

New and Recycled Residences

BY BETTE HAMMEL

The 1914 Bamber Valley schoolhouse in Rochester, Minnesota, has been converted into a modern family home by **Hal Henderson, AIA**, and his wife, Holly. When Henderson, principal, **Hammel Green and Abrahamson, Inc.**, Rochester, learned the school was for sale, he soon ascertained its possibilities. He especially liked the way the building's tall narrow windows brought in daylight.

Demolition and rebuilding seemed endless. "We just kept taking away more walls, a false ceiling and layers of flooring," Henderson says. But the work had its rewards. Hidden behind a wall, for instance, were a chimney and brick fireplace, which the couple reused in the living room.

Henderson replaced a major bearing wall with a large beam to create an open plan for the kitchen, dining area and front room. The lower level, with original hardwood floors, is now a TV room with pool table. New construction involved inserting a curving staircase to a loft above the handsome new master bedroom and bathroom. The main floor has access to three balconies and decks that overlook an expansive lawn. The original bell tower, accessed by a library ladder, still stands like a beacon over the property. ❖

The Bookmen building in the Minneapolis Warehouse District functioned for many years as a successful center for book distribution. Today, its conversion into 57 lofts, by **James Dayton Design, Ltd.**, Minneapolis, is nearly complete. The building is also getting a new neighbor, Bookmen Stacks, a modern condominium tower designed by the firm.

In the renovation of the 1914 five-story Bookmen, which "retains the building's historic spirit," says **James Dayton, AIA**, principal, the original brick and clay-tile interior walls were exposed, concrete columns were

sandblasted and a new insulated low-E window system was installed. The fifth floor features eight penthouses, each with spiral staircase leading to a rooftop garden.

Meanwhile, Bookmen Stacks has a contemporary façade of glass and zinc. As it rises to eight stories, the structure's northernmost section politely tips toward the historic building, as though gesturing, in similar massing. All interior units feature crisp contemporary detailing and open floor plans; many have outdoor terraces facing downtown. Open space behind both buildings will become a plaza with green space and plantings. ❖

The Allen and Herman residence, near Stillwater, Minnesota, was to be built high above Little Carnelian Lake on a rugged bluff with rock outcroppings, white pines and birch trees. To preserve the natural beauty of the site, architect **Rosemary McMonigal, AIA**, principal, **McMonigal Architects, LLC**, Minneapolis, teamed up with Bob Close and Jean Garbarini, Close Landscape Architecture, St. Paul. "Together, we worked hard to minimize impact to the site, remove as few trees as possible and preserve natural views of the lake," McMonigal says.

The Minnesota Department of Natural Resources was charged with handling bluff erosion and access concerning a 78-foot drop between the road and the lake. Lawn and landscaping act as a refined edge around the house; the rest of the property was left natural. In this setting sits the shingle-style house, with various gables, large overhangs and horizontal form. Local stone defines the base and parts of the exterior. An entry porch, a side screen porch, a courtyard and terraces act as transition spaces between interior and exterior, while an organized system of windows provides still more views of the lake. ❖

Hidden Creek, an opulent new four-level home designed by **Bruce Knutson, AIA**, principal, **Bruce Knutson Architects, Inc.**, Minneapolis, not only sits near the shoreline of Lake Minnetonka's Lafayette Bay; the white-stucco, Modernist house also includes indoor water features designed by the architect, per the clients' specifications. In the main-floor atrium, for instance, an indoor waterfall trickles out of the ceiling above the second-floor bridge, then cascades down a bubble-glass sheet to the wall below.

The house includes many other amenities. The living/dining room has an all-glass atrium set off by a four-level curvilinear staircase of natural maple. There are four bedroom suites and two offices, as well as a large "cook's kitchen," a photography darkroom, guest rooms, a wine cellar, an exercise room and a movie theater. ❖