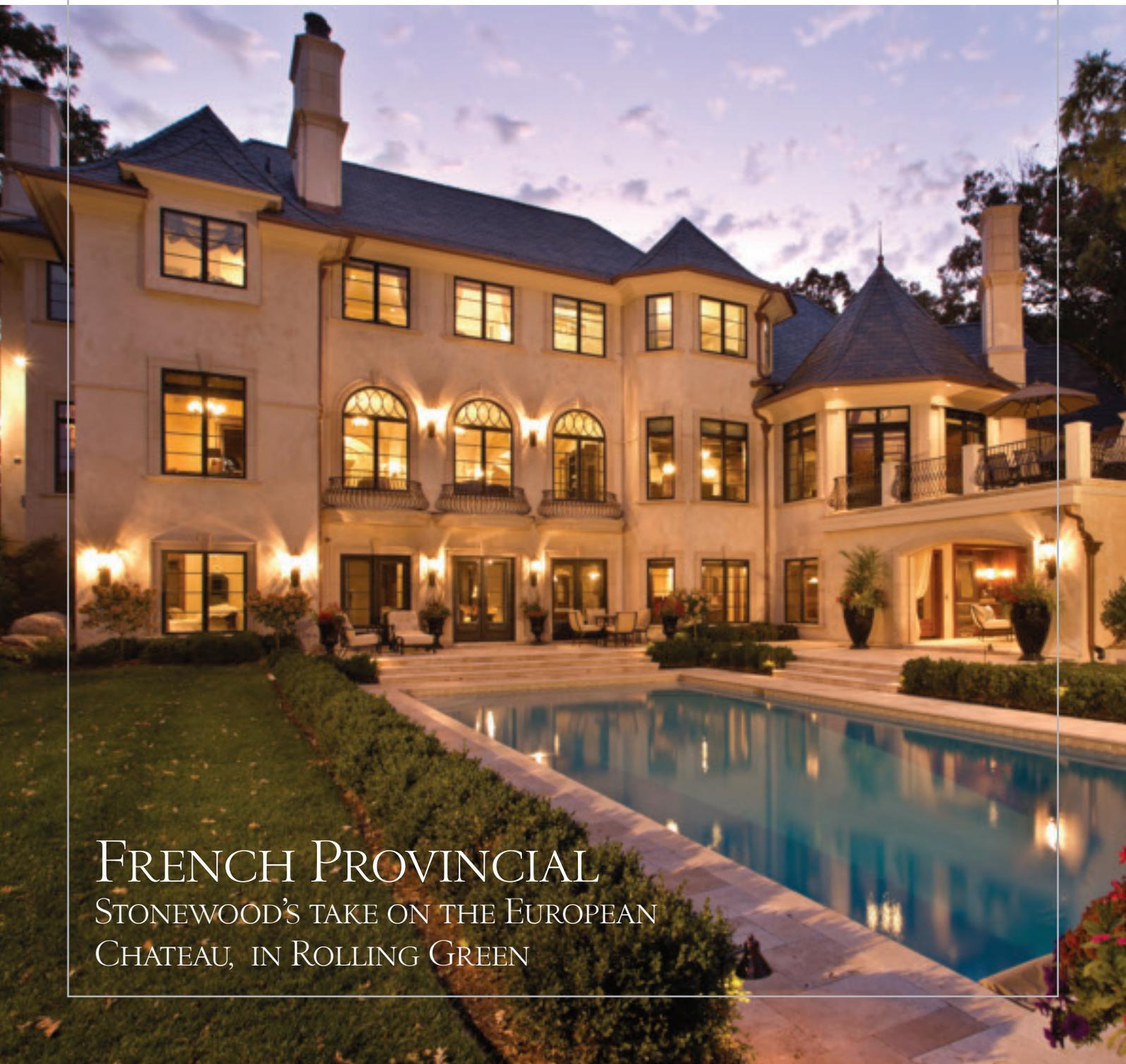


# STONEWOOD

## Stylebook

Summer 2012



FRENCH PROVINCIAL  
STONEWOOD'S TAKE ON THE EUROPEAN  
CHATEAU, IN ROLLING GREEN



#### A Letter From Sven:

I don't think we've ever had such a strong, dedicated team at Stonewood as we do today. Economic conditions, interest rates, and construction costs make this an ideal time to begin a construction project.

