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DI GIACOMO

HOMES & RENOVATION, INC.

DESIGN/BUILD REVIEW

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Welcome Back to the Green Dream Home



Our Spring Parade of Homes model, dubbed the "[Green Dream Home](#)" by Xcel Energy & the Builders Association, struck a genuine chord with visitors. We worked hard to integrate a "Zero-Energy" layer into the home without compromising our other core design/build missions: exceptional beauty, function, and timelessness. According to several media outlets, including the [Star&Trib](#), and 2,000 parade-visitors we pulled it off. Thank you for visiting and for enriching our conversations during the Parade!



Buon Appetito! Wood-Burning Pizza Garden Project

This charming, trellis-covered pizza patio was created for clients who love to entertain, cook, and garden. They had originally envisioned the space as a patio with fire pit but after returning home from a trip to Italy, decided on a wood-burning pizza oven instead. "We want the real thing" they told us. And so we built a wood-burning pizza oven detailed with the hand-carved face "keystone" picked up by our clients during their travels.



The pizza patio was planned as one of several "destinations" along new garden paths that traversed our clients' one acre of edible landscaping. Stone benches and a semi-circle trellis were designed to allow simultaneous cooking and eating outdoors.



The patio itself was dug 24" below the existing grade - the resulting soil piled to create a landscaping berm. Facing opposite the trellis, 3' and 4' boulders were placed around the oven as visual and to give the space a sense of enclosure; privacy in an otherwise flat, suburban backyard.

The entire construction of the "pizza patio" is the ultimate in low maintenance. The only item not constructed of stone, brick, or stucco is the trellis - which was built from Azek® and coated with a paint meant specifically for this maintenance-free, plastic, exterior trim.

And the pizza? Some of the best we've ever tasted!! Try baking your own with our client's [favorite dough recipe](#) from Williams Sonoma. Top with your favorite, fresh ingredients! **Buon Appetito!** Visit our [project gallery](#) to learn more about this backyard pizza patio and garden.

Age In Place Planning

Age-in-place features are simple, invisible and, in some cases, need not be installed at all - but instead simply planned for when building a new home or remodeling. A telling example from my elevator representative: the typical cost of an elevator retrofit is near \$100,000. By comparison, the cost for a pre-planned elevator is \$25,000 to \$35,000 - big difference. But you might ask "**An elevator? What do I need with an elevator?**" Two important considerations make elevators a smart investment:

1) Elevators allow the master suite to be moved to the second floor of a home -- dramatically increasing lot and neighborhood choice. You no longer are limited to the larger lots needed to accommodate a main level master suite. These main level master suites create higher construction costs on the front end and limited resale appeal on the back end. Elevators provide

flexibility.

2) The typical cost of assisted living is about \$8,000/mo. If you or your spouse can avoid assisted living for even 3-4 months and comfortably function in your home, an elevator will have easily paid for itself.

The best part? **You don't need to install the elevator at all - simply plan for it.** Large closets stacked one above the other on each level of the home is enough to satisfy basic rough-in requirements. If the day should come, your home is ready. The [elevator](#) can be seamlessly integrated into a home's aesthetics. In the meantime, have you ever had too much storage space?



Another obvious "plan ahead" item is seated bathing -accomplished with proper shower sizing, wall blocking for future grab-bars, and a fold down in-shower seat. And don't overlook the basement. Are you planning to include a typical lower level guest room in your future dream home? Prepping this space for a kitchenette, oversized closet, desk and other apartment-type features mean it can be easily upgraded to a caretaker's suite if needed. Or, do your aging parents ever come for extended stays?

Finally, the most important changes are often invisible. Standard features included in our *Age In Place Design-Build Package* include lever hardware & door handles, no-step entries and 36" wheel-chair doorways (vs. the standard 32") to mention a few.

Hopefully it's obvious that we have done our homework. We want to create the best possible product for our clients, one that is adaptable to changing needs, with minimal cost and disruption. A home that is timeless. Contact us to set up a [design consult](#) for your project.

Age-In-Place Event

[Smart House, Livable Community, Your Future](#)

"

Now - May 22

[1985 Buford Ave.241 McNeal Hall](#)

St. Paul

This exhibition explores age-in-place products and technologies that allow people to stay in their homes longer.

DiGiacomo Homes & Renovation, Inc. is an [award-winning](#), husband and wife, [design/build firm](#) that is honored to bring timeless beauty, value and sustainability to neighborhoods throughout the Twin Cities. For more than 20 years we have been invited by our clients to remodel existing homes and to build new in beloved neighborhoods such as Tyrol Hills, Linden Hills, Bell Oaks and many others. As always, [contact us](#) with questions or to begin creating the home you want in the neighborhood you love!

Sincerely,

Rocky and Gigi DiGiacomo

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