough," says Rehkamp Larson, so kids can group around the computer or mom can check a recipe while a child does homework. The desk is eight feet long. And the electrical cords are invisible: Like the printer, they live in the cupboards.

What a difference 275 square feet can make! Rehkamp Larson's compact addition created a mudroom and new back entrance that eliminated the original entry from the garage through the bedroom wing. A new island and work desk provide space for informal eating and homework.

1950s KITCHEN REFRESHED
Location: Edina, Minnesota
Clients: Elizabeth Burnett and Adam Mans
Architect: Rehkamp Larson Architects
rehkampilarson.com
Project design team: Jean Rehkamp Larson, AIA; Ryan Lawinger
General contractor: Quality Home Transformations
Size: 275-square-foot addition on two levels plus other remodeled space
Completion: December 2011
Photographer: Andrea Rugg Photography
Light Touch

AN INSPIRED REMODEL BRINGS A DARK SUBURBAN HOME INTO THE LIGHT—WITHOUT CHANGING EVERYTHING
By Amy Goetzman

While 1980s fashion keeps coming back, most 1980s residential design is viewed with far less interest or nostalgia. "We're starting to hear of renovations happening with this era of home, but we haven't seen a lot that are architecturally designed," says Bob Ganser, AIA, of CityDeskStudio. So when Ganser and his partners were commissioned to refresh a 1984 suburban home, they found themselves in largely uncharted territory.

With the homeowners in Singapore, the initial design meetings took place via Skype. "They wanted to do something that would stand out," says Ganser. But the project was nearly called off when the family returned to Minnesota and saw the house for the first time in years. "They were overwhelmed," Ganser recalls. "They felt like every surface in the house needed updating."

The architects convinced them not to rethink everything. "We would focus on the main-floor renovation and treat the rest of the house with new paint, floors, and carpet—simple finishes that tied it all together," says Ganser. By allowing an eclectic mix of influences to work together, the firm created a home that feels cosmopolitan and all new.

Embracing the Light

The kitchen is the dramatic heart of the project, with sleek red cabinetry and an integral slab table. It would be at home in any international city, just as right in a skyscraper apartment as in this wooded aerie, because it uses the sky as a key design element. That set the tone for the adjustments made to the rest of the house. The final effect is that of a modern treehouse, fresh and full of light.

Down with Walls

A warren of small rooms gave the house a confined feeling, so walls came down—inside and out. "We cut into the existing kitchen area and completely opened up the corner of the house, adding sliding doors for light and cross-ventilation," says Ganser. The architects also took out an entry closet, "edited" walls, and created a pocket door with a window. "Now, as soon as you come in, you see through the house and into the trees instead of looking at a closet," says Ganser.
Right-Sizing the Deck

The house originally featured a deep wraparound deck. “It was typical of some of these 1980s houses, but it was too much—there was twice as much deck as inside space,” says Ganser. “They didn’t need all that.” By reducing the deck into two small deck areas connected by a catwalk, the architects brought more daylight into the home’s walkout lower level. And the elevated outdoor space is more inviting at its new scale.

The architects convinced the homeowners not to rethink everything. “We would focus on the main-floor renovation and treat the rest of the house with new paint, floors, and carpet—simple finishes that tied it all together,” says CityDeskStudio’s Bob Ganser, AIA.

Contemporary Flow

With the knowledge that light would soon pour into the kitchen, entry, and gathering spaces, the owners wanted to lighten up the rest of the home, too. CityDesk Studio accomplished this by replacing heavy railings and half-walls with spare steel-and-cable railings, painting the 1980s-style oak trim white, and simplifying ornamental elements. These changes put the focus on the environment that surrounds the home while also unifying the redesigned main floor with the spaces that were simply refinished. AMN

The lushly wooded lot is a big reason the family originally purchased the home. The redesign focused on maximizing visual and physical access to the serene natural setting.
Land Line
By Christopher Hudson

A suburban backyard that blended with surrounding wetlands gets light boxes and a clear, contoured boundary that doubles as a stormwater-management system

After living with a verdant but ill-defined outdoor living space for more than a decade, Plymouth, Minnesota, homeowners Lew and Nicki Zeidner knew it was time to draw the line. “Some of the beauty of the land is that it merges with [adjacent] wetlands,” says Lew, “but there was this constant issue of, ‘What do we care for? What do we groom?’”

Landscape architect Adam Regn Arvidson of Treeline and architect Colin Oglesby, AIA, with CO/A Studio (but with Shelter Architecture at the time) gave them the spatial clarity and visual comfort they sought while simultaneously taking steps to protect nearby ponds from stormwater runoff. How? By creating a distinct border to the yard in the form of an aesthetically pleasing infiltration trench planted with common rush. Inside the line are turf, a rock outcropping circle, and an inviting sunken fire circle; outside are trees and brush in all their ungroomed glory.

Outline Form
The yard’s artful contours were actually dictated by city mandate. “We just drew where the wetland buffers were, and it made this really interesting form,” says Arvidson. “And that’s essentially the Greenline [see description under “Environmental Health”] that you see today.” Oglesby added a note of rectilinear contrast by designing two wood light boxes near the fireplace. They work as both benches and low tables, but the Zeidners mostly love them for their soft glow after dark.

Environmental Health
Arvidson and Oglesby call the infiltration trench the Greenline: a system of planting soil, aggregate held in place by a perforated fabric, and perforated and nonperforated pipes that carry water to where it needs to enter the ground. So far, the Greenline has easily handled all of the runoff from the back half of the property and roof. “There are a lot more elegant and integrated ways to deal with downspout stormwater than plopping a kidney-shaped rain garden in your yard,” says Arvidson. “We think this is one good alternative.”

**THREE PONDS RESIDENCE**
**Architect:**
Shelter Architecture
www.shelterarchitecture.com
**Landscape architect:**
Treeline
treeline.biz
**Principal-in-charge:**
Adam Regn Arvidson
**Project lead designer:**
Colin Oglesby, AIA
**General contractor:**
Windsor Companies
**Cost:** $106,750
**Completion:** October 2009

**Clients:**
Lew and Nicki Zeidner

**Photographer:**
Brandon Stengel, Assoc. AIA, Farm Kid Studios

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A complex $245 million renovation of St. Paul’s Union Depot restores the Beaux Arts landmark as a world-class regional transportation hub.

