

Home Run

This Minnetonka mansion is a grand slam from top to bottom

PHOTOS BY JIM KRUGER, LANDMARK PHOTOGRAPHY

BELOW Eight-foot-tall double Honduran mahogany front doors with wrought-iron scroll detailing open to a spacious foyer, floored in rich American walnut.

RIGHT The vintage-feel cedar front porch boasts a tongue-and-groove beadboard ceiling and is perfect for watching passersby.



Ridge Creek Custom Homes co-owner Rob Eldridge isn't a builder who occasionally checks on his latest project, yells out a few orders, and then hits the road. "I'm out on the job site everyday, and I have my own tool bag so I can jump in and make sure all the details are just right," he says. Needless to say, Eldridge spent many long hours dreaming and working on this cottage-style beauty that fully appreciates its peaceful setting in Minnetonka.

It's the attention to detail that sets this home apart: in-floor radiant heat in the mudroom, bathrooms, garage, lower level, and laundry area; raised panel walnut doors throughout; a secret playroom for the kids hidden behind a large mirror; and a 10-by-16-foot sports simulator in the lower level. And it's conscientious, too, boasting spray-foam insulation made from recycled pop bottles and soybeans, a high-efficiency furnace, and top-of-the-line windows and doors—all features that contribute to the home's Energy Star rating. Ultimately, says Eldridge, this home was built "with just the kind of care I'd give if I were building it for my own family." — *A.F.*

THIS PAGE, RIGHT The gourmet kitchen boasts raised panel cabinetry, glazed enamel finishes, and painted wood beams. The granite countertops and island complement the great room's expansive fireplace with a honey onyx surround.

BELOW The open floorplan of the main level uses space smartly and efficiently. Details tie the living areas together: beautiful enameled trim, three-piece crown molding, American walnut flooring, and a stunning built-in custom walnut hutch.

OPPOSITE PAGE, TOP To complete the modern cottage feel of the home, builder Rob Eldridge accented its fiber cement siding with cedar trim and asphalt shingle roofing. Thick eaves shelter the oversized three-car garage, complementing the lines of the nearby porch, which is supported by 4-by-4-foot columns.

BOTTOM The lower level is something to behold, with a separate media area featuring a 60-inch plasma TV, a game table area, and an enormous bar that seats eight-plus. Topped with blue-toned granite, decked with glazed, enameled cabinetry, and stocked with a sink, dishwasher, icemaker, under-counter microwave, and under-counter refrigerator, this bar will make entertaining a snap.



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RIDGE CREEK CUSTOM HOMES

HOME LOCATION
Minnetonka

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