

IOWA

# Architect

Issue No. 04:250 Five Dollars



Liv Custom

# Architecture: Art We Live In

THE ARTIST AS ARCHITECT



Liam Stowe and Amy Beattie

The architect-designed Beattie/Stowe house has harmony and unity—the principles of good design.

Right: No details were overlooked to provide interesting areas of patterns and texture.

Below: The color and patterns set the tone for the interior of the home.



DARYL METZGER

Frank Lloyd Wright said, "Architecture is the triumph of human imagination over materials, methods and men, to put man into possession of his own earth. It is at least the geometric pattern of things, of life, of the human and social world. It is at best that magic framework of reality that we sometimes touch upon when we use the word 'order.'" The Beattie/Stowe home proves out Mr. Wright's thoughts. The front geometric pattern is repeated throughout the home, from the windows to the surround on the fireplace. It exudes a feeling of order, harmony and calmness.

Mr. Wright also stated that, "No house should ever be on any hill or on anything. It should be of the hill,

belonging to it, so hill and house could live together each the happier for the other." Wandering around the exterior of the house, a person is aware of the woods; trees are everywhere and the terrain has been respected and preserved—house and terrain are joined as one entity.

So why does this house appeal to me as an art educator, one who is not an architect, but involved in the arts from a different perspective? This home tells the story of all that I teach—attention to details, good craft, good use of space and beautiful work. Pride in the project is evident when one looks at the details from the tiles, to the color of the house. It has unity and harmony—the principles of good design. Why is it different? What makes it stand out? It's an architect-designed home. The craft and planning of the spaces are evident in the design of the rooms and how they flow naturally one to the next; it is an architect's realization of use of space, both inside and out. An excellent example of this is the library and the repetition of the windows, which look out to the woods—including the ones above the window seats. This plan adds a pleasing rhythm of color and shape to the space and brings in the beautiful wooded landscape. Entering the home, one is immediately struck by the beauty and function of the design. Today's housing market gives buyers a lot of choices of sameness—not this home. Working with an architect gives the potential buyer the power of incorporating personal needs, thoughts and images into a space that becomes an integral part of our lives.

**Project:** Beattie/Stowe Residence  
**Location:** Des Moines, IA  
**Architect:** Architects Smith Metzger  
**General Contractor:** Acheson Construction  
**Electrical Contractor:** Gustin Electric  
**Structural Engineer:** Charles Saul Engineering  
**Landscape Architect:** Bob Lenc  
**Photographer:** Daryl Metzger

SUSAN KOENIG-VANDEHAAR

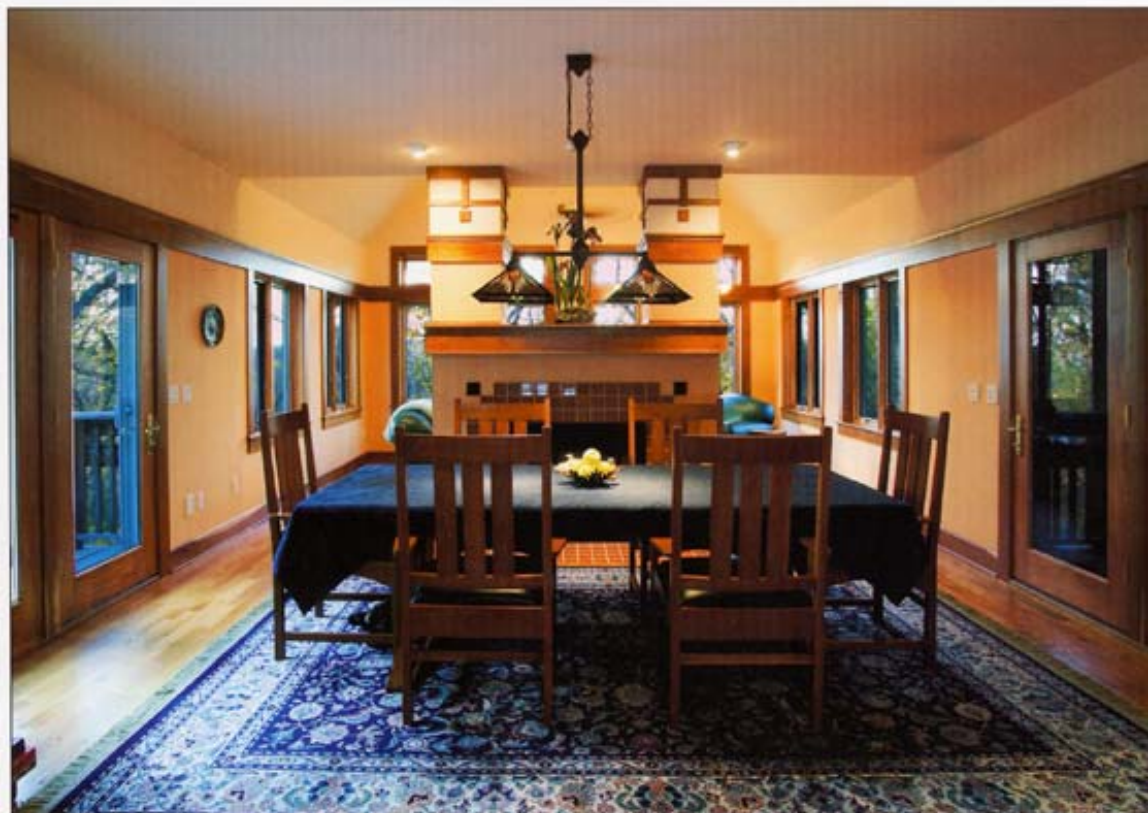


DARYL METZGER



DARBY WETZGER

**Left: The beautiful rhythm of color and shape is shown in this room.**



DARBY WETZGER

**Left: Simple, yet strong lines are part of the focus in this room.**

Why would you not want a home that reflects you and what you need in life? Working with an architect ensures all of this will happen.

The Beattie/Stowe home is a prime example of all that homes can become. The thought of its placement on the wooded lot to the plan and scope of the interior space is evident from first glance to thorough inspection. Artist thought, and good design are what make this house a gem in today's housing market. Buyer input—

and not just choosing the carpeting—is part of the process when working with an architect. Simply put, architecture is art that we live in—and why not?

—Susan Koenig-VandeHaar is an art educator in the Des Moines Public Schools, an adjunct professor at Viterbo University and a member of the Des Moines Park and Recreation Board.