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MN DESIGN/BUILD REVIEW

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It happens to the best of us - by mid-February we begin to tire of winter - whether we've had our fill of board games or boarding -- we simply yearn to get away. The good news? You don't have to travel far to escape for an evening or even a weekend. How? Create an **urban cabin** in the backyard. This month's "Design-Build Review" is dedicated to cabins - urban and otherwise. Read on!

MAKE IT HAPPEN : URBAN CABIN

## Cabin Fever? Build a Winter Escape Close to Home



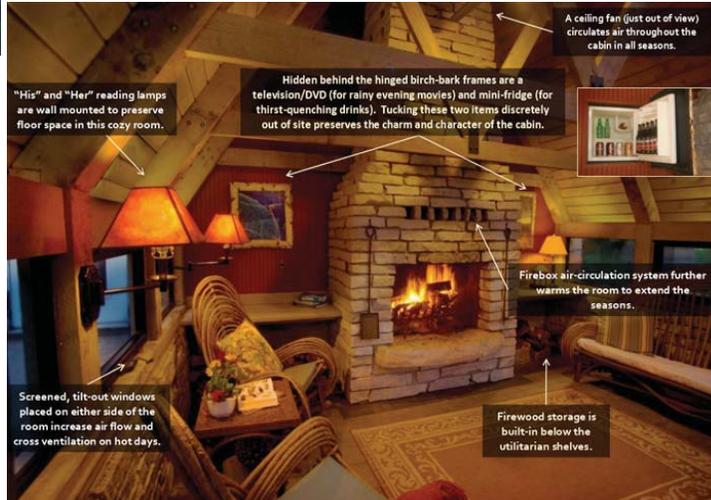
The award-winning "urban cabin" pictured here is currently featured on the Minneapolis Lake and Cabin Show website. It was designed by as a semi-detached, three-season space just steps away from a client's main house - just far enough to allow them to escape life's daily noise for a few hours.

When designing this cozy cabin for clients, we incorporated architectural and finish elements consistent with a National Park Lodge: rustic rough-hewn cedar posts, an 18-foot Fond-du-lace stone fireplace, wall-mounted historic-looking mica lamps, and stacked stone walls. The room's footprint was designed to accommodate hand-made willow-furniture purchased locally at the Uptown Art Fair several summers ago. And, as always, function is never far behind. Practical features of the space include:

1. A ceiling fan and firebox air circulation system, provide air movement throughout the cabin and extend the seasons.
2. Tilt-out screen windows on either side of the room combined with an exterior trellis on the south-facing facade invite pleasant breezes and further help to keep the room cool on hot, humid summer days.
3. Wall-mounted lights and built-in firewood storage conserve floor space to make the room feel spacious yet cozy.
4. Birch-bark frames on either side of the fireplace hide a television and mini refrigerator (stocked with cool drinks).
5. South facing views and landscaping are centered around a waterfall and Koi pond.

No matter what the season - spring, summer or winter - we all need to escape once in a while. Why not turn your backyard porch or patio into an urban retreat? It sure beats driving several hours simply to reach the cabin door. Check out more [photos of our urban cabin](#) or get inspired for spring at our [outdoor project galleries](#).





GET OUT AND SEE IT : CABIN SHOW

## Minneapolis Lake Home and Cabin Show



Visit the show this weekend, February 10 - 12, at the Minneapolis Convention Center to learn about:

- Rustic and specialty home furnishings
- Real estate and finance
- Landscaping and wildlife management
- Sports gear and marine equipment
- Lakeshore maintenance and preservation

Event organizers have lined up lots of how-to demonstrations and presentations. [Learn more about the show](#) (including hours and directions to the Convention Center).

READ ABOUT IT : CABIN RESOURCE KIT

## Lake Home & Cabin Resource Kit



The *Lake Home & Cabin Kit, Second Edition* was developed and published by the University of Minnesota Extension Service. It is a comprehensive resource answers questions such as:



- How to restart your septic system in spring
  - How to heat your home or cabin
  - How to prevent and treat mildew
  - How to treat drinking water
  - How to attract and/or manage for wildlife
- How to create your own rain garden
  - How to sustainably manage lakeshore

The Kit also directs you to state extension programs, publications, and websites for in-depth advice. [Learn more and order the Kit here.](#)

CONTACT US



**DiGiacomo Homes & Renovation, Inc.** is an award-winning, husband and wife 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.

Our **services include:** site analysis, architectural design, interior design, general contracting, and environmental planning. We look forward to hearing from you!

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