

CotY Award Entry

Residential Exterior

Category: \$50,000 - \$100,000



Project Summary

Escape to a tranquil retreat in Hudson, Wisconsin, where a renovation project has transformed an existing deck into a haven of warmth and charm. Nestled beneath the deck is a cozy three-season porch that beckons with its inviting allure. This cabin-like enclave offers respite from the everyday hustle, creating a home away from home. Imagine basking in the soft glow of filtered sunlight, sipping on a cup of your favorite beverage as gentle breezes rustle through. The fusion of rustic aesthetics and modern comfort make this space an ideal sanctuary to unwind, making cherished memories amid nature's embrace.

PROJECT SCOPE & OBJECTIVES

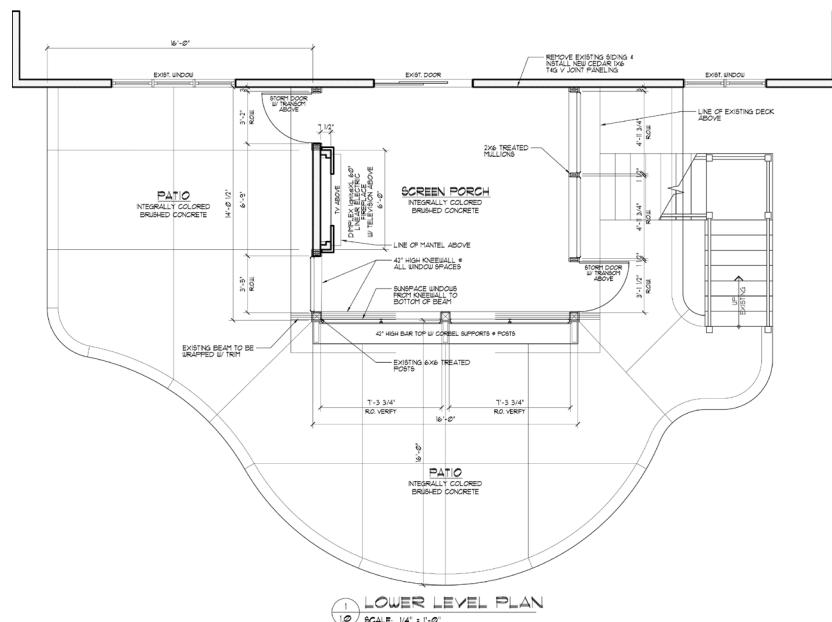
The quaint town of Hudson, Wisconsin, nestled alongside the picturesque St. Croix River, exudes a captivating charm and tight-knit community spirit. Here, families unite, bound by a shared love for the great outdoors and athletics. Amidst the bustling household, brimming with youth sports, travel adventures, and a thriving family business, the time came for an extraordinary transformation – a retreat right in the heart of their own home.

Beneath the elevated backyard deck lay an untapped treasure, a dormant space yearning to realize its potential. From what was once a dimly lit and struggling grassy area emerged the blueprint for their vision: a cozy, welcoming 3-season porch, a sanctuary meant for cherished moments with loved ones.

This ambitious project rewrote the story of a run-of-the-mill deck, transcending it into a breathtaking 3-season oasis. The journey involved meticulous steps, including the removal of the weathered deck, strategic frame adjustments, and the installation of a waterproof membrane to safeguard against the elements. Refreshing the aesthetics was paramount, as new decking and eye-catching railings breathed new life into the structure.

The metamorphosis continued as an 800 sq/ft patio materialized, accompanied by strategically-placed windows and doors that embraced natural light and invite the outside in. A fireplace, intentionally crafted with blocking for a future mantel and television, became the epitome of cozy evenings spent by the crackling embers. The exterior flourished, boasting exquisite high-quality windows, cedar paneling, trim, and a plush cedar bar top. The addition of metal gutters and a fireplace bump-out adorned with elegant stonework further elevated the project's allure.

As the journey drew to a close, their dreams materialized beneath the once-neglected underdeck space. What was once shrouded in darkness became an idyllic haven - a cherished 3-season porch, destined to be filled with laughter, shared stories, and memories to last a lifetime.



RIGHT ELEVATION - BEFORE & AFTER



Figure 1: **BEFORE** Right Elevation



Figure 2: **AFTER** Right Elevation

REAR ELEVATION

By selecting James Hardie siding, we prioritized both durability and a natural wood-like look, which perfectly suits Wisconsin's diverse climate. To ensure a dry and comfortable porch, we undertook a comprehensive project that involved renovating the existing deck and installing a waterproof membrane (Trex Rain Escapes). The new deck features composite flooring that not only serves its purpose but also seamlessly blends with the rustic cabin aesthetic of the porch below.



