

RUKI
MODERN
residential + commercial design



RUKI

MODERN

residential + commercial design

Brent Behm - Principal Designer & Owner
422 37th Avenue South
Moorhead, MN 56560
web: www.rukimodern.com
facebook: Ruki Modern Homes
email: rukimodern@gmail.com
phone: 701.730.0060

At Ruki Modern, we believe that design matters... a lot. We also believe that thorough design should be part of every home building experience. Every client and every site is unique. Lifestyle, immediate surroundings and regional context combine to suggest a solution that is not "one size fits all". Our goal is to develop the most effective solution that best suits our client, the site, and the budget.

We are a full-service design studio catering to clients at all budget levels, and designing projects of any scale. When creating a custom residence or commercial project, clients deserve a service that exceeds conventional drafting. Ruki Modern guides clients through a deep, yet efficient design process with a level of service adapted to individual need and budget.

To address the unique nature of each client, we engage in a thorough process of discovery in order to understand their individual needs, desires, and habits so that we can craft each design to be the most effective for that client. We promote the idea that quality matters much more than quantity and seek to make our designs and the buildings that result as efficient as possible in every possible aspect of their creation.

We strive to design the most sustainable and durable solutions in order to create buildings that will meet current goals and stand as valued works for generations to come. Every effort is made to create structures that are responsibly constructed, comfortable and as unique as the people that will call them home.