Stonewood has remained busy this past year, and we have some great projects on the drawing board. The craftsmen that we have available to us are the best in the business. Our longstanding group of trade partners has been improved with the addition of finish carpenters, tile setters, cabinet makers, and countless other trades that are new partners with Stonewood. They've brought new ideas, increased quality, and improved competitive pricing. I'm personally excited about the folks we are working with & know our clients will benefit from their expertise & interest in our homes.

Lumber prices are beginning to climb from their recent 35 year low, but they are still at record lows. This is good news! We've seen the bottom – it's just months behind us, and are seeing signs of improvement in the economy. On the labor side, our trade partners are anxious to firm up their schedules for the summer and fall construction season, which is reflected in their competitive pricing. Lots are 'on sale', as vacant land is difficult

to finance. Luckily we have a number of lenders that understand construction and have amazing programs – untouchably low rates, interest only, and low to no closing costs. Check out [www.Stonewood.com](http://www.Stonewood.com) for properties that we think are the best in the area. It's a great time to begin a project!

We're committed to excellence in all that we do and to that end, hire only the best in the business. We have been fortunate enough to hire on a very talented project manager – Steve Kutzli. Steve comes to Stonewood with 18 years experience building upper bracket homes around the country, and the world. Another recent addition is Kenton Hove who is, arguably, one of the most respected construction estimators in the area. Kenton brings a wealth of knowledge & experience to the Stonewood team!

Stonewood's interior architecture department has seen a lot of growth in recent months! Rebecca Enck leads our client selection services along with members of Martha O'Hara's team. Additionally, Tom Flint, AIA has joined Stonewood as staff architect. Tom will oversee and design additions, remodeling, new homes, interiors, cabinetry & millwork in conjunction with the many local architects that we'll continue to partner with.

Always staying ahead of the curve, we've updated our online management system, again. It's all about organizing information and making it accessible to our clients. Stonewood clients have full access to their construction schedule, photos, budget, selections, change orders, service requests, etc... There's nothing like it in the industry & it demonstrates our commitment to be transparent and accountable to our clients.

J. Sven Gustafson

STONEWOOD LLC  
952-697-5590  
7407 Wayzata Blvd.  
Minneapolis, MN 55426  
[www.STONEWOOD.com](http://www.STONEWOOD.com)



## FRENCH PROVINCIAL

# STONEWOOD

By Sven Gustafson

This stunning Edina home was custom designed & built to suit the specific needs of a family of four. This is the beauty of a custom home, perfect in every detail for those that will live within it. The family's dream was to build a home that mirrored the details of homes they'd seen during their travels throughout Europe, in particular, France. Builder Sven Gustafson worked closely with Architect Peter Eskuche to capture their concept in the design and construction of their dream home. Martha O'Hara Interiors joined the team to fill the 9,800 square foot home with warm, elegant furnishings & touches true to the French Provincial style.

The grand foyer, high ceilings, hand-made 10' tall solid alder arched front door leaves visitors with no doubt that this home is rich in architectural detail. The freestanding curved staircase was, itself, the work of several local artisans. A hand carved black walnut railing, architecturally designed



laser cut metal work, and millwork details cut using age old geometry are among the countless elements that might go unnoticed by the casual visitor, but together result in the consistency that “just feels right.” Hand modeled Italian plaster wall finishes were used throughout the home, and somehow exude a warm, livable feel to this sprawling home.

