

**UTSCH REMODEL-**  
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and they finally found some from a grainery on the Gary and Corrine Lieser farm - taken down in the 1910s and believed to have come from a building constructed in the late 1800s.

"I didn't want a plain vault," said Maggie. "I grew up on a farm, so I wanted barn wood."

Nick had a plan to build gables out of reclaimed lumber as "a last resort" when the Liesers contacted them. Getting wood from a Stearns County farm, just a few miles from where Maggie grew up by Lake Henry, was fantastic.

Nick cut down the beams (from 4 by 10s to 4 by 6s) and then built them into rafters that fit in the new vault.

They added a lot of canned lights into their new ceiling and also added outlets and in-ceiling speakers in the kitchen, living room, porch, and master bedroom.

Maggie saw a canning-jar light fixture online and thought it would be perfect to hang from the barn rafters, but Nick decided he could build one at a fraction of the cost. "Rounding up all the parts took the longest," said Nick, who was helped with the welding by his dad. "Putting it together and painting it was only a couple hours."

"It fit the decor," said Maggie, who does lots of cooking, canning, and baking.

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The Utsches wanted higher ceilings in their remodeled house, so they raised them in the great room and vaulted the ceiling over the entry and dining room. Photo by Michael Jacobson

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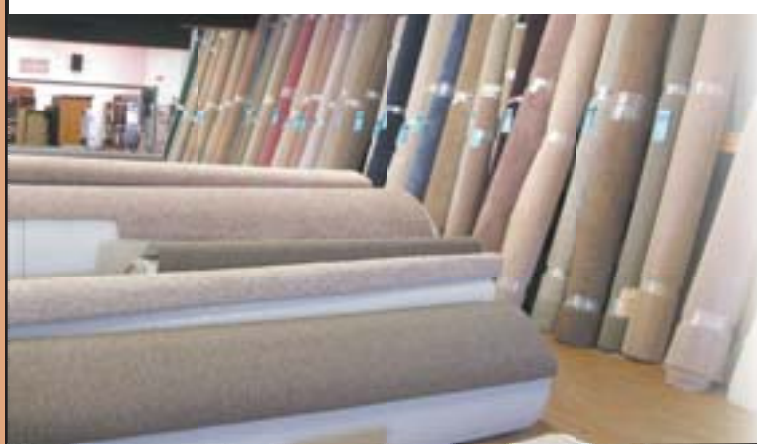
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