



Vision Remodeling Inc.
Lower level remodel, Maple Grove

A cozy cottage lower level, lakeside

WHAT'S A GREAT COMPLEMENT TO A LAKESIDE HOME?

A space that makes the most of the setting and gives a family a place to recreate. That's what Vision Remodeling created in the lower level of this 1990s home, on the shore of Fish Lake in Maple Grove.

The home's family—a married couple with two daughters—had active lives. They competed in triathlons together and loved all kinds of water sports. But their home's walkout basement was unutilized, unfinished space. They wanted a place to play, a place to exercise, and a place to entertain. A family room was a must; a craft room, a exercise room, storage area for sports equipment, and office/bedroom space were all requirements.

To ready the space, a few walls had to be removed, as did a wood-burning fireplace. Four vertical beams in the middle of what was to become the family room stood in the way. The beams did not fit the floor plan, explains Todd Polifka, co-owner of Vision Remodeling. Instead, a steel I-beam would support the upstairs. It took 13 workmen to move the 1,500-pound beam into place and required new vertical supports and footings. The basement's transformation took three months.

There's a beautiful recreation space here now, centered around a pool table. The nearby family room offers a comfortable couch and fireplace, lake views and a home theater system. The adjacent bar area has a kitchen

with Cambria countertops and seating that overlooks the lake.

Across the rec area are four custom alder lockers with a stone seat. A wet storage closet here provides a place to put away lake toys and equipment. The separate exercise room features a rubber floor and a large window, into the rec room. No detail is overlooked: The storage closet and exercise room have their own separate dehumidification systems to ensure moisture and odor control.

The girls' craft room has countertops, built-in cabinets, a sink and vinyl flooring for easy cleanup. The bedroom requirement was solved with a home office featuring a Murphy wall bed. When not in use, the bed tucks out of sight behind flush cabinet panels. The family's home computer is hidden within cabinetry, so the desk workspace remains clean.

"It definitely has the designated areas they were looking for in their initial stages," Polifka says. "It's a great space they use all of the time now."

And it's a great space to come home to after a day playing on the lake.



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