Beyond the foyer lies a formal living room, 3 arched windows beneath intersecting groin vaults, flanked by a hand carved limestone fireplace to the right, and delicate custom cabinetry to the left. At the same time a formal place capable of hosting visitors and a room for family in the everyday. Views of the backyard, the terrace, the pool, and the garden... The detail makes it clear that this home is far from typical, it's intricate and different. Basket woven black walnut floors are underfoot as you head further into the home and on to the library. This richly designed room is enveloped in wood paneled walls and ceilings, and houses the family's piano, guitars & family photos. A custom built hinged bookcase conceals the

doorway to a secret, soundproof office. The formal dining room is trimmed with egg-and-dart moldings, clad in golden damask wallpaper, and affords custom seating for twelve. Unique and handmade touches fill this home. Hand-cast bronze heat registers and hand-forged window & door hardware are perfectly paired with the family's extensive art collection and neutral design pallet.

The kitchen, often said to be the “heart” of the home, boasts a lovely Persian granite island and casual breakfast table. Years ago, while traveling, Sven's father discovered a stone carver named Luigi. Ever since, Luigi has added custom limestone touches to Stonewood's homes – in this home several fireplaces, and the kitchen's massive hood detail. There is also a casual den perfect for the kids to put up their feet and unwind after a long day at school. Continuing the casual feel, the lower level of the home is ideal for entertaining family and friends. A theater room, complete with a bar and a large projection television, welcomes all to make themselves at home.





Other amenities include a workout area with sauna and steam room, and a quaint wine cellar with a tasting table and leather riveted chairs. The octagonal room, inspired by a European “ratskeller”, is outfitted with brick flooring, stone walls, and a wood beamed ceiling created with oak reclaimed from the land on which the home sits. Those who imbibe are able to enjoy a glass while surrounding themselves with bottles of the owner’s expansive collection. Outside the family can lounge in the cozy 3-season cabana. A phantom screen, cedar plank ceiling, and stone fireplace help guests fend off the sun, rain, mosquitoes, and the chill of brisk autumn weather. ■



STONEWOOD LLC  
2012 LUXURY HOME TOUR FEATURE  
PALMER POINT



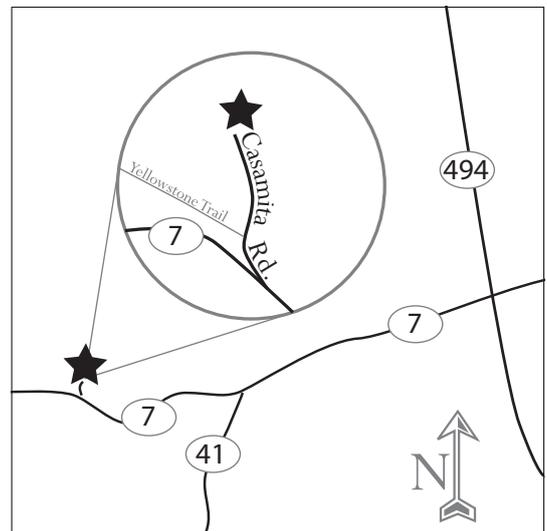
PALMER POINTE

STONEWOOD

Rustic elegance, if there is such a thing, is the theme of this home. Located in Minnetrista MN on the Lakeshore Estates of Palmer Pointe, this home is something special. Just over 6,500 square feet with five bedrooms, four and a half baths. This property is a generational home in which memories will be made. The 360 degree views from this private lot are almost completely surrounded by the waters of historic Lake Minnetonka, views of spray island, and some of the longest lake views

possible. While this house differs somewhat in style and aesthetic from the typical Stonewood design it incorporates ample “Stonewood” quality.

“Cabin” is not the right word, but there is a distinct feeling of relaxation that exudes from this home. It’s apparent on the exterior and continues throughout the interior, in the details, in the furnishings... The timeless, earthy feel is achieved



#### 2012 LUXURY HOME TOUR

CASAMITA ROAD

MINNETRISTA, MN

Tickets go on sale at Caribou Coffee on May 28,  
also available at the door.