The project’s centerpiece is the dramatic reopening of the barrel-vaulted, skylit waiting room after more than 40 years of disuse.

BY LINDA MACK

“Station Master E.P. Bruers” reads the bronze letters on a weathered wood door in St. Paul’s Union Depot. There’s no stationmaster now, and there aren’t 140 trains arriving and departing daily as there were in 1923, when the Neoclassical depot opened. But unlike most monumental railroad stations across America, which have been either adapted for new uses or leveled, the Lowertown landmark has been revived for its original purpose—as a transportation hub.

Thanks to a long-term commitment by the Ramsey County Regional Railroad Authority, the depot and its long-shuttered concourse and waiting room have opened to Metro Transit, Jefferson Lines, casino buses, and tourist buses. The multi-modal transit hub stands ready to serve as the first station on the Central Corridor light-rail line in 2014—and to host Amtrak trains when they make their historic return to downtown St. Paul by the end of 2013. And a bike terminal and shop will add another form of transportation.
The head house was renovated and returned to use in 1984, but the concourse and 27,000-square-foot waiting room had been sealed off since 1971. The latter spaces now lead to Metro Transit and Jefferson Lines buses and will link to Amtrak trains beginning in 2014.

Above: With the new Central Corridor light-rail line on Fourth Street (not pictured) now blocking the front drive, the entry plaza serves pedestrians only. Below: Grand reopening revelers take in a presentation in the head house. Right: In the front vestibule, an elevator was inserted where telegraph and telephone rooms once stood.
St. Paulites are thrilled. "I had no idea how important this building is to St. Paul until I started working on it," says Michael Bjornberg, AIA, historic architect and project manager for HGA Architects and Engineers, which led the architecture and engineering for the $245 million project. URS was the lead on the transportation infrastructure, and Beyer Blinder Belle, the New York firm that renovated Grand Central Station, designed the new bus and train platforms and the new Kellogg Boulevard entry.

"This is the place where soldiers went off to war and didn't come back," says Josh Collins, communications manager for Ramsey County Regional Rail Authority, who leads tours of the breathtaking renovated waiting area and new bus station below. "Or the first place that someone set foot on U.S. soil. People have such an emotional connection to this building."

Indeed, for nearly 50 years, the Charles Sumner Frost–designed depot, which replaced the 1881 depot designed by Leroy Buffington, was both the icon and the bustling heart...
Few buildings convey St. Paul's history as strongly as Union Depot: The building stands where the railroads met the Mississippi River.

1881
The original depot, designed by Leroy Buffington, is completed.

1884
The first depot is damaged by fire. It's rebuilt and eventually expanded with a taller central tower.

1915
The first depot burns down.

1917
Construction begins on a new station designed by Charles Frost, but World War I delays its completion by several years.

1923
The Union Depot that stands today opens.

1929
Great Northern Railway unveils the world-class Empire Builder.

1935
The journey to Chicago is reduced from 10 hours to 7 with the introduction of Chicago and North Western Railway's 400 train.

1971
The complex closes on April 30 after a decades-long decline in rail travel. The Afternoon Zephyr is the last train to leave the station.

1974
St. Paul Union Depot is added to the National Register of Historic Places.

1984
The head house is renovated by Rafferty Rafferty Mikutowski & Associates to include a restaurant and offices.

2005
Ramsey County Regional Railroad Authority secures funding to redevelop the depot as a multi-modal transit hub.

2012
The renovated waiting room and concourse are reopened to the public after more than 40 years of disuse.

2014
The Central Corridor light-rail line begins service, anchored at one end by the depot.
The view from that historic platform makes plain what the depot used to be about: coming and going. Most of the track is gone now, but new bus ticket stations and a glass-walled waiting area bring life to the historic hub.

Ironically, Bjornberg points out, by the time the second Union Depot opened in 1923, rail transportation had peaked. Automobile traffic was taking off. Speedway/Wold-Chamberlain airfield (now Minneapolis-St. Paul International Airport) was built in 1920. World War II brought men and material back to the depot—and a dormitory, canteen, bowling alley, and USO headquarters into vacant spaces in the building. But after the war, rail's fate was sealed. The last Empire Builder left Union Depot on April 30, 1971, and Amtrak moved to the dull Midway station in 1978.

But unlike so many train stations, Union Depot wasn't razed and it wasn't forgotten. A 1984 renovation by Rafferty Rafferty Mikitowski & Associates (now Rafferty Rafferty Tollefson Lindeke Architects)
How does an architecturally notable building stay a secret? The reason usually has something to do with geography—the structure is located outside of a metropolitan area, or perhaps it’s tucked into a city neighborhood on a side street. *Architecture Minnesota* shines a spotlight on under-exposed modern landmarks in the following pages by taking you around the state and through time: Of the following selections, no two reside in the same community, and we’ve chosen one gem (or two) from each decade dating back to the 1950s. Have you visited or strolled past any of these captivating buildings? If so, help us spread the word.

**MINNESOTA’S BEST-KEPT ARCHITECTURAL SECRETS**

- U.S. Land Port of Entry
- Warroad
- Weber Music Hall
- Duluth
- Alcuin Library
- Collegeville
- University of Minnesota Morris
- Morris
- Kenwood Residence
- Minneapolis
- St. Columba Catholic Church
- St. Paul
- Winton Guest House
- Owatonna

More Minnesotans would know about St. Columba if it weren’t situated mid-block in an unassuming residential district.
Unless you worship at St. Columba Catholic Church in St. Paul or live within several blocks of it, you’re not likely to know about this Hamline-Midway neighborhood jewel. But you should. The impressive limestone structure features tall, curving sidewalls cut with a series of narrow vertical windows that bring otherworldly light into the sanctuary, and, in front, a soaring circular bell tower flanked by straight walls, each embedded with a granite cross. The metal-clad main doors reinforce the church’s decidedly modern character.

