



**Project:** New home in Jackson Meadow, Marine on St. Croix, MN.

**Architect:** David Salmela, Salmela Architect, 218.724.7517

**Client Goals:** "My husband and I live very simply but we are both busy with separate careers. Because we have demanding schedules, we wanted our house to exude tranquility, which is the very essence of Jackson Meadow. When we initially talked with David, I remember asking for openness and light so that we could take in our lovely view of the meadow and forest. Plus, as a designer, I home office, and so I wanted my office to be every bit as spectacular and simple as our home." – Robin Culbreath

**Construction Challenge for Cates Fine Homes:** "If I had to say any one thing, it was probably constructing the second floor bridge between the two structures. Since the office sits above the screen porch, it was important for us to work closely with David on implementing and maintaining the structural integrity of this section. We had to make sure that the in-floor heating components ran across the bridge correctly and that the space was sufficiently insulated. We also had to place an eleven foot seamless mirror into the master bathroom. We ended up using a forklift to lift it through a bathroom window, then it took five of us to fasten it to the wall." – Jeff Cates

**Client Reaction:** "Mitch and I had never experienced building a house prior to our build with Cates Fine Homes. Quite frankly, we had only heard horror stories about builds or builders gone bad; however, this was absolutely not the experience we had with Cates. Instead, Cates was nothing but a family of gracious, fun, creative problem solvers. I had a great time, my husband enjoyed himself and there was never a stressful moment. Jennifer kept us on track, Jay started the whole process and Jeff was at the job site daily. Communication was effortless, fun and freeflowing. Our house is our peaceful retreat, and we are so grateful that our home was built in partnership with these wonderful people." – Robin Culbreath

