

→ HOME TOURS!

Mpls St Paul

SEPTEMBER 2008 MSPMAG.COM

Inside
the Homes
of **10** Local
Notables

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From a Jet Setter Penthouse
to a Kid-Friendly City House

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Restaurateur Keyvan Talebi and fashion trend expert Laura Schara on the 37th floor of The Carlyle.

Dellwood

[MARGARET HUMPHREY]

“WE WANTED THE ADDITION TO MAKE SENSE AESTHETICALLY, TO BE COMPATIBLE WITHOUT IMITATING MIDCENTURY-MODERN STYLE.”



ART HAS BEEN A CONSTANT in violinist Margaret Humphrey's life, so it's natural that her 1955 home reflects art in every possible way, right down to its architectural bones. In her home's renovation, Humphrey, a violinist with the Minnesota Opera orchestra and a founding member of the Belladonna Baroque Quartet, put to use architectural salvage from one of Minneapolis's highest-profile recent teardowns—the Allianz Building that stood where the Walker Art Center's Herzog & de Meuron addition was constructed.

Even the landscape boasts this pedigreed salvage: Granite slabs form terraced steps that connect the home to a wetland. “One perch originally held the buffalo statue from the building,” Humphrey says. “You can still see where it stood, the silhouette, on that gigantic piece of granite.”

The sculpture is now on display in Allianz's new North America headquarters in Golden Valley, but Humphrey has filled her home with more personal works of art from her late father, John Humphrey, who was an amateur sculptor, and her brother, David Humphrey, a professional painter and winner of the Rome Prize for visual arts. Even the works of her nine-year-old son, Gabriel Seaver, are displayed occasionally throughout the house. “Art is part of the fabric of life,” Humphrey says, “and, ideally, we gather it from friends, family, and the community.”



• Horizontal bands of copper clad the home's family room/kitchen addition. Its shape and scale depart from the low-slung structure of the original home. “We wanted the addition to make sense aesthetically, to be compatible without imitating midcentury-modern style,” Humphrey says.



• The family room addition features two walls of windows (including several from the Allianz Building) overlooking the patio and wetlands beyond. Humphrey found the vintage chartreuse chairs in the classifieds and purchased the coffee table at an auction. The new black leather sofa is from Gabberts.

[What Caught Our Eye]

- **Special Salvage.** After hearing news that the Walker addition would require demolishing the 1948 Allianz Building, Humphrey secured rights to obtain a great deal of the building's architectural salvage, including twenty walnut doors, several sheets of walnut paneling, granite slabs a minimum of six inches thick, and commercial windows. "The materials and the house came together at a poignant moment," she says, noting that the elements from the Allianz Building were period appropriate for her midcentury-modern home. "It's as though the house was calling for the materials." Architect Tim Stefan designed the renovation. "I felt that he was the only person who could make sense of the elements coming together," Humphrey says.
- **Blend of Old and New.** Many of the salvaged windows went into the kitchen/family room addition, which replaced what Humphrey laughingly remembers as a "dysfunctional 1970s rec room space." Constantly mindful of salvage opportunities, however, the designer repurposed the rec room's old ridgeline beam as a long bench against the addition's main window wall. The new space now has all black-painted steel beams instead of wooden ones for a slightly edgier look.
- **Thoughtful Finishes.** Floors in the addition are concrete to match those in the original living room, dining room, and entry. Fir warms up the ceiling. "In a way, I wanted to reverse the typical finished feel," she says. "Instead of a light ceiling and a dark floor, I wanted to have a dark ceiling and a light floor."



• From the covered patio off the family room, Margaret Humphrey and her son, Gabriel Seaver, a budding artist, have sweeping wetland views.

• Humphrey added ebonized walnut bookcases and a forest brown marble-clad fireplace to the living room. "The marble was overstock from a marble company that didn't want to carry sheet material anymore, so I got it inexpensively," she says.