St. Columba may be hidden away, but it’s no secret to University of Minnesota architecture students, several of whom visit the church each summer to sketch it and review the original architectural drawings. Nor was this landmark a secret to architectural critic and historian Larry Millett when he wrote his indispensable AIA Guide to the Twin Cities (2007). “Along with Christ Lutheran Church in Minneapolis,” Millett opined, “it ranks as a high point of modern church architecture in the Twin Cities.”
Alcuin Library
St. John's University
Marcel Breuer

1964 Virtually every Minnesotan has laid eyes on at least a photograph of the world-renowned, Marcel Breuer-designed Abbey Church at St. John's University, with its dramatically folded concrete sidewalls, honeycombed stained-glass north wall, and iconic banner bell tower. But only a fraction of the population is familiar with the Breuer-designed building across from the great church: Alcuin Library.

Don't let the building's simple orthogonal exterior—distinguished primarily by Breuer's use of hollow-tile chimney flues over the large upper windows—fool you. Inside are two of the most breathtaking structural elements you'll ever see: concrete "trees" whose slightly contoured, board-formed branches support the open-plan library's vast roof. For more structural elegance, take the central staircase down to the library's lower level and view the stair from all sides. Of all the great architecture highlighted in this feature, St. John's is the destination we most highly recommend. If you haven't walked the Collegeville campus (near St. Cloud), make the drive this summer.
University of Minnesota Morris

Humanities and Fine Arts Building

Ralph Rapson and Associates

1973

Heating Plant

Cerny Associates

1970 Moving out to the western edge of the state, we couldn’t choose between two modern landmarks at the University of Minnesota Morris—the Heating Plant and the Humanities and Fine Arts Building, completed three years apart—so we just decided to list the small campus as a whole. The Heating Plant, a vertical, brick-clad equilateral triangle with its roof running nearly all the way down to the ground at one end, boasts a geometric form as pure as Fort Snelling’s Round Tower. The Humanities and Fine Arts Building is equally angular but far larger and more complex, with a series of shed-roofed light scoops that architecture students used to call “honkers.” Not surprisingly, all those light scoops create bright and airy interior spaces for making and displaying art, rehearsing and performing.

The campus is even more notable for its within-reach goal of carbon neutrality—an achievement that will be made possible in part by the Biomass Research and Demonstration Facility (a 2009 addition to the Heating Plant, by HGA Architects and Engineers) and a LEED-Gold Welcome Center (a 2009 renovation of a 1915 engineering building, by Meyer, Scherer & Rockcastle).

The small Morris campus punctuates otherwise flat, agricultural land, and the large and angular Humanities and Fine Arts Building is the exclamation point.

The brick Heating Plant was the first signal that the University of Minnesota Morris intended to become an architecturally progressive campus. The school sought crisp, contemporary design for the plant’s 2009 expansion: the cedar-clad Biomass Research and Demonstration Facility.

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Winton Guest House
Frank Gehry

1987 The most provocative gem on our list is also the only one that’s been relocated. In the early 1980s, arts patrons Penny and Mike Winton commissioned then-little-known architect Frank Gehry to design a guesthouse for their midcentury, Philip Johnson–designed residence on Lake Minnetonka, and Gehry delivered an exuberant composition of geometric forms clad in brick, sheet metal, and Minnesota limestone, among other materials. But the Wintons sold the property in 2002 to a real estate developer who subdivided it and eventually donated the 2,300-square-foot guesthouse to the University of St. Thomas, on the condition that the school move it to another location.

The house’s transport down to St. Thomas’ Gainey Conference Center in Owatonna was no small feat: the structure had to be disassembled into eight pieces, hauled 110 miles by a building mover, and carefully reassembled and repaired—a process that took three years to complete. But the bold endeavor was well worth the effort, because the Winton Guest House is now open for public tours during the spring and summer months. Inside, several engaging exhibits tell the story of the house and its makers.

Frank Gehry says the Winton Guest House’s pyramids, trapezoids, and boxes were inspired by painter Giorgio Morandi’s celebrated still-life studies of bottles, vases, and, yes, boxes.

The glassy Kenwood Residence opens to expansive garden and lake views during the day. At night, with its birch-veneer louvers closed and its drapes drawn, it achieves an air of mystery.
Nestled inconspicuously into its upscale urban neighborhood, the Kenwood Residence is the touchstone of minimalist residential design in the Upper Midwest. The L-shaped, glass-and-limestone home was designed to frame the owner’s art collection and views to the landscape, with the airy main-floor living and dining space flowing seamlessly through floor-to-ceiling glass doors to an outdoor sculpture court and gardens. Too open to the gaze of neighbors, you worry? A system of rolling birch-veneer louvers can quickly create privacy, or diaphanous drapes can afford partial privacy while still allowing sunlight to filter in.

The residence won an AIA National Honor Award for its “sophisticated use of materials and a lightness in its overall feel,” and Minnesota’s top architects all seem to agree that the home is aging gracefully. “What pleases me about this modern residence overlooking the Lake of the Isles,” Duluth architect David Salmela, FAIA, recently observed, “is that its first regard is the site. Everything is elegantly positioned as if the land were the most respected element. Even the owner’s amazing sculpture collection appears to grow out of the ground.”
Inside the intimate but towering Weber Music Hall, no two surfaces are parallel. That’s because parallel surfaces cause standing (sound) waves, which distort the bass and lower midrange frequencies.

The small yet soaring interior of Weber Music Hall is undeniably beautiful, but beautiful would be a vastly insufficient descriptor if audiences could see the symphony of sound waves above and all around them. The highly unusual shape and height of the 350-seat hall isn’t simply a bold design statement; it’s a direct result of the verticality needed to create the necessary volume for an intimate, acoustically world-class performance space. Of course, audiences can hear the incredibly rich sound. And performers revel in it. Chanticleer, a Grammy Award–winning male chorus, returned to the hall after their performance and sang well into the night, experimenting for their own enjoyment.

