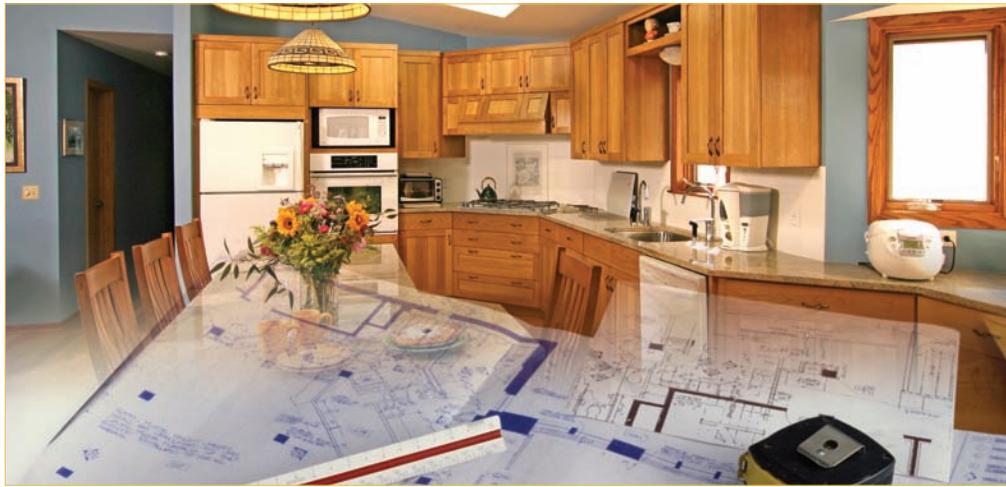


# From the Workbench



30+ Years of Dedicated Service ☞ Kitchens Additions Baths • Custom Cabinetry

## DESIGN-BUILD at the Transformed Tree



Design-build. Chances are you've heard this term a lot when you've talked to contractors about your remodeling project. It's commonly used in the industry, but do you really know what it means? How will your project benefit from the design-build process?

For a better understanding, let's start at the beginning. The design-build practice dates back to 1800 BC. Ancient Mesopotamia's Code of Hammurabi fixed accountability on its master builders for both design and construction. Citizens of classical Greece hired master builders to both design and build the monumental structures they envisioned. In fact many of the world's landmarks were placed in the hands of master builders who were accountable for design, material selection, and control over every aspect of the project; in essence — a design-build process. While you may not need a new cathedral, the idea that the same people *design and build* your project is a practice that has withstood the test of time.

After more than 30 years in business, we believe this time-honored process is ideally suited for most of our clients' needs. Having intimate knowledge of the project from inception to installation is the best-case scenario. Nobody likes surprises, you or us. In talking directly with you about both the design and the actual construction of your project, we cut down on the potential for the misinterpretation of your vision. We work closely with you to explore options and create solutions, arriving at a final design that suits your needs and your budget.

Getting accurate measurements and becoming keenly familiar with your style and tastes are essential to a successful project. The design-build process offers other crucial benefits as well including: a more efficient communication process, more accurate cost estimates, timely completion, and streamlined accountability to one source — the designer / builder. We are responsible for all aspects of the project.

By closely overseeing all parts of the project, we keep an eye on the budget, the timeline, and on the construction. One of our greatest assets is our in-house cabinetry shop and skilled crew of craftsman. We are not beholden to an outside resource, an inventory that may be out of stock, or an unreliable vendor. You are not restricted to ready-made products. Instead, we are able to create handsome custom cabinetry and specialty woodwork that is unique to your home and your style, delivered in time and on budget.

It's a big decision for you to invite us in to your home to design and build your vision. We are grateful for our clients' trust in our expertise, knowledge and experience.

It is your dream, but it is in our hands. From start to finish, we will treat it with the utmost care. ☞



Peter Hagen and Mel Salmi are co-owners of the Transformed Tree.



We are proud members of:

2239 Carter Avenue  
St. Paul, Minnesota 55108



## PROJECT PORTFOLIO: Additions / Whole House



Before



Before

### South Minneapolis Tudor Two-story Addition:

Our challenge in this project was to remodel an elegant home in dire need of attention to continuity of design and traffic flow. The rear exterior of the house was a cobbled conglomeration of add-ons. In order to restore the home to its original glory, this issue needed to be corrected as well.

**Solution:** By moving the laundry to the second floor in the former rear bedroom, we were able to free up the necessary space on the first floor to accomplish our clients' vision, stay within budget and work within the intended footprint of the project. The remodel consisting of a new kitchen, a family room, a study, half bath, laundry, mudroom entry, master bedroom-bathroom suite with a large walk-in shower and walk-in closet.

For more photos on this project and others, visit our website: [www.transformedtree.com](http://www.transformedtree.com)



## Meet Layne Madsen



Layne Madsen is the man behind our beautiful custom cabinetry – featuring craftsmanship that has become a trademark of The Transformed Tree. A cabinetmaker for

more than 30 years, Layne is a master at his craft and joined The Transformed Tree in 1998. His carpentry expertise is put to work every day in our in-house cabinetry shop. Because each cabinet is made especially for the homeowner, Layne has the opportunity to create a variety of designs, finishes, and custom details. He thoroughly enjoys the process of taking homeowners' visions, combined with our drawings, and turning them in to quality finished products. While professing no preference between kitchen, bath, or custom furniture projects, he simply enjoys the diversity and challenge of each project. Ranging from two weeks to two months for completion, each project presents a chance to hone his skill, and share his craft as part of a home's lasting legacy.

"I get a great sense of satisfaction from my work," he said. "I get to do a lot of different things, from custom cabinets, to furniture, to fireplace mantels, and whatever else the homeowner dreams up. It's a lot of fun and very rewarding when I see the final pieces installed. It's a terrific feeling."

When not at the woodshop, Layne is a big fan of college sports, and golfing. He and his wife moved to Hudson, Wisconsin a year and a half ago, enjoying a home that requires very little maintenance that allows them plenty of time to pursue their love of travel.

A quiet contributor to our staff, Layne's work is integral in creating the finished product in your home. Your vision, his work, a neighbor's envy. It all comes together in our workshop at the hands of a master. 

## CHOOSING A CONTRACTOR

Whether you are planning a kitchen remodel, an addition, or a renovation of an existing space — choosing the right contractor is critical. Your project will require a close working relationship with the people responsible for turning your dream into a reality. Here are a few things you should consider before making your decision:

- Consider how long the contractor has been in business.

- Ask to see examples of similar projects done by the contractor. Ask to see some of the work in person, not just photos.
- Meet or talk with previous clients to get a better idea of the contractor's working style.
- To verify a contractor's license, call the Department of Labor and Industry-Building and Contractor Unit at 651-284-5069

- Talk with the contractor about their strengths. Make sure the company's area of expertise is a good match for the kind of work you are planning to do.
- Get an estimate and make sure you understand all the variables it includes.

