



Project: "East Wind" - located on acreage in Marine on St. Croix

Architect: Terry Schultz, Colonnade Design Group

Client Goals: "Our goal was to create a home which was comfortable, casual, and warm, because we love entertaining with both family and friends. But, we also wanted plenty of space to house everyone without making people feel they were imposing. We knew that large houses can sometimes be intimidating, and we did not want to exude that feeling with our house. We must have succeeded because our daughter just held her college reunion here last weekend" says Laurie Carlson. "Plus," says Laurie, "the land surrounding this house is gorgeous, and since we have a working farm, we wanted this house to feel like it was part of the landscape."

Construction Challenge for Cates Fine Homes: House placement on the lot. "Definitely the placement of the house on the lot was the biggest challenge. The lot was enormous and had both a huge hill on it and a pine forest, so we had to be very creative in how the house would be situated. Since the views of the surrounding river valley were incredible, we had to make sure that each side of the house would capture those views. We ended up tucking the garages into the pine trees and that allowed the house to sit atop the hill and open to panoramic valley views." -Jay Cates

Client Reaction: "I would say the number one thing we enjoyed about working with Cates was the continuity of their family-owned business. Daily, there was a very positive hand-off of responsibilities from one family member to the next, which made us feel very well taken care of. There was literally not a day that went by without someone working at the job site. When my husband and I visited the job site we were always welcomed and felt like the whole process was very cooperative. Then, with Jennifer prompting me with upcoming decisions on the interior design specifications, our entire home building process stayed on track and our house was completed on time, and when Cates said it would." -Laurie Carlson