Caribou - \$20 in advance

At homes - \$25 or individual home \$5

June 8-10, 15-17 & 22-24

Fridays 1-7 pm Sat & Sun 12-6pm

through rustic, permanent features throughout the house.

Guests are treated to tranquil lake views immediately upon entering the home by way of its open floor plan and expansive windows. Further enjoyment can be had directly off of the first floor great room on the charming screened porch. The striking millwork and cabinetry was designed by Stonewood's staff. Character grade, hickory flooring and Alder millwork is used throughout the home, coupled with French bleed edges and a low luster finish. Complimenting the casual home is its warm, organic color pallet. The high, expansive ceilings are fitted with distressed wood beams.

The kitchen sits under a ceiling of painted beams and explores the use of texture by using several natural stone selections. The master bathroom uses inset and stained cabinets that just scream luxury. Other high quality features and amenities include transitional lighting, wainscoting in the basement, a stately fireplace made of carved limestone, a unique wine room, as well as an exercise room and full size bar.

Finally, welcome family and friends from all ends of the earth with an inviting guest wing. This area is complete with a bedroom, full size bathroom and cozy den. ■



## IMPROVING LAKE LIFE

# REVISION LLC

By John Daly

A little over a year ago John and Jean had an important decision to make in life: stay in their home of over 25 years, or move on. After raising 3 children in their Lake Minnewashta home, their household & lifestyle had changed. The kids went off to college. Now empty

nesters, their home beautifully set on south facing shoreline property was in need of improvement to accommodate their future.

They began working through this decision with Revision (Stonewood's sister company focused on Remodeling) & Reidsmith Architects to

begin exploring ideas to improve the layout and use, and update the aesthetic of the home. The house, originally built in 1991, was a traditional walkout rambler with a stucco exterior and moderately open floor plan. We listened and analyzed the homeowners' needs for today and for their future. The team created a new floor plan of space for the lower level as well as the Main Floor Entry and Master Suite. We focused on spaces that made best use of the breathtaking views for relaxation as well as new spaces for entertaining family and friends.

Revision, Reidsmith, and Redpath Constable Interior Design were selected as the team to take on the project from concept to reality, and convert the current home to their dream home. The improvements to the home and decisions throughout the process were all done with the full collaboration of the team.

“It was enjoyable to work with a team of professionals that challenged each other to create the best possible outcome for the homeowners. It was clear that everyone

involved shared the homeowner's vision & excitement for the project.” John Daly, Revision.

The highlighted improvements include adding an addition for new outdoor living space. A masculine wood-burning fireplace that is surrounded by a special blend of Montana Rocky Mountain fieldstone and reclaimed timbers features the three-season screen porch. A duplicate fireplace is mimicked off the walkout lower level with an indoor/outdoor Bar. The interiors of the lower level are created with a refined rustic reflection of the homeowners' Western Mountain taste. 3 bedrooms in the lower were all converted into junior suites for the future growth of





their family and grandchildren. A hallway of glass panels encases a 10-person Steam Room that is great for both personal relaxation and entertainment. The Lower Level also has new functional spaces with large Laundry Room and Lower Level Mudroom as a perfect entrance off of a day on the water.

The Main Floor was transformed with more formal yet warm accents and finishes. The Office and Master Suite was re-configured to better enjoy the views of the lake as well as a new collaboration of arched cased windows and doors in the Entry and Formal Living Room that review the exterior architectural design as well as provide natural light and impeccable sunset views of the lake.

Along with architectural and interior design improvements, the home was also updated with a geothermal heating and cooling system, energy

efficient appliances, windows and doors, spray foam polyurethane insulation, and reclaimed timber accents throughout. The removal of the stucco on the exterior and replacements of combination Montana natural stone and cedar wood shake updated the home with a rustic cottage finish that blends well in the neighborhood.

