Home of the Month
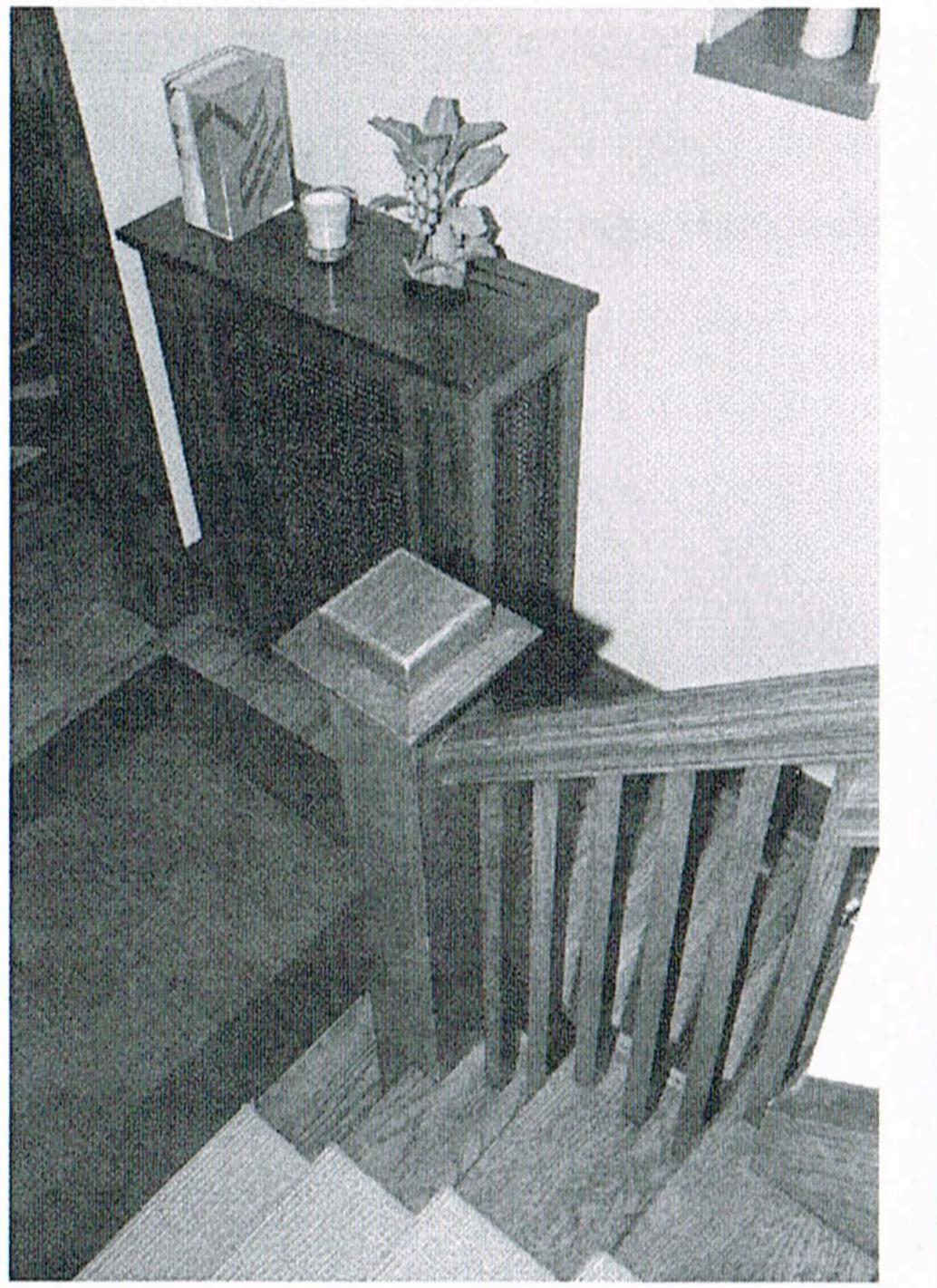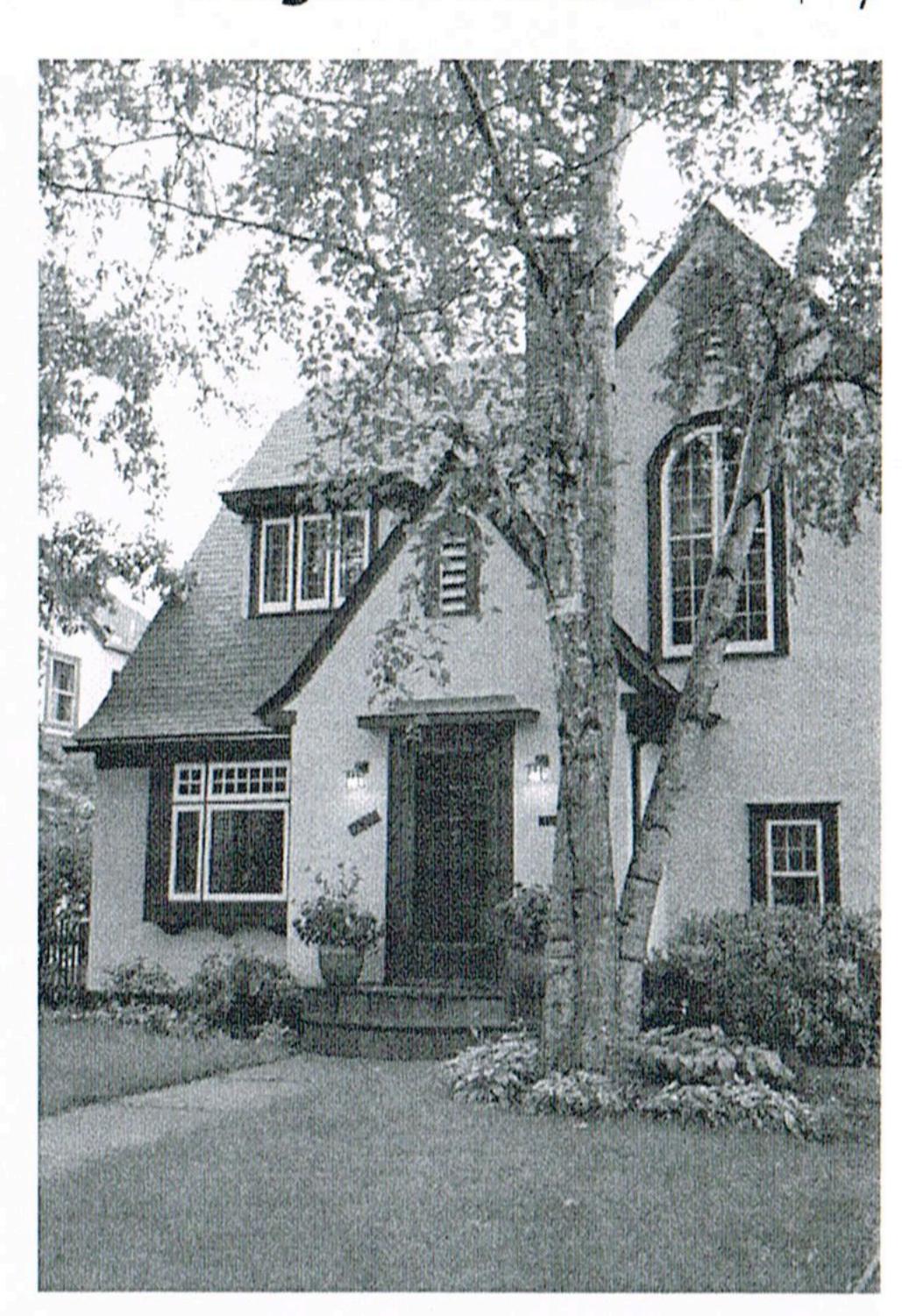
4514 Arden

