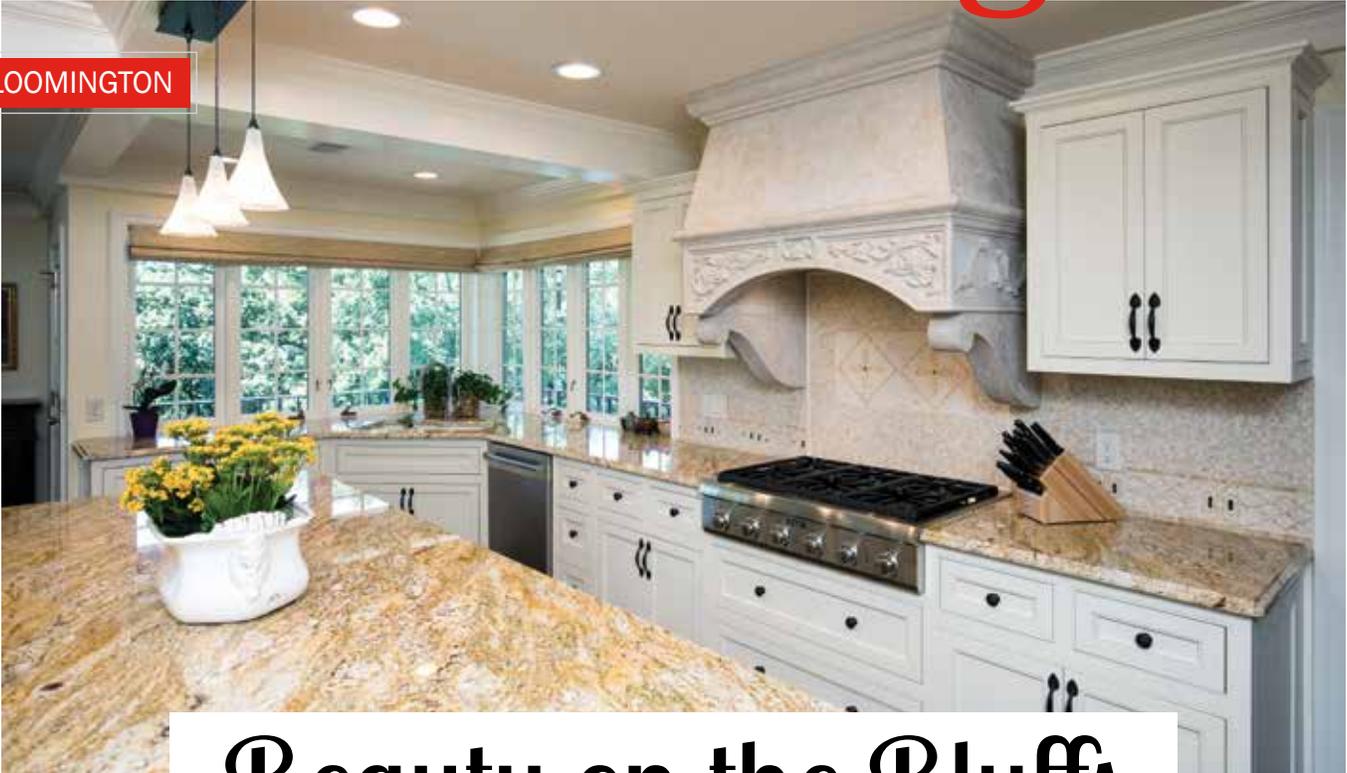


# Renderings

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BLOOMINGTON



## Beauty on the Bluffs

A beautiful family home located on the bluffs of the Minnesota River Valley is updated, modernized, lightened and brightened



Kitchen BEFORE

This beautiful home with its gorgeous grounds featured everything the homeowners wanted when they purchased it in 2015—traditional architecture, a large kitchen and a stunning location. Outside, there was an covered patio spanning the length of the home and other amenities including a pool and tennis court. Most importantly, it had plenty of room to host their large extended family. With five adult children and 10 grandchildren, lots of room to gather and play was a must!

Built in the 1950s and added to in the 1970s, the stately house possessed beauty and charm. It was, however, badly in need

of updating. Like many homes built during that period, the interior was very dark—dark woodwork, dark cabinetry and small windows that blocked the light and the view. The entire home was desperately in need of brightening up.

After extensive remodeling including the kitchen, mud room, foyer, dining room, sun room and entire lower level, the interior of the house now feels fresh, bright and modern. Large windows draw in the light. The lower level is the perfect gathering space for the whole family, with walkout access to the expansive backyard.

*Continued on next page*

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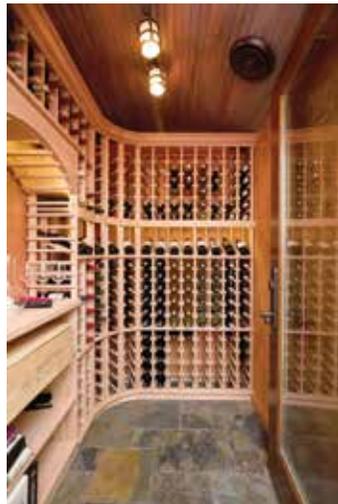
# Beauty on the Bluffs Cont.