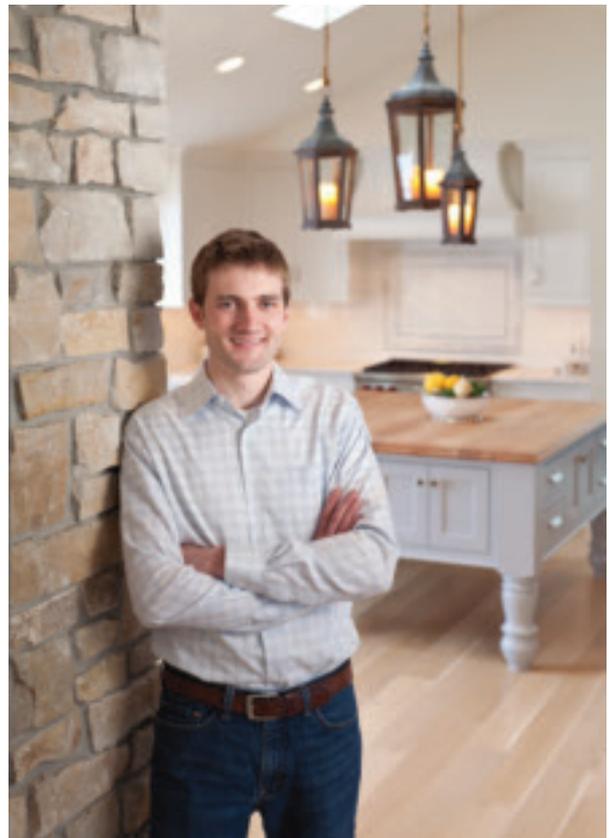
As lifestyles change through the years it was important for John and Jean to stay the in same place they have known to call home for the past 25 years. They are now prepared for the future lifestyle changes with a place to accommodate a growing family, a place to be hospitable with friends, and a place to relax and unwind at the end of a day. Revision LLC created success with a great team to accomplish all of these goals and have the homeowners' enjoy their next 25 years in the home. ■



**Revision** LLC  
design & renovate

John Daly  
952-471-0584 office  
952-540-7150 cell

7407 Wayzata Blvd.  
Minneapolis, MN 55426  
[www.RevisionMN.com](http://www.RevisionMN.com)



GREEN PATH

# ALEXANDER DESIGN GROUP



By Kathy Alexander

Earlier this year the Twin Cities Builders Association launched its Green Path certification program for new home construction. This is a user friendly program that will rate the energy efficiency and “green” quality of a home.

The Green Path program was designed so you can build a home as green as you want it to be. As a homeowner you can choose just how green your house will be and what is most important to you in being environmentally conscious.

The certification includes a Home Energy Rating System (called a HERS rating) and measures the energy efficiency, as well as indoor environmental quality. It also reviews and evaluates water conservation, resource management and site planning.

There are three levels of certification; Standard, Advanced and Master certification. There are basic requirements to qualify for the program and then you have options to intensify the amount of green certification you add to your home. A base requirement

is a HERS rating of 70 or better. By adding more green you can lower your HERS rating well below – even into the single digits with the use of geothermal or solar.

This scoring system for your home is similar to what you get when you buy a car – a “CARFAX” sheet and MPG rating. Your home will be third party verified to confirm materials, techniques and home performance data. This certification produces a home performance report which details each residence’s unique features, projected energy consumption, HERS rating and performance comparison to other homes. This knowledge gives you information on how your home compares to the average house in the U.S. for energy efficiency and is an excellent tool for selling your home.

As your local home builders association, we have done market research and responded to our changing times to keep our new home construction on the cutting edge with good design and high quality in the latest technology available for energy efficiency. For more information, go to [www.MNgreenpath.org](http://www.MNgreenpath.org). ■



Alexander Design Group, Inc.