Oxbow Residence

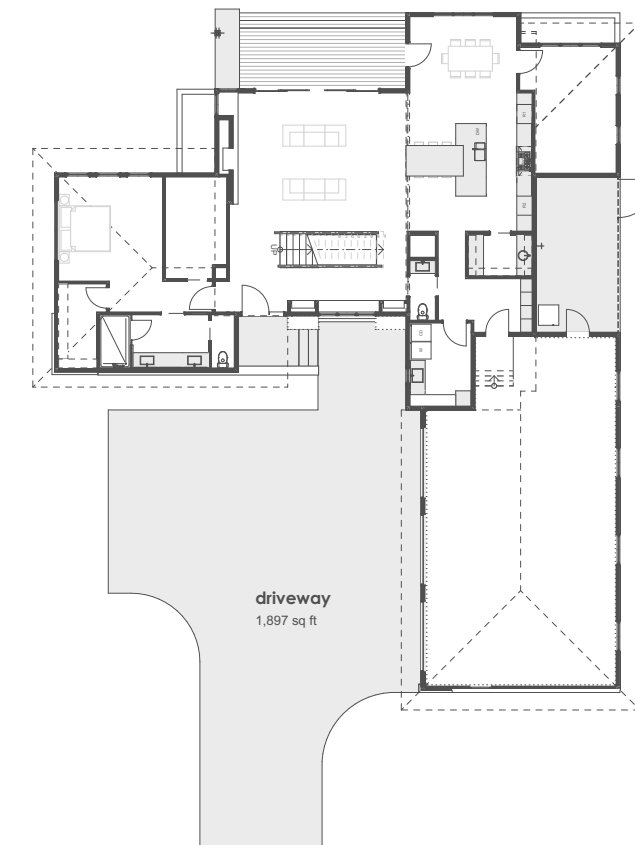
Oxbow, ND

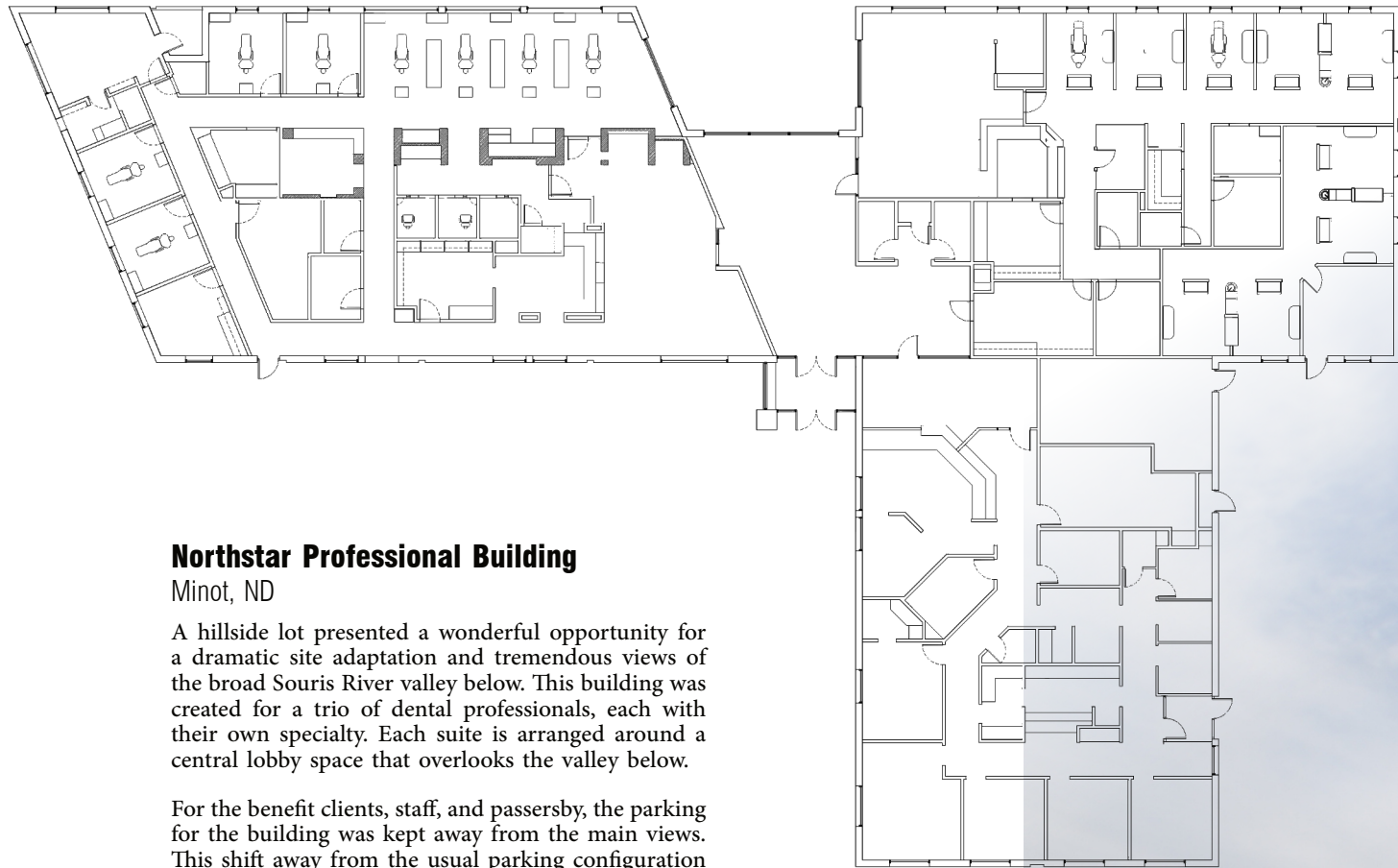
This house functions as the primary work space for the residents. The live-work configuration provides distinct and separate office spaces for the occupants.

The building skin uses a combination of typically residential materials and a generous amount of steel and aluminum components most often utilized in commercial construction.

This completed work represents a balance between the project brief requiring a contemporary design and development restrictions on certain design elements. The resulting house is highly unique within the neighborhood while still adhering to community standards.

All exterior mechanical equipment and backup power generation is concealed from view in an integrated screened niche.





Northstar Professional Building

Minot, ND

A hillside lot presented a wonderful opportunity for a dramatic site adaptation and tremendous views of the broad Souris River valley below. This building was created for a trio of dental professionals, each with their own specialty. Each suite is arranged around a central lobby space that overlooks the valley below.

For the benefit clients, staff, and passersby, the parking for the building was kept away from the main views. This shift away from the usual parking configuration allows for unobstructed views to and from the building.





Yellow Dog Retreat
Big Sky, MT

Perched near a cliff overlooking the Big Sky Mountain Village with a direct view to Lone Mountain, this residence will house multiple families simultaneously and provide base from which to launch adventures in the surrounding Madison Range, Gallatin River, and nearby Yellowstone Park. The house features a ski in / ski out site arrangement combined with complete privacy offered by the dense pine forest.

The design represents a contemporary alternative to the massive log constructions found elsewhere in the adjacent neighborhoods. While differing in style, this home is a superb adaptation to the dramatic alpine terrain.

