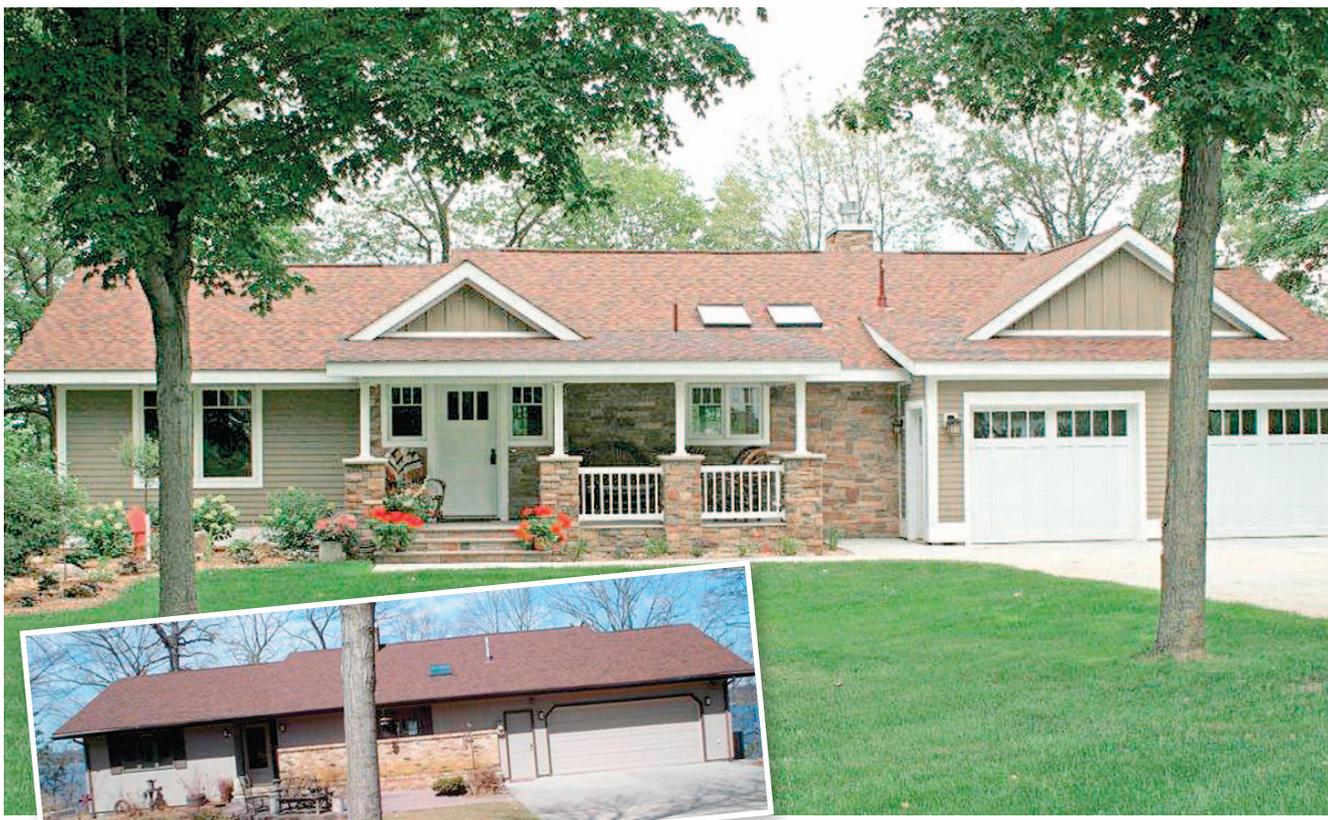


# Business Showcase

FEATURING A DISTINCT BUSINESS WEEKLY



**BEFORE**

**R**ichard and Karen Hardine's 2,500 square foot, totally accessible, home north of Alexandria was completed in 62 days. While that might seem like some kind of building marathon, it represents an efficiency of design, building methods and scheduling that typifies the philosophy of the architectural firm that built it: Ringdahl Architects.

With a presence in Alexandria and Nisswa, Ringdahl Architects offers professional building services to a broad range of clients in central Minnesota. From conceptualizing and creating dream homes to remodeling outdated kitchens, Paul Ringdahl and his associates bring a level of expertise and conscientious project management that make the process a pleasure. Whether custom homes, commercial properties, health care facilities, event centers or offices, Ringdahl Architects strive to incorporate green building techniques and materials with a commitment to excellence.

Ringdahl Architects was founded by Paul Ringdahl who completed his Bachelor of Architecture at the University of Arkansas School of Architecture and is registered in five states. He is also National Council of Architectural Registration Board (NCARB) certified and a registered Interior Designer. Having started his career more than 30 years ago, he worked for a Minneapolis architect before relocating to Alexandria in 1991. Paul knew what he wanted to offer clients when he established his own firm in 1998. "It is our mission to design buildings that combine beauty and functionality while being sensitive to budget, schedule and our client's individual needs," he says in his office at Easton Place. His six-person team includes project manager Eric Norum, senior drafter Craig Oberg, intern architects Dustin Tomoson and Angela Jackson, and affiliated professionals Richard Hardine of Infinity Development and interior designer Robyn Johnson. Office manager Sally Ringdahl, who is also Paul's wife, greets clients at the company's locations in Alexandria



**BEFORE**

along with receptionist Traci Harding. With everyone working together, the goal is a finished project that perfectly fits the need. Ringdahl emphasizes the most important step in meeting that goal: planning. He cites a remodeling project as an example. "We worked with a client who wanted to remodel a farmhouse but it wasn't remodel-able. It had sloping floors, little rooms, a difficult physical layout. We had to look at the quality of the existing building- the bones of the building." After carefully looking it over, Ringdahl and his client made the decision to build new with the character of the old farmhouse. "From the outside it looked similar but was state of the art and energy efficient." Careful planning prevented what could have been an expensive mistake.

Planning includes asking and answering the following questions: What is your concept of the project? What is your schedule? What is your budget for the project? Who will represent the client and make decisions?

The next step is to use that information to work through three design phases: preliminary planning and design, development of design and details, and the

final phase of preparation of architectural drawings and specifications, and the bid proposal documents. Hiring the right architectural firm can save as much as 20% of the total cost of the project. The experienced team assists with planning, produces effective designs (including 3D imaging), handles proposals and bids, directs clients to quality materials and sub-contractors and keeps the project on time and on budget. What more could you want?

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