Weber Music Hall can be “tuned” for different performances by adjusting the 48 mid-bass traps and 5,000 square feet of pleated drapery. But what makes the space truly exceptional is its sound isolation—it’s so well isolated from outside noise that you can actually hear a pin drop. “Musically, it increases the potential dynamic range, allowing the ensemble to play more softly,” says Weber technical director and facilities manager Don Schraufnagel. “This increases the range of dynamic expression available for the composer, maestro, and performers.”
U.S. Land Port of Entry
Julie Snow Architects

2010  “[T]he Warroad U.S. Land Port of Entry beautifully captures the tension between openness and security, accessibility and safety, that has come to characterize our relationship with the rest of the world, even our closest ally, Canada,” wrote Thomas Fisher, Assoc. AIA, in our March/April 2011 issue. A product of the General Services Administration’s Design Excellence Program, the 40,000-square-foot, horizon-hugging structure—essentially three separate interior spaces connected by two dramatic canopies—defied all expectations for a border station when it opened in early 2010. The dark-stained wood exterior and contrasting naturally stained wood of the canopy undersides achieve a perfect blend of modern and Northwoods character, while the station’s open interiors and generous glazing give the staff the sightlines they need in all directions.

The project has won numerous major design awards, including an AIA National Honor Award and five General Services Administration Design Awards. The jury that bestowed an AIA Minnesota Honor Award on the building lauded it for giving travelers “a sense of nobility as they pass from country to country.” How fortunate for Minnesota that one of its newest architectural gems is an impression-making gateway building.

In its mastery of form and materials, the U.S. Land Port of Entry in Warroad gives travelers a heightened sense of both openness and sheltering enclosure. Coen + Partners carried the building’s site-sensitive modern design out into the landscape.
U SHOULD SEE THESE BUILDINGS

NOT SURPRISINGLY, a number of midcentury-and-later buildings in the University of Minnesota system were considered for this feature. Only the University of Minnesota Morris and the University of Minnesota Duluth's Weber Music Hall made the final cut, but few Minnesota architects would have complained had we instead included the ruggedly refined Rarig Center for the Performing Arts (Ralph Rapson), on the Twin Cities' West Bank campus. The building contains a variety of laboratories and studios as well as four differently configured theaters, including a smaller-scale replica of the original Guthrie's thrust stage.

And speaking of Ralph Rapson, the East Bank's Rapson Hall, home of the U's architecture and landscape architecture programs, boasts both quality midcentury design (Thorshov & Eerny) and a contemporary copper-clad addition (Steven Holl Architects with VJAA) that's especially stirring at night.

The University of Minnesota Duluth reshaped its architectural identity in the first decade of the 21st century under the guiding hand of former chancellor Kathryn Martin. Our favorite recent buildings include the structurally expressive, LEED-Gold James I. Swenson Civil Engineering Building (Ross Barney Architects with SJA Architects) and the environmentally expressive, LEED-Platinum Bagley Nature Area Classroom Building (Salmela Architect).

Have you visited or strolled past any of these captivating buildings? If so, help us spread the word.
OTHER NOTABLE NOTABLES

ADDITIONAL UNDER-THE-RADAR OR OUT-OF-THE-WAY GEMS include the Starkey House (Marcel Breuer) in Duluth, a home we'll be highlighting in an upcoming issue. Viewed from the street, the 4,000-square-foot house borders on unassuming; in back it floats dramatically above a landscape overlooking Lake Superior. Another modern landmark is the brilliantly blue IBM Headquarters (Eero Saarinen, expanded over the years) in Rochester. Many Minnesotans have glimpsed the glistening complex from Highway 52, but few have had a close encounter.

One of the best-hidden buildings in the state is the Minneapolis Rowing Club Boathouse (VJAA) at the base of the Lake Street Bridge. The scene-stealer in this low-budget storage and training facility is the roofline; it rises in opposing corners to form prow-like clerestories. Inside, the hyperbolic paraboloid roof's exposed framing rivals the structural poetry of Santiago Calatrava.

For a different school of poetry, visit United Theological Seminary of the Twin Cities' Bigelow Chapel (HGA Architects and Engineers) in New Brighton. The chapel's 2,200-square-foot sanctuary is an ode to illumination with its glass-and-steel curtain wall, glass fins, and curving maple-veneer scrims. The scrims bathe the sanctuary in warm, honey-colored light on sunny days; at night with the interior lights on, the chapel casts a soft, maple-filtered glow.
WHAT'S BEING DESIGNED BY AIA MINNESOTA FIRMS?

Take a journey through the following 2 pages to see projects on the boards (ComingSoon), and those already built (InPlace). For other types of expertise, check out the AIA Minnesota Firm Directory in our May/June issue.
“One of Philadelphia’s most thrilling new designs. MS&R’s designers... didn’t merely rearrange the partitions. They exploded them, turning the institute’s plain vanilla, open-plan floors into a mind-blowing, Escher-inspired puzzle space... It’s the kind of place that makes you wonder if it’s too late to enroll in art school.”—Inga Saffron, The Philadelphia Inquirer
How do you think Union Depot will transform the city?
This building will once again become the front door to St. Paul. When my grandmother from Ireland got off the train, this building was under construction, and it was her first impression of the city. It was for many generations. Soon people will get off the high-speed rail line and walk into the beautiful Lowertown Historic District, or go to the farmers’ market, or take in some great music at Meads Park, and this station will be their new first impression of downtown St. Paul.

Why is transportation such a key focus in St. Paul’s redevelopment?
Every great city has successful transportation at its core. If you don’t have ways for people to move around without being stuck in traffic all day, dependent on a car, it’s very difficult for the city to grow. But if you have great transportation, you can attract younger people who are looking to get out of the car, and businesses that know that [proximity to] transit is a key component of attracting employees.

What will Northern Spark do for downtown?
The fact that Northern Spark is coming is an affirmation that the work we’ve done in the last seven and a half years has really helped reshape the image of our community as a place where the arts and pop culture are thriving and young people are looking to be entertained. It’s going to bring a lot of folks down here to experience the changes we’ve seen in the last few years.

What is the perception of St. Paul in the development community?
The desirability of St. Paul has increased so much in the last couple of years—and that’s before light rail is here, the new Lunds opens up, and the new ballpark is built. I think people see this as an incredible opportunity. You see this with the post office: If you had gone out into the community five years ago with a request for proposals to redevelop the old post office building, you wouldn’t have gotten a single response. This year, we had five different people bidding to turn that building into a new use. There will be 250 units of new housing in that beautiful old Art Deco building.