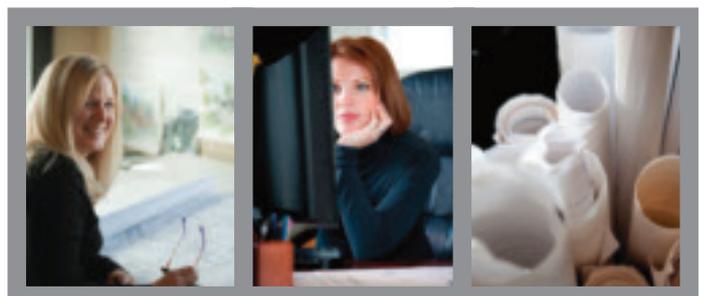
401 East Lake Street

Wayzata, MN 55391

Office: 952.473.8777

[Info@AlexanderDesignGroup.com](mailto:Info@AlexanderDesignGroup.com)

[www.AlexanderDesignGroup.com](http://www.AlexanderDesignGroup.com)



Kathryn Alexander

Brit Farley



## GREAT RELATIONSHIPS BUILD GREAT LANDSCAPES

# W LANDSCAPES

By Chris Wagner

W Landscapes, (formerly known as Superior Design Landscapes), was founded in 1989 and is proud to have become one of the most trusted sources for full service landscape design/build services in the Twin Cities by discerning clients. Over the years we have developed our company to be large enough to take advantage of economies of scale, but small enough to offer personalized service while continuing to be a cost effective landscape option. These factors, along with high standards for quality and efficiency, ensure great value for our customers.

Method to the Madness: At W Landscapes, our stated mission is “to unite client’s individual style and desires with the unique site attributes of the property and architecture of the home.”

Accomplishing this starts with a free on-site consultation with every client.

After this initial meeting, a conceptual plan and budget are presented to the client. If needed, a second and more detailed plan paves the way forward to further establish the design and costs. For a fee the client can take ownership of these plans and may use them for competitive bids. If the client hires W to perform the project, the design fee is credited against the cost of implementation and execution of the plan.

Create your Vision: Often customers have a large list of wants but fear they don’t have the budget to get it all. A good plan is critical in order to prioritize. In the case of new construction I tell people, “focus first on the hardscapes and softscapes

in the front yard.” This is so from the perspective of the neighborhood things look finished. Second “prioritize the grades everywhere and establish the edging lines around all or the majority of the house”. Doing this allows you to install irrigation without having to tear it out and redo it in the next phase. If there is still room in the budget then tackle all or at least the most important hardscapes of the back yard. Most often a patio off the back door tops this list. Back yard plantings and low voltage landscape lighting are usually the easiest things to phase in later without incurring much additional cost of rework.

Many great projects have been installed in 3-5 year phases and we don’t mind doing it. Along with building the landscaping we enjoy building great long-term relationships with our clients. Our greatest advertising has always been happy clients who are proud of the work we did on their properties.

Of course great results take more than just a good

plan. W starts with an integrated vision, but stays flexible enough to let details evolve as the project continues.

Landscapes Grow and Evolve: Throughout the landscape installation process, W takes pride in selecting the focal points of the design from the nursery as well as the precise location of each tree and plant, locating every border or edge to ensure the owners desires and objectives are met. We follow up on our completed projects the next year to ensure plants have survived and are doing well. (All plantings with W have a 1 year warranty). In addition to the free maintenance advice we give customers every year via semi annual news letters we also offer ongoing customized maintenance services for plants, lighting, and hardscapes. Bottom line- we are proud of our work and will be here in the future as your landscape grows and evolves! ■



CHRIS WAGNER  
cwagner@wlandscapes.net

PH 763-479-2645  
FX 763-479-6328  
M 612-282-9150

P.O. Box 352  
Loretto, MN 55357

wlandscapes.net



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