

Carl M. Hansen Companies

By Russ J. Stacey

For Carl Hansen, what's old is new again. Or maybe it's the other way around.

Tapping into the past — and his company's rich heritage

— the third-generation builder has crafted a faithful throw-back to the stylish homes of another time that, combined with modern building practices and technologies, was selected as a Dream Home in the 2008 Fall Parade of Homes.

"It was quite simply a tribute to redo one of the homes that he did in the Edina Country Club area in the late 1920s or early '30s. That's what made the house so fun, and I think that's why it was selected as a Dream Home," Hansen says.

The "he" that Hansen refers to is his grandfather, also named Carl Hansen, an immigrant from Norway who first worked as a carpenter on these shores. After making his way to the Minneapolis area, he began building in the 1920s with his uncle, Louis.

"They started in Lowry Hill, which is right at the edge of downtown Minneapolis, near the Walker Arts Center," explains Tom Jones, a long-time local real estate agent. "It's a gentrified, upscale residential neighborhood today and the original home for founding families of major industries in the Minneapolis area like the Pipers from Piper Jaffray, the Dunwoodys and some the original big lumber baron families."

In the 1940s, the elder Hansen purchased 600 acres of farmland in northwest Edina near Interlachen Country Club. According to his grandson, everyone told him he was "crazy"

Front entrance view



PHOTO BY FRANK HEFFELFINGER