Is there a certain look, or design aesthetic, that you think sets St. Paul apart?
More than a design aesthetic it’s a preservation ethic that’s helped us create a unique environment.

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Stationmaster
<< continued from page 50

People are craving unique spaces. They want to go somewhere that doesn’t look like every other prefab shopping building you see in every other city in the country and around the globe. We have this historic character downtown, and these buildings are being reused. It creates the sense of a place that’s unlike any other.

Lowertown has become a very hip part of town. What is the most important factor in that revival?
[Real estate developer] Dave Brooks convincing Bulldog to come to downtown St. Paul was a big one. Once you demonstrate that people will come to a place like that, it creates demand in the surrounding area. Thursday-night music in Mears Park is another one. Investments in the farmers’ market, the Black Dog Coffee and Wine Bar, the artists that have been here for years—there are so many parts of Lowertown’s success that you can’t point to just one thing.

What publicly funded projects would you say have been the best investments in the city?
Mears Park is a big one. We turned it into one of the great urban squares in the country. It’s a place people weren’t going to before, but now it’s a destination. And this building, of course. The price to save and restore it wasn’t cheap, but the price of not doing it would have been so much higher.

A lot of people saw the exit of Macy’s as a distress signal, but you see it as an opportunity. Why?
The loss of Macy’s was sad but inevitable. The reality is, that’s not how people shop anymore. What works in downtown are entertainment spaces, dining destinations, and unique retail like Heimie’s Haberdashery. People will travel to go to unique places. They won’t travel past three Macy’s to get to a Macy’s.

What would you like to see go in that space?
What I would like to see is less important than what the development community will support or the business community desires. That’s why I’ve asked Doug Baker, CEO of Ecolab, and Michael Langley, CEO of Greater MSP, to assess what the business community is looking for.

If I were going to draw something on a piece of paper, maybe it would be the twin to the Wells Fargo Center or World Trade Center.

>> continued on page 54
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July/August 2013 ARCHITECTURE MINNESOTA
But I don’t know that that’s what downtown really needs right now or what the market would support. So we’ll figure out what that really is.

What does St. Paul have going for it that Minneapolis doesn’t?
Me [laughs]. No, the great thing about the Twin Cities is that they are twins but distinct. They complement each other. But the historic character of our downtown doesn’t exist anymore in Minneapolis. There’s a scale to it that’s more livable. St. Paul doesn’t need to be the New York City of the Midwest. But if it can be the Greenwich Village, I’m OK with that.

What is your favorite building in downtown St. Paul?
It has to be the depot. It’s just a magnificent building, of the kind you just don’t see very often anymore. Someone said it and I’ve stolen it: This building now becomes the third part of the triumvirate with the cathedral and the capitol—the three great public buildings in the city.

Arrival Revival

reopened the head house—the portion of the complex facing Fourth Street, originally known as the business lobby—with restaurants and office space. And 2005 saw the completion of 38 condominium units in the head house. But for more than 40 years the depot’s 27,000-square-foot waiting room, a soaring hall with a barrel-vaulted ceiling and terra-cotta frieze tracing the history of transportation, remained sealed off. (The train deck below was used by the U.S. Post Office for mail handling, and an unsightly skyway connected it to the main post office a block away.)

So it’s easy to understand why the depot’s grand reopening in December 2012 drew throngs of excited visitors. The head house, closed for four months of the two-year construction, looks much the same, only brighter. The scored plaster walls are painted the original gold, which was chosen to recall Midwestern wheat fields. Pedestrians still enter through the 1920s wood doors. In the vestibule, a new elevator and two stairways designed in the spirit of the building and its era of architecture lead down one level to
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what is now the car drop-off point. (The location of the light-rail line on Fourth Street closed off the depot's historic driveway.) HGA sensitively enlarged this existing underground carriageway to accommodate emergency vehicles.

But the project’s pow-bang is the restored waiting area. Large skylights that were blacked out during World War II to prevent air strikes once again illuminate the room, as do the original arched steel windows along the long walls. The delicately detailed plaster ceiling, long assaulted by water, is again intact. The wood radiator covers have been refurbished as information kiosks, and the historic doors to the nine train platforms are all there, though only one historic platform remains. (It was moved to the center to free up space for the bikeway on the edge.)

“All this was hidden away,” says Josh Collins. “It was almost like the magic door that you open.”

The view from that historic platform makes plain what the depot used to be about: coming and going. Most of the track is gone now, and, in fact, new track was laid for the Amtrak trains. But new bus ticket stations and a glass-walled waiting area bring life to the historic hub. The huge concrete deck that used to carry the trains is still there, and the 478 mushroom-shaped concrete columns that hold it up have been repaired and painted. (Bjornberg says that the column repairs were the biggest of the many uncertainties of the historic renovation: “If we had had to replace them all, we would have had no money for anything else.”)

The depot’s landmark status meant that the St. Paul Heritage Preservation Commission, the State Historic Preservation Office, and numerous other agencies vetted every decision. Bjornberg says replacing historic materials such as the “railroad station” pink travertine on the head house floor was relatively easy: Bringing in modern materials and differentiating between old and new was more challenging. For instance, uplights were added in the concourse area to raise light levels. All was sensitively done.

Was there ever a moment when this monumental project seemed impossible? Bjornberg says no. Tim Mayasich, who managed the project for the Ramsey County Regional Railroad Authority, agrees: “Everything went smoothly. I love the way they were able to meld the old and the new.”
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Directory of Renovation, Remodeling, Restoration

Welcome to the 8th Annual Directory of Renovation, Remodeling, Restoration!

The firms advertising on the following pages include design professionals who are members of the American Institute of Architects Minnesota (AIA Minnesota). These firms have a wealth of experience in the areas of renovation, remodeling and restoration. Contact them to discuss your specific project needs!

For information on all AIA Minnesota firms, please visit our website, www.aia-mn.org, or pick up a copy of the May/June issue of Architecture Minnesota at newsstands or from our office.

