



Joe Buck, Tracy Kruse, Joe Sularz (back), Bob Buck, Scott Vetsch (back), Jason Manthey.

The owners of Buck Brothers Construction looked to be on separate career paths, in different states, when they elected to join forces in 1983. Bob was swinging a hammer in rural Wisconsin, while Joe was marking time at a local food cooperative warehouse in Minneapolis. The brothers decided that the Twin Cities would be a great market to start their own remodeling company, specializing in older homes. After all, they were raised by can-do parents, who looked on home projects as family affairs. And they expected their kids to pitch in on improving their 1923 Mac-Grove home. “One of my early memories is as an 8-year-old, taking a very small paint brush to a very large radiator. That made carpentry look pretty attractive,” recalls Bob.

While the brothers’ fledgling business effort was spot on about the increased awareness in home restoration, the double-digit interest rates of the 80’s put them on a slow growth curve. Fallow periods were filled in working on their own inner city homes. By the 1990s, though, the company was in full swing. They hired a full complement of field staff, and developed relationships with local sub-contractors who were adept at solving the issues of ancient mechanical systems.

By then, Bob and Joe had shed their bachelor mantles and were helping to raise families. They staked claims to either side of the Mississippi – Bob back in Mac-Grove and Joe in the Minneapolis’ Seward neighborhood. As with their clients, they’re still managing their own home projects – although

now a grandchild is holding the other end of the tape measure.

The focus for Buck Brothers Construction has always been the older, classic houses of the Twin Cities. Along the way they’ve been bestowed a number of Heritage Preservation Commission awards in both cities. One, for building a new house on Nicollet Island, was an interesting twist to the present “scrape and build” debate. The long-time abandoned house was bid as a remodel project, but the city deemed the building a structural loss, and was missing many exterior detailing. The house was torn down, but the preservation code required that the exterior of the new structure exactly match the original. Joe remembers. “We kept the millwork shop at the local lumberyard humming all summer long.” It reveals their dedication

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