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Bordeaux Dreams

John Kraemer & Sons creates
a French-inspired estate on
the Minnesota River.

| BY CAROLYN CROOKE





Built on a hill overlooking the Minnesota River, this stunning 15,000-square-foot estate was created with an eye toward luxury living and long, leisurely hours spent with loved ones. “This is a home built around family — a place where kids and their friends would love to gather,” says Gary Kraemer, president of John Kraemer & Sons. The homebuilding and remodeling firm, which has been recognized three times as the Builders Association of the Twin Cities’ builder of the year, partnered with Jeff Murphy of Murphy & Co. Design to create the plans for the home.



“The inspiration came from rural French country homes, with restrained yet elegant detailing,” notes Murphy. “The client asked for a home that maximized the views from this incredible site and also mentioned that they loved angles, so we designed a curving floor plan facing the river with an abundance of angles everywhere else. This makes the house very lively and interesting.”

The exterior is largely stucco, with stone parapets along the roof and an integrated formal garden, created by Topo, LLC, that evokes the feel of legendary estates. There’s an outdoor pool, spa and fireplace as well as a rooftop deck with its own fireplace. (Needless to say, the views from that spot are magnificent.)

Inside, Kraemer and Manor House Interiors paid special attention to the kitchen, a favorite gathering spot. The detailing here goes on and on, from floor-to-ceiling tile to decorative brackets under the cabinets. The firm’s cabinetry design team spent a lot of time learning about the owners as they strategized the custom cabinetry throughout the home.

“This was a great process with wonderful chemistry between the homeowner and the team,” notes Vice President John Kraemer. “Learning about the homeowner and every last detail — all the way down to how they like to hang their belts — is part of our process. It’s how you create a well-loved, perfectly tailored home.” 