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AIA Registered Member, American Institute of Architects
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ASID American Society of Interior Designers
CCS Certified Construction Specifier
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FAIA Fellow, American Institute of Architects
IIA International Interior Design Association
LEED Leadership in Energy and Environmental Design, Accredited Professional
LEED Leadership in Energy and Environmental Design + Construction
PE Professional Engineer
REFP Recognized Educational Facility Professional

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Firm Principal
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ALTUS Architecture + Design is a full service architecture and interior design firm dedicated to the design of living and working environments that are integrated with their surroundings as “progressive contextualism”. Our design process is initiated with the creation of the client’s narrative for the development of the project. This process optimizes the coordination of landscape design, architecture and interior design, exploring the site, light, scale and materials – creating an enduring spirit of place.

Representative Projects

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Randy L. Moen, AIA, CID, LEED AP
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Bentz/Thompson/Rietow is an award-winning Architecture, Interiors, and Planning firm. Much of our yearly work focuses on planning, designing, and administering construction for additions, remodeling, renovation, and restoration projects. The firm is committed to working with clients in a collaborative manner to bring their ideas, ideals, and vision into a manifest reality. We deliver projects that are value conscious, durable, sustainable, energy efficient, easy to maintain, and beautiful.

Representative Projects

West Snail Hall (Remodel), MSU Moorhead, Moorhead, MN; Birch Hall (Renovation), Bemidji State University, Bemidji, MN; Trinity Lutheran Church Expansion & Remodeling, Stillwater, MN; Hennepin County Taxpayer Services Renovations, Multiple locations, MN; Carver County Taxpayer Services & License Center Add & Remodeling, Chaska, MN; Krysko Commons Addition & Remodeling, Winona State University, Winona, MN; Metropolitan State University Boiler Plant Addition & Remodeling, Metro State University, St. Paul, MN; MEC 3rd Floor Offices Renovation, Minneapolis Community & Technical College, Minneapolis, MN

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Crettchen Camp, AIA
Kelly Naylor, CID
Melissa Metzler, CID

BKV Group has significant experience planning and designing historic building renovations and remodeling, including government, corporate and residential buildings. Our staff of architects, interior designers, structural, mechanical and electrical engineers, and construction specialists strive to incorporate green energy-saving features into renovated buildings, while still preserving the historic character. Our philosophy is to design within the cultural fabric of the community, using materials and systems that provide optimum value, functionality, flexibility, durability and timeless quality.

Representative Projects

5oo Line Building City Apartments, Minneapolis, MN; A-Mill Artist Lofts, Minneapolis, MN; Schmidt Artist Lofts, St. Paul, MN; CEE Lofts, St. Paul, MN; Else Warehouse, Minneapolis, MN; Buzz Art Artist Lofts, Minneapolis, MN; Livingston Lord Library, University of MN, Moorhead, MN; Inver Grove Heights City Hall/PD, Inver Grove Heights, MN
Blumentals/Architecture feels very strongly that almost every existing building, with or without historic significance, can be made usable through the renovation of existing spaces, additions to the building and/or changing the use of the facility. Reuse cuts down on the amount of waste, reduces the need of new building materials, and is a very important part of the Green Building strategy. We have designed over 520 Renovation/Historic Preservation projects covering approximately 2,600,000 SF.

Representative Projects
- Riverside Plaza Renovation, Minneapolis, MN; Wells Fargo Bank Renovations, various locations; Hennepin County Human Services and Public Health Dept South Suburban Regional Hub, Bloomington, MN; Minnesota Army National Guard Renovations, various locations; Munker Terrace Renovation, Duluth, MN; Onness Plaza Renovation, Mankato, MN; Mossy Oaks Apartments Renovation, Beaufort, SC; Multi-Family Housing Renovations across Minnesota and other states.

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Firm Principal
Gar Hargens, AIA
Consultants and contract help as needed

Steeped in seventy-five years of Mid Century Modernism, Close Associates is also very skilled at remodeling, restoring and combining earlier styles. Owner Gar Hargens was a Saint Paul HPC Commissioner for nine years and is a registered Interior Designer. We enjoy helping reuse older buildings like the Seward Co-op, and have designed countless additions and remodelings. We work hard to help you maximize your budget.

Representative Projects
- Seward Co-op Grocery & Deli renovation, Minneapolis; Louis & Maude Hill House restoration, 260 Summit Avenue, St. Paul; Saint John the Evangelist Church renovation, St. Paul; River Towers Condominium Plaza restoration, Minneapolis; Lakeside remodeling, Wayzata (see website); Johnson Residence remodeling, St. Paul; Cooper Foster addition, St. Paul; Mann-Benson renovation-additions, Deephaven.

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Cunningham Group transcends tradition with architecture, interior design, urban design and landscape architecture services for a diverse mix of clients and project types. Our client-centered, collaborative approach incorporates trend-setting architecture and environmental responsiveness to create projects that weave seamlessly into the urban fabric. Founded in 1968, the firm is recognized as a leader in numerous markets and has grown to more than 255 employees in Minneapolis, Los Angeles, Las Vegas, Biloxi, Denver, San Diego, Phoenix, Seoul and Beijing. For more information, visit www.cunningham.com.

Representative Projects
- Oceanaire Seafood Room/Remodeling, Minneapolis, Minnesota; Saint Paul Public Schools/Remodeling, Multiple St. Paul locations; Canadian Pacific Plaza/Remodeling, Minneapolis, MN; Greene Espel/Remodeling, Minneapolis, MN; Mystic Lake Casino/Interior Renovation, Prior Lake, MN; Zion Lutheran Church/Renovation, Anoka, MN; Palace Casino Resort/Remodeling, Biloxi, MN; Hennepin County Northeast Library/Renovation, Minneapolis, MN.

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As architects, designers, planners and consultants, we partner with our clients on some 3,000+ projects every year. These projects range from a wine label to a new urban district. With more than 3,600+ professionals networked across 43 locations, we serve our clients as trusted advisors, combining localized expertise with global perspective wherever new opportunities arise.