URBAN INFILL

Fargo, ND

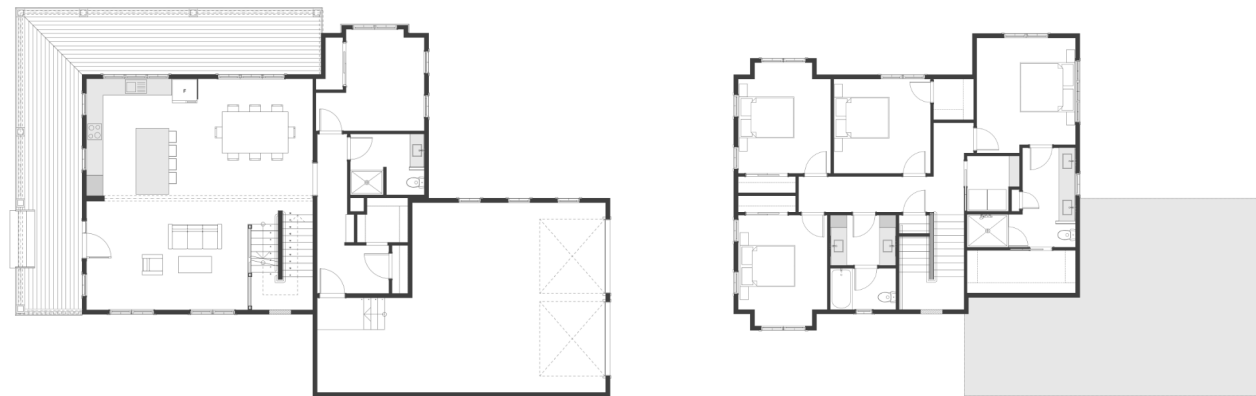
Developing a new structure in an old neighborhood is an uncommon challenge in a city that is prone to favor newer sprawling suburban developments.

This design challenged our aesthetic tendencies, however, it yielded an opportunity to exercise a different set of skills in creating a home in an older neighborhood with difficult lot conditions.

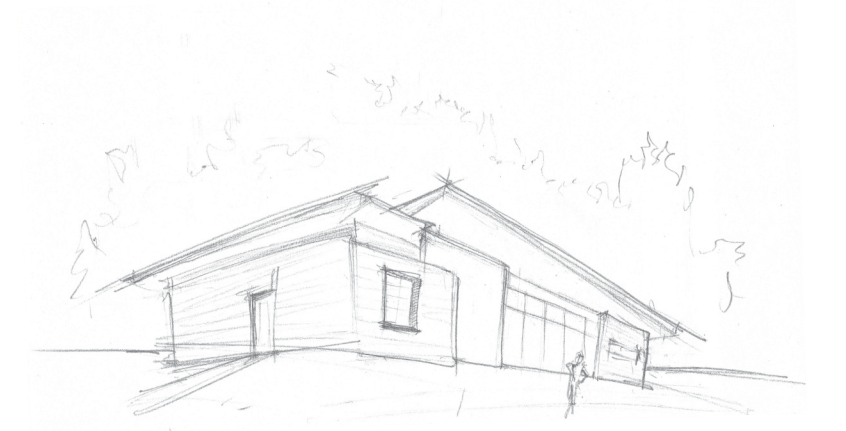
The task of designing a modestly scaled home, adapted to the neighborhood and to the client was met with a solution that incorporated extensive protected outdoor space on a lot that would be considered small in most suburban neighborhoods.

The garage, almost invisible from the street, is generously sized but in no way dominates the exterior views of the building.

Although its scale is well adapted to the neighborhood, the home's efficient plan can accommodate a very large family and guests with ease.



happy clients



SUGAR SHACK

Little Cormorant, MN

Constructed on a large lakefront lot previously occupied by a modular home, the Sugar Shack is highly adapted to the owner's desire for a structure that would offer a large extended family and guests the best possible space for enjoying the lake.

The entire lake side of the house is dedicated to entertaining, while the street side contains all sleeping and service spaces. Bedrooms were deliberately kept small and Spartan to encourage interactions in the large gathering spaces. A commercial storefront glazing system offers broad views of the deck and lake beyond and blurs the boundary between interior and exterior spaces.



Pelican House

Pelican River, Minnesota

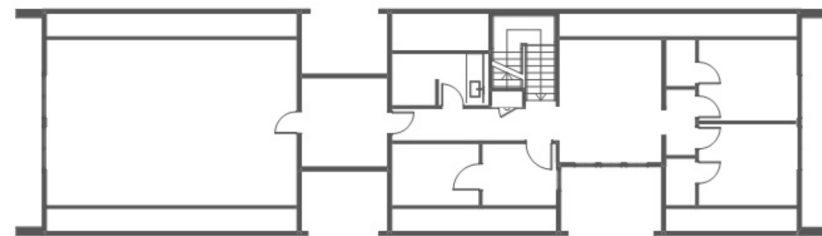
While lakefront property is a high-cost commodity, there remain many exceptional, though unorthodox sites that offer calm and repose equal to that of the more highly coveted lakefront. Without the frequent noise and commotion of jet skis and speed boats, this 80 acre wetland retreat on the Pelican River in Western Minnesota, immerses its residents in a variety of natural beauty through all seasons.

The simple geometry and forms of the buildings blends nearby agricultural and lakefront aesthetics. Indeed, certain elements of the new structures are intended primarily for horticulture. A modest greenhouse and protected planting areas are combined with a large shop building. The property itself is bordered by farm fields and protected wetlands.