Jeff and Virginia Sweitzer moved into their house on Arden in 1992. It was the traditional design of both Tudor and Cottage styles and the location within the Country Club area of Edina that originally drew them to the house. Both passionate about travel and working within the creative fields, the Sweitzers enjoy a broadened awareness of modern art and design, especially from Europe. Their appreciation for this aesthetic increased their desire to incorporate these elements—minimalist design, bold colors and modern technology—into their home. Thus came the ultimate challenge: how to incorporate a modern design aesthetic while not contradicting the traditional 1926 look of their house.

Photos by Anne Marie Pierce

Jeff, an architect, began with a master bathroom addition, typically missing in the smaller homes in Country Club, which ultimately created more space on both levels of the house. The kitchen footprint, although unchanged from the 10ft x 11ft space, has been opened up to the original dining room, which now functions as the new media room. A pillar separates the two areas while also acting as an anchor for the curved countertop. A second bathroom upstairs became a new, modern bathroom with sunken tub and vanities, all to save space. The cabinetry is flush overlay, the flooring in both the kitchen and bathroom is natural charcoal slate, and the kitchen backsplash is a pale grey porcelain tile, all of which provide a muted tone, where a splash of color is noticed in small areas—stainless steel appliances and a peppering of bright color bring a modern, loft-like feel to the space.

The entire Sweitzer home is then brought to life with contemporary European style in art and furniture, but in homage to the original building envelope, they have kept all of the original woodwork and windows from when the house was built in 1926. The results are a beautiful—and successful—blend of the contemporary with the traditional.