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Representative Projects

Gerald W. Heaney Federal Building Historic Restoration & Courtroom Renovation (GSA), Duluth, MN; Mn/DOT Maple Grove Maintenance Facility, Maple Grove, MN; Westwood Lutheran Church, St. Louis Park, MN; Calvin Christian School, Edina, MN; Burnoughs Community School, Minneapolis, MN; Bloomington Aquatic & Recreation Center, Bloomington, MN
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Representative Projects
Brenny/Lund remodel and addition, Tonka Bay, Minnesota; Burback remodel and addition, Portage, Wisconsin; Corey remodel and addition, Bayfield, Wisconsin; Onsrude remodel and addition, Rochester, Minnesota; Taylor remodel and addition, Orono, Minnesota; Hoffman renovation, remodel and addition, Wayzata, Minnesota; Sovelle/Ronno renovation, remodel and addition, St. Paul, Minnesota; Tangetown major remodel and addition, Minneapolis, Minnesota

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Representative Projects
Pioneer-Endicott Buildings Restoration of Exterior & Public Spaces, Saint Paul, MN; Gale Mansion Rehabilitation, Minneapolis, MN; Pierre Bottineau House Restoration, Maple Grove, MN; James J. Hill House Restoration, Saint Paul, MN; Christ Church Lutheran Restoration, Minneapolis, MN; MnDOT Roadside Marker Restoration, multiple locations in Minnesota; Nolte Center & Scott Hall (University of Minnesota) Elevator Additions, Minneapolis, MN; Tate Hall Restoration & Rehabilitation, Minnesota State Academy for the Deaf, Faribault, MN

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MS&R is an award-winning architecture and interior design firm committed to excellence. The firm has earned a national reputation for both designing exceptional new spaces and, through preservation, renovation, and adaptive reuse, discovering innovative ways to reuse buildings. Our work has been recognized with three national AIA Honor Awards for the Mill City Museum (Minneapolis), Urban Outfitters Corporate Campus (Philadelphia), and most recently for the conversion of an abandoned Walmart into the McAllen Main Library (Texas).

Representative Projects
MSP Terminal 2 - Humphrey Checkpoint (remodel), MSP International Airport, MN; HCMC Labor & Delivery Department (remodel), Minneapolis, MN; Basilica of Saint Mary (restoration/remodel), Minneapolis, MN; Unity Church - Unitarian (remodel), St. Paul, MN; James J. Hill Reference Library (restoration/remodel), St. Paul, MN; Minneapolis Public Schools - Howe Elementary School (renovation), Minneapolis, MN; University of Minnesota, Civil Engineering Building (renovation), Minneapolis, MN; Minnesota Governor's Residence (restoration/remodel)

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Representative Projects
MSP Terminal 2 - Humphrey Checkpoint (remodel), MSP International Airport, MN; HCMC Labor & Delivery Department (remodel), Minneapolis, MN; Basilica of Saint Mary (restoration/remodel), Minneapolis, MN; Unity Church - Unitarian (remodel), St. Paul, MN; James J. Hill Reference Library (restoration/remodel), St. Paul, MN; Minneapolis Public Schools - Howe Elementary School (renovation), Minneapolis, MN; University of Minnesota, Civil Engineering Building (renovation), Minneapolis, MN; Minnesota Governor's Residence (restoration/remodel)
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Representative Projects

New Ulm Medical Center Clinic Expansion, New Ulm, MN; Purina Animal Nutrition Center, Conference Center Renovation and Expansion, Gray Summit, MO; St. Louis County Government Service Center Renovation, Duluth, MN; University of Minnesota, Amundson Hall – Gore Research Annex, Minneapolis, MN; Saint Anthony Falls Laboratory Infrastructure Upgrade, Minneapolis, MN; HealthPartners Hudson Hospital MOB Addition, Hudson, WI

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Firm Principals
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Gabriel Keller, Associate AIA

Peterssen/Keller Architecture is a full-service architectural firm that specializes in custom homes, lofts, cabins and boutique commercial projects. As residential architects and designers, we integrate sustainable design practices into every project, from small additions to LEED-certified new homes, finding solutions that merge environmental thinking with exceptional design. At Peterssen/Keller, every client is our passion, and every project is an opportunity to create a home crafted to last a generation.

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White Oaks Residence, Edina, MN; Lake Everett Cabin, Ely, MN; Kenwood Renovation, Minneapolis, MN; Ridgetop Farmhouse, Decorah, IA; Rest Lake Retreat, Manitoish Waters, WI; Harrington Residence, Minnetonka, MN

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Some projects begin as an empty site and involve the creation of a new home. Others are small interventions to existing houses, enhancing what already exists and revitalizing what doesn’t work. We begin each project by listening to the practical needs and the ideals of homeowners, then setting out to find the right balance between the two. We strive to create houses that lift the spirit as well as graciously accommodate the daily lives of people.

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Cedar Lake Historic Restoration, Minneapolis, MN; Lake Harriet Georgian Renovation, Minneapolis, MN; Hudson River Estate Renovation, Rhinebeck, NY; Mid-Century Modern Remodeling, Los Altos, CA; Linden Hills Cottage Transformation, Minneapolis, MN; Lake Calhoun Shingle Style Renovation, Minneapolis, MN; Mount Curve Renovation, Minneapolis, MN; Lake of the Isles Tudor Renovation, Minneapolis, MN

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Shelter was founded to explore, research and implement sustainable design to make an impact in the world through humanitarian efforts, and offer design solutions that are accessible to all ages and abilities. We continue to pursue these founding principles through architecture, interior design and landscape design. We design BETTER places for people to live. We do this by focusing on design solutions based on the elements that most directly impact our clients’ well-being.

Representative Projects

Icehouse, Minneapolis, MN; Gilbertson Kitchen, St. Paul, MN; Blum Photography Studio, Minneapolis, MN; Hotel Donaldson, Fargo, ND; Blaisdell Avenue Renovation, Minneapolis, MN; Sargent Avenue Renovation, St. Paul, MN; 54th & Lyndale Retail Renovation, Minneapolis, MN; 1895 John Speedy House, Minneapolis, MN
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SKD has provided a full range of both commercial and residential architectural services for 35 years. The projects have been divided between new construction and remodel, renovation and sustainable construction. For renovation projects, we start with a building assessment, both structural and functional. The result is a building that is revitalized and adapted for a new purpose or growing needs.