Figure 3: **AFTER** Rear Elevation

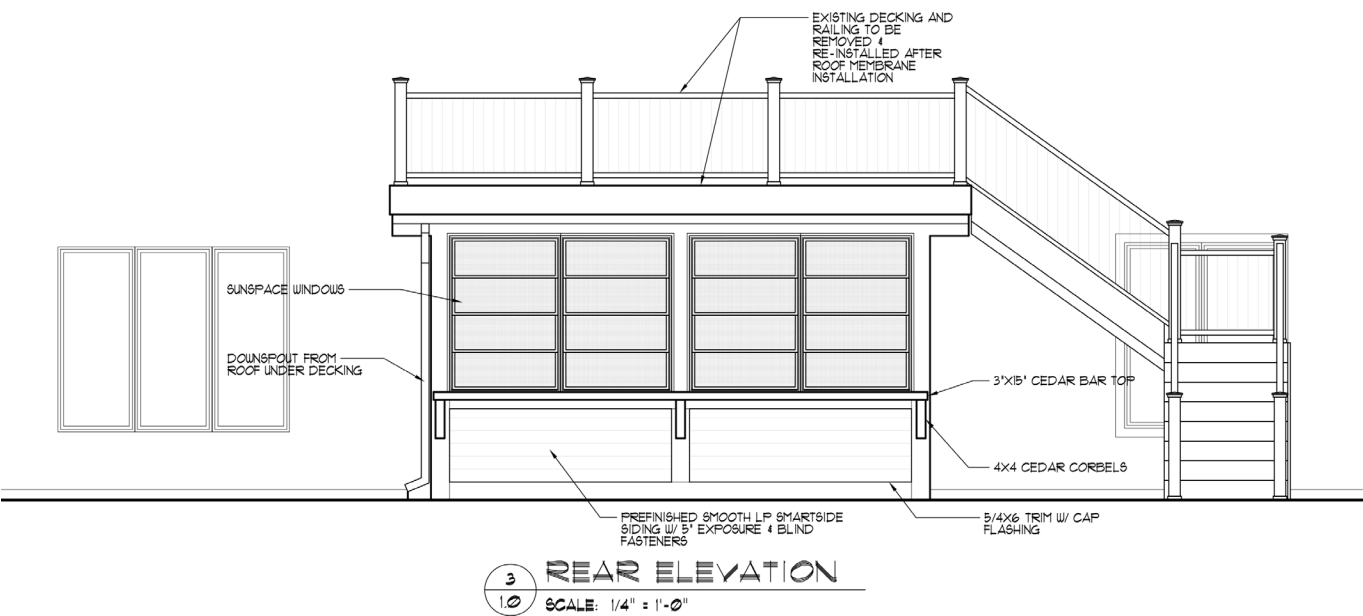


Figure 4: **SKETCH** Plan for Rear Elevation

WINDOWS & BAR TOP

The 3-season porch boasted an exceptional feature—an innovative design. Stackable Sunspace windows brought a touch of openness and breeziness during warmer months, shielding from the elements when necessary. During summer gatherings, these windows could be neatly folded, revealing a convenient bar top below. This transformed the space into an ideal spot for savoring grilled delicacies and refreshing beverages, all while admiring the picturesque beauty of the backyard.



LEFT ELEVATION - BEFORE & AFTER



Figure 5: **BEFORE** Left Elevation



Figure 6: **AFTER** Left Elevation

INTERIOR DETAILS - CEILING

To capture that modern cabin, feel, the walls were lined with painted shiplap. The natural wood grain and finish of the solid oak mantle and rough sawn cedar ceiling brought the outdoors inside, with a faint scent as a reminder of the woods. The exterior, though, was another matter entirely. The decision to use James Hardie siding ensured durability while maintaining a wood-like appearance, perfect for Wisconsin's diverse climate.



Figure 7: **BEFORE** Ceiling



Figure 8: **AFTER** Ceiling

INTERIOR DETAILS - CABIN FEELS

The finishing touches were essential in creating the perfect cabin vibe. LED lighting was strategically placed to mimic the soft glow of cabin lanterns. Plush, comfortable furniture invited family and friends to relax and unwind. Soft, earthy tones and natural textures complemented the cedar walls, creating a warm and welcoming atmosphere.

