

FENIX

When Mark and Debra bought their home overlooking Minnehaha Creek in Minneapolis they knew they had found the Modern home they had always wanted. What appealed to them was a midcentury masterpiece hidden beneath a half-century of neglect. The house was designed by James Stageberg, an influential architect and professor, whose work embraced clean forms and open spaces.

The home's cedar siding was rotted and missing in places, while the original garage was leaking and near collapse. The owners approached the design team with a desire to replace the home's siding and build a new garage that would accommodate both of their cars. In addition they asked that the garage be naturally day-lit while still fitting with the legacy of Stageberg's design.

The new garage exterior retains a familiar form to the home but uses a frosted glass garage door on the south, and a high clerestory window facing the house, to bring daylight to the interior. Inside, white-painted walls allow for maximum reflection of daylight from the glass, while the Baltic-birch plywood ceiling adds warmth to the space and complements the natural cedar siding. Interior lights were designed to integrate with the birch panels by combining off-the-shelf light fixtures with custom steel plates fitted into the reveal joints between panels.