Representative Projects
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Firm Principals
Laurel Ulland, Assoc AIA

LAUREL ULLAND is a small residential architecture and design firm specializing in the renovation, remodeling and restoration of existing homes. We provide a full-range of design services for our clients and work with a variety of house types and styles. We focus on all aspects of the construction process including detailed cabinetry and millwork drawings, the selection of all interior finishes and products and a high level of project management and coordination.

Representative Projects
Mediterranean Revival (renovation/remodel), Lake of the Isles, Minneapolis, MN: Kenwood Carriage House (renovation), Minneapolis, MN; Comprehensive Addition/Remodel, Harvard IL: Mississippi River Boulevard Residence (addition/remodel), St. Paul, MN; Deephaven Revival (remodel), Deephaven, MN; Kitchen Remodel, Edina, MN; Front Porch Facelift (renovation/restoration), Minneapolis, MN; Masten Suite Renovation, Country Club, Edina, MN.

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Wold has developed an expertise in the planning, design, and engineering of educational and government facilities in the Midwest. Our firm brings a strong commitment to client service, resulting in substantial long-term relationships with clients. We specialize in planning, new design, renovation, and additions, and bring a deep understanding of the issues our clients face with renovation, remodeling, and restoration.

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Rehn Hassell, AIA
Mike Burgoine, AIA

YA aims to engage individuals intellectually and emotionally through a collaborative design approach. We seek inspiration from many sources and draw meaning from new interpretations and combinations. Respect for our client and the alliance we develop allows for the possibility of transcending expectations.

Representative Projects
North Star Loft

Location: Minneapolis, Minnesota
Architect: James Dayton Design
Principal-in-charge: James Dayton, AIA
Project lead designer: Angela Varpness, Assoc. AIA
Project team: John Steingraeber, Assoc. AIA
Lighting design: JTH Lighting
Interior design: Conlin Rudd
General contractor: Urban Rebuilders
Stone supplier: Walker-Zanger
Stone fabricator: Paramount Granite
Cabinetwork and millwork: Frost Cabines
Flooring systems/materials: Existing maple flooring stained dark brown
Architectural metal fabrication: Tinetti Fine Furniture
Photographer: Paul Crosby

1950s Kitchen Refreshed

Location: Edina, Minnesota
Clients: Elizabeth Burnett and Adam Mans
Architect: Rehkamp Larson Architects
Project team: Jean Rehkamp Larson, AIA; Ryan Lawinger
General contractor: Quality Home Transformations
Structural engineer: Mattson Macdonald Young
Interior design: Design 29

Treehouse Extension

Location: Minnetonka, Minnesota
Clients: Graciela Magnoni and Mario Singh
Architect: CityDeskStudio
Principal-in-charge/lead designer: Bob Ganser, AIA
Design team: Ben Awes, AIA; Christian Dean, AIA; Tam Ngo
Structural engineer: A.M. Structural Engineering
Stone/tile: Grazzini Brothers & Company
Cabinetwork: Rust Brothers
Window systems: Marvin Windows (Ultimate Series)
Photographer: Brandon Stengel, Assoc. AIA, Farm Kid Studios

Three Ponds Residence

Location: Plymouth, Minnesota
Clients: Lew and Nicki Zeidner
Landscape architect: Treeline
Principal-in-charge: Adam Regn Arvidson
Architect: Shelter Architecture
Project lead designer: Colin Oglesby, AIA (now with CO/A Studio)
General contractor: Windsor Companies
Stone: southwest chocolate flagstone
Flooring systems/materials: pigmented concrete, pervious flagstone patios, and FSC-certified tigerwood decking
Concrete work: Concrete Arts
Carpentry: Friedell Builders
Photographer: Brandon Stengel, Assoc. AIA, Farm Kid Studios

Union Depot Multi-Modal Transit and Transportation Hub

Location: St. Paul, Minnesota
Client: Ramsey County Regional Rail Authority
Architect of record: HGA Architects and Engineers
Principal: Becky Greco, AIA
Project manager: Michael Bjornberg, AIA
Project historic architect/designer: Michael Bjornberg, AIA
Project architect: Leigh Rolfshus, AIA
Additional project team members: Gerhard Guth, AIA; Angela Hunt; Ben Walters; Andrew Holmgren; Jeff Lee; Kevin Hunt; Kelley Casey
Architectural partners: Beyer Blinder Belle; Rafferty Rafferty Tollfson
Lindeke Architects; Luten Architecture; GA Design LLC
Structural, mechanical, and electrical engineer: HGA
Civil engineer: URS and design team
Interior and lighting design: HGA
Construction manager: Mortenson Construction
Site/transportation: URS and design team
Landscape architect: Close Landscape Architecture
Landscape project team: Bob Close; James Robin; Jean Garbarini
Code consultation: Summit Code Consulting
Fire protection: TKDA
Historical materials conservation: Jablonski Building Conservation, Inc.
Vertical transportation: Lerch Bates, Inc.
Signage/wayfinding: Edahl Environmental Design, Inc.
Historical consultation: CCRG
Face brick: American Masonry Restoration
Stone: Vetter Stone; American Artstone
Cabinetwork and millwork: George Cook Construction
Flooring systems/materials: Twin City Tile & Marble
Window systems: Architectural Specialties (Re-View); W.L. Hall

Architectural metal panels: MG McGrath Inc.
Concrete: Adolphson & Peterson; Yaw Construction
Plaster restoration: Mulcahy-Nicholas
Decorative painting: Swanson & Youngdale
Historic lighting fixtures: Winona Lighting
Roofing: Berwald Roofing
Miscellaneous metals: Standard Iron
Structural steel and steel restoration: LeJeune Steel
Photographer: Paul Crosby
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Whenever I’m in Grand Marais, I’m drawn to the lakeshore and out onto the breakwater at the harbor’s edge. The massive concrete seawall and the lighthouse there are particularly powerful attractions, especially in the fog. The effect is something that simply cannot be expressed in words.  
—Photographer Pete Sieger