

POLHAMUS STUDIO



This project called for transforming an old garage and storage space behind a Monte Vista residence into a self-contained studio space. The existing building required extensive remedial work: sagging lintels and too-small rafters meant reinforcing the existing structure. Wiese Hefty added a new lintel and trusses to better support the roof and created a system of exposed sandwich trusses that complement a tongue-in-groove pine ceiling. Custom-fabricated steel truss plates provide visual detail.

The materials are used throughout the space – yellow pine on the cabinets wraps around to the small bathroom enclosure to create a box-within-a-box effect. Steel continues for the countertops and cabinet hardware as well as the baseboards. The limited material palette enriches the simple space without overwhelming it. The existing garage doors were refurbished with added glass and French doors were added along the western elevation. Due to Monte Vista's strict building guidelines, only a dormer was added on the rear of the building in order to balance interior lighting. Additional lights were installed between the sandwich trusses to illuminate the ceiling and create indirect, diffused light.

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“Our neighbors had their kitchen remodeled by Wiese Hefty Design Build and highly recommended we contact them for our project. We wanted to convert our detached garage into an art studio. I really liked the idea of the architect and builder working as part of the same team and was excited to work with a design build firm.

Our home is located in a historical district, so it was important that we preserve the exterior of the structure. I already had an idea of what I wanted for the space and Wiese Hefty also provided several great design options. In the end, it really came down to what we were allowed to do as far as altering the exterior of the structure.

Wiese Hefty absolutely followed through with the original plans and I love the new space. The communication was excellent throughout the process; Kristin and Clay made themselves very available and always kept me updated. They also stayed within the budget, which was very important to me. We would definitely work with Wiese Hefty Design Build again in the future and we’ve already recommended them to some of our neighbors who were admiring our new studio.”

- Linda Polhamus, Home Owner



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