

Making the most of a 320-square-foot addition Cabin Fever

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A humble 1970s cabin on the 'Sconsin side of the St. Croix River dividing Minnesota from Wisconsin sits some 30 minutes from the Twin Cities. Owned by a family of four for several decades, the ranch house had two bedrooms and a bath in the daylight basement, another bedroom and bath upstairs, along with a small living room and a claustrophobic kitchen that measured less than six feet wide. Recreation and relaxing happened on the deck and in the gorgeous wooded property, but meals were eaten on the floor by the coffee table or outdoors on the screened porch. Luxe digs these were not.

"The house belongs to former clients and good friends of mine," says designer David Heide. "We lived there ourselves one winter when we were remodeling our own house. Three or four years later, the heat at the cabin went out and the pipes froze when no one was there for months. Water leaked down into the basement; it was an absolute disaster. There was mold that had to be scraped off the ceilings, and pretty much everything had to be removed and replaced. I don't think this [remodel] project would have happened had that not occurred."

Because the owners anticipated spending more time at the cabin as retirement approached, this seemed like the juncture to create more gracious spaces for entertaining and overnight guests, as well as a dedicated dining area. Their own aesthetics and National



Eames molded shell chairs surround a custom pedestal table by David Heide Design Studio and fabricated by JP Woodworks Ink. The dishes are Russel Wright, and through the double door is the new screened porch.