The site is approximately divided among 3 different types of landscape; woods, wetland, and native tall grass. Although positioned in an agricultural area, the site has never been cultivated or otherwise developed. In the near future, fruit orchards and various types of gardens will be planted on the site.

The residential building was constructed with the brutal northern winters in mind. Structural insulated panels for exterior walls and roof, combined with limited glazing yield a very energy efficient structure. A robust corrugated steel skin completes the wall and roof assemblies.

Only the residential component of this complex has so far been completed.



Treehouse

Lake Lizzie, Minnesota

Constructed on a very narrow lot, previously occupied by a small vacation cabin, this house is now the primary residence for clients that no longer wanted to maintain 2 properties.

The narrow lot left only one option to accommodate the list of program elements required in this residence. Rather than shy away from the prospect of a narrow 3 story tower, the client embraced the potential tree-house views. The entire top level, situated in the surrounding tree canopy, is occupied by the owners' suite and an office.

A limited number of mature hardwood trees were removed to allow for the construction of this new residence. Nearly all were salvaged, milled, and dried to be used in the various wood elements found in the interior of the home.

The decision to use a low-slope roof in combination with standing seam metal was driven by height limitations in the local codes. The quantity of hardscape elements, strictly limited by impervious surface regulations, are kept to a minimum in favor of the natural terrain.

Attention to section and plan were given equal weight in the design of this structure. The result is an arrangement of spaces needing almost no space for horizontal circulation, hallways, etc. The vertical aspect is accentuated by tall, narrow volumes and an exposed stairway that, while not for the faint of heart, offers visual porosity across the 3 above-grade levels.



Buck Ridge -
Big Sky Wilderness, Montana

Set in a remote area of the Big Sky wilderness, this highly crafted modern structure is a departure from some of the larger, more traditionally constructed homes in the region. The materials used for construction of the house are quite common to the region, but crafted with a refinement that accentuates the warmth and charm of this modestly scaled gem.



Cormorant House
Audubon, Minnesota

Situated on a small, quiet bay on a much larger, much busier lake, the 6 acre site is surrounded by public forests that offer a buffer from the normally frenetic pace of lake life in the region.

The 2 new buildings that form this project replace a single modular home. The client wished to salvage or sell as much of the existing building as possible and was able to remove the existing house without demolition work and associated waste. The original remaining foundation dictated the size of the main building.

In a further effort to reduce construction waste, factory-machined insulated wall panels were selected in place of conventional wood framed walls.

The smaller building houses an endless pool and lounge.



Custom Design Solutions
+
Full Service Collaboration

Ruki Modern aspires to create buildings that are not only beautiful, but long-lasting, sustainable and inspirational. Our goal is to design innovative and elegant buildings that enhance the lives of their unique inhabitants. We believe that good design can improve quality of life and provide joy and inspiration for the occupants and the surrounding community.

Design is not merely an exercise in aesthetics or style, nor is it limited to creating good drawings and documents. The building that results from all design efforts should serve the occupants for generations, providing comfort and safety with limited ongoing expense and effort. We continually search for the most effective methods and materials to create long-lasting, highly durable structures.

Your home should serve you, not the other way around. Our efforts result in a robust, healthy, and comfortable building that will serve your unique needs and aspirations. Designing to a code minimum standard normally results in poor performance, high energy costs and eventual costly repairs. Ruki Modern will assist you in your efforts to lower the cost of construction and the cost of ownership.

All custom design requires accurate and thorough documents. Ruki Modern provides clients with highly useful solutions. Our design efforts, drawings, documents and other visualization aids are tailored to meet the needs of any project. We offer a customized level of service based on client requirements and budget.

In addition to serving homeowners, we work with contractors, developers, interior designers to create thorough design documents for appraisal, bidding, permitting and construction. Ruki Modern also assists custom and production builders with individualized site plans and minor modifications to established models.

If you dream of a unique building to suit your unique life, call Ruki Modern.



brent behm

lead designer and fabricator

A native of the northern plains, Brent has worked and studied throughout the Western United States. He has over 20 years of experience in various design disciplines, including architecture, furniture and interior design as well as graphic arts. Combined with this experience, he holds 2 degrees in design and planning, culminating in a Master of Architecture from Rice University.



marina behm

manager and marketing director

Marina has been a business owner and entrepreneur for nearly 20 years. In addition to several years in the residential construction industry, her research and ongoing promotion of health, wellness, and balanced living inform the mission of Ruki Modern.

RUKI
MODERN
residential + commercial design

contact us today

422 37th Avenue South
Moorhead, MN 56560
www.rukimodern.com
facebook: Ruki Modern Homes
701.730.0060