

# ARTS & ENTERTAINMENT

## TODAY'S QUOTE

"The home should be the treasure chest of living."  
— Le Corbusier, French architect

COMING FRIDAY

The Walker's Out There festival returns with some familiar faces. In **Variety FreeTime**



F

SUNDAY  
January 5, 2003  
RWBGY



Photographs by Bruce Bisping/Star Tribune

Two levels of outdoor walkways expand the sense of space in the award-winning cedar and glass house designed by Kerrik Wessel in St. Croix Falls, Wis.

# A HOME IN THE WOODS



Glass walls framed in salvaged wood create an inviting living area on the second floor. The room overlooks a wooded hillside.

"Building is in our blood," says Kerrik Wessel, whose father and grandfather were architects. Wessel not only designed but built an award-winning house in Wisconsin.

By Linda Mack  
Star Tribune Staff Writer

Kerrik Wessel knows every bolt in the house at 359 Day Rd. in St. Croix Falls, Wis. He should: He designed — and built — the flat-roofed modern house on a wooded, hilly lot. The simple house, inspired by agrarian forms and a Japanese aesthetic, earned one of 10 2002 Honor Awards from the American Institute of Architects Minnesota.

The jurors who selected the awards praised the house's "personal and poetic sense of enclosure."

After finishing architecture school at the University of Minnesota and working as a residential designer, Wessel, 39, embarked on a venture that many architects dream about — designing a small house. He collaborated with his new wife, Heather Sexton, 32, an architectural designer at Hammel, Green and Abrahamson, and his father, Brian Wessel, a retired architect turned developer.

But Wessel, who grew up building things with his dad, wanted to build the place as well as design it. "I was tired of sitting behind a drafting board," he said. "Building is in our blood."

Kerrik is the fourth generation of Wessels to become an architect. His grandfather Hans Wessel built an Art Deco house on Cedar Lake that was featured in a 1937 issue of Architectural Forum.

HOME continues on F6:

— "A lot of the nice details were decided on the site — not behind the drafting board."



Heather Sexton

The flat-roofed house and its simple carport create a modest presence on the street.



Kerrik Wessel, left, is the fourth generation of Wessels to pursue architecture. He and his wife, Heather Sexton (with their baby, Severin), designed the house in St. Croix Falls.

## Dutoit back in the news — and back in Minneapolis

By Michael Anthony  
Star Tribune Staff Writer

Swiss conductor Charles Dutoit made news when he was appointed principal guest conductor of the Minnesota Orchestra 20 years ago. His attention-grabbing tours and big-selling records with the Montreal Symphony Orchestra, of which he was then artistic director, made him a hot property — "an enormous catch" for Minnesota, according to USA Today. Dutoit's appointment was a coup for then orchestra President Richard Cisek because the Philadelphia Orchestra also had been interested in the conductor.

Two decades later, Dutoit returns to the Minnesota Orchestra during its centennial season, his first visit here in 16 years, to lead a program at Orchestra Hall this week of Shostakovich, Ravel and Prokofiev. The soloist for Prokofiev's Piano Concerto No. 3 will be the celebrated Argentine pianist (and Dutoit's ex-wife) Martha Argerich.

Just as in 1982, Dutoit arrives on the wave of headlines in the orchestra world over his abrupt resignation last year in Montreal.

He quit April 10 after the union representing the musicians issued an open letter accusing him of being a tyrant on the podium and threatening legal action over his move to dismiss two members of the orchestra. The orchestra's president asked him to reconsider, especially because the orchestra had just begun promoting its 25th season with Dutoit and had a star-studded lineup of guests planned (at least two of whom, Vladimir Ashkenazy and Mstislav Rostropovich, eventually canceled as a show of solidarity with Dutoit).

DUTOIT continues on F5:

— "I actually wanted to leave Montreal three years ago when the new musicians' contract was negotiated."

## IF YOU GO

### Charles Dutoit

**What:** Conducting the Minnesota Orchestra in music by Shostakovich, Ravel and Prokofiev, with pianist Martha Argerich as guest soloist.

**When:** 7:30 p.m. Wed., 11 a.m. and 8 p.m. Fri., 8 p.m. Sat.

**Where:** Orchestra Hall, 1111 Nicollet, Mpls.

**Tickets:** \$20-\$74. 612-371-5656.

Charles Dutoit returns to lead the Minnesota Orchestra for the first time in 16 years.

Pierre McCann



## INSIDE

See and read more about other winners of the American Institute of Architects Minnesota 2002 Honor Awards **F6**