Lower Level AFTER



Lower Level BEFORE



Near right: Custom redwood wine room

Far right: The foyer's glass domed ceiling

Below: The informal dining room & sitting room overlook the expansive backyard



## Lower Level Transformation

The darkest part of the house was undeniably the lower level. Dark brown woodwork and built-ins, wood-paneled walls, brick floors and inadequate lighting made the space seem cramped, cold and extremely dated.

The solution was a complete remodel. The new lower level kitchen and bath feature quartz countertops and custom cabinetry. Heated floors throughout keep the space warm and comfortable year-round.

Since the lower level walks out to the patio and pool, a changing area and swimsuit dryer in the bathroom were added for the grandchildren. For the adults, there's a pool room and a climate-controlled redwood wine cellar with a 407-bottle capacity.

## Lighter and Brighter

To brighten the rest of the home, all of the dark trim was painted white and white crown moulding and wainscoting were added throughout.

The home's dramatic remodel begins in the foyer with the addition of a glass domed ceiling at the top of the stairs.

**Below:** The newly remodeled mud room features white custom built-ins

**Bottom:** The rear of the home faces the bluffs of the Minnesota River Valley



# Avoid Countertop Confusion!

## Choosing the right countertop material to fit your home and your lifestyle

### Granite

In kitchen renovation dreams, the countertops are usually paved with granite. Granite lends a high-end look to kitchens and usually adds quite a bit of value.

**Pros:** Durable and heat-resistant. Granite's beautiful mottling and host of colors found in nature make each piece one of a kind.

**Cons:** Like most stone, granite must be sealed every so often to avoid stains.

### Quartz or Engineered Stone

Crafted of resin and quartz chips tinted with color, quartz surfacing (also called engineered stone) is a good compromise between the beauty of stone and easy care of a man-made product.

**Pros:** Non-porous and virtually maintenance-free—no sealing or special cleaning required. Color and pattern options are extensive.

**Cons:** Relatively pricey, although its durability can make it a worthwhile investment.

### Marble

With its luminescence and distinctive veining, is there anything that looks and feels more glamorous than marble?

**Pros:** Durable, elegant, heat-resistant

**Cons:** Susceptible to stains, even with sealing. May scratch and chip. Most homeowners limit marble to one or two small areas.

### Soapstone

Soapstone offers a subtle, nuanced beauty not found in granite, quartz or marble.

**Pros:** Resistant to stains, chemicals and bacteria, soapstone is a durable and natural choice for a kitchen.

**Cons:** Requires polishing with oil to keep it in top shape. May crack over time.

### Butcher Block/Wood

Butcher block has a classic appeal and always looks fresh. It's especially fitting for traditional and cottage-style kitchens.

**Pros:** Warm, natural appearance. Heat-resistant. Scratches can be sanded down with ease.

**Cons:** Oiling is a must to fill in scratches and protect the surface. Can harbor bacteria and needs frequent disinfecting.

### Tile

Modular and inexpensive, ceramic and porcelain tile offers nearly limitless options for colors and designs.

**Pros:** Holds its own against heat and sharp blades. Resists stains. If one or two tiles chip or crack, they're usually easy to replace.

**Cons:** Uneven surface. Unsealed grout is prone to staining; standing moisture can damage it and contribute to bacterial growth.

### Non-Traditional Options

Emerging options that offer a unique look include glass, terrazzo, concrete, copper, stainless steel and eco-friendly materials such as salvaged wood.

Although you may feel overwhelmed by the amount of options available, your Project Manager can answer your questions and guide you through the process of choosing the right countertop material for your home and your lifestyle.



"Jet Mist" Honed Granite Countertop



Cambria "Bellingham" Quartz Countertop



Iroko Wood Countertop

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Bathrooms



Lower Levels



Mud Rooms



Bedrooms

## Considering a Fall Remodeling Project? *Plan now and be ready when the kids go back to school!*

Summer is officially in full-swing, but now is the perfect time to think about fall remodeling projects! Fall is the ideal time to remodel—the kids are back in school and the holidays are still months away. Reasons to consider remodeling your home this fall include:

- You would like a home office for work projects, homework and organizing finances.
- As your family's needs change, you need additional bathrooms, a bath on another level or a larger master bath.
- You would like more bedrooms or even a second story.
- A separate space for family activities or a playroom to organize toys would be ideal.
- A spacious mudroom with storage would help keep your busy family organized.
- Your kitchen is cluttered, lacks storage and prep space, and has an inefficient floor plan.

Plekkenpol Builders can help! We are happy to answer any questions you have about designing and building a unique remodeling project customized to fit your lifestyle. Contact us for a complimentary consultation! Visit [www.plekkenpol.com](http://www.plekkenpol.com) or call (952) 888-2225.

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