

## **KENWOOD COTTAGE**

This new home, situated on the Kenilworth Trail of Minneapolis, brings a fresh, clean-lined aesthetic to the traditional cottage typology. With an open front porch, signature blue door, and archetypal forms that blend with the surrounding homes, the house is a welcome addition to the historic neighborhood, fitting seamlessly into its surroundings while also maintaining its subtle modern identity. The mass of the house was proportioned to be the classic story and a half height, ensuring that it would not dwarf its neighbors. The absence of an alley, combined with the narrow width of the lot, made the concept of a front facing detached garage unfeasible. There are also numerous other homes on the block with attached garages. In addition, it was important to the homeowners to preserve the wooded backdrop of the trail behind their home. The solution was to deemphasize the attached garage by recessing it back from the front entry and incorporating materials and details from the principle structure into its façade. Compositionally, the house features a variety of details from the cottage vocabulary, such as board and batten siding, shaker paneling, flower boxes, double hung windows, and corbels, which lend it richness and character as well as delineate its massing.

The interior of the house is equally as inviting as the exterior. Warm materials and light-filled spaces compliment the richly detailed enameled woodwork throughout. The colorful accent of the front door is repeated on the interior, and contrasted by an orange sliding barn door that differentiates the garage and mud room from the primary spaces of the first floor. Connected to the front entry by the open kitchen and dining space, the great room is designed to be the heart of their home, and has become the center of the family's life. Its clerestory windows allow for privacy from neighbors without sacrificing natural light. A glass door connects the family room to a stone patio in the back, distanced from the noise of the street. Generously proportioned spaces open to each other and to the wooded back yard, providing a sense of country living rare in an urban location.