



Firm contact: Christopher Strom,
p: 612-961-9093, chris@christopherstrom.com
Media contact: Jennifer Gilhoi, SparkTrack Consulting,
p: 612-240-6589, Jennifer@sparktrackconsulting.com

For Immediate Release

St. Louis Park Approves Accessory Dwelling Units (ADUs)

Christopher Strom Architects, Based in St. Louis Park,
Provides ADU Design Expertise Through Second Suite

November 13, 2020, St. Louis Park, MN—On Friday, November 13, the City of St. Louis Park adopted a code amendment allowing Accessory Dwelling Units (ADUs) within the city. [Christopher Strom Architects \(CSA\)](#), through its business [Second Suite](#), has been designing and building ADUs in the Twin Cities area for more than a decade. The award-winning firm, based in St. Louis Park, is thrilled to bring its expertise in custom ADU design to neighbors looking for new housing opportunities.

St. Louis Park joins several metro cities in approving ADUs (also known as granny flats, in-law apartments, or second suites): [Minneapolis](#) was the first to approve ADUs, followed by St. Paul, Richfield, Roseville, and Crystal. An ADU is a small, permanent housing structure or dwelling built by homeowners on the same property as their single-family house. The ADU, which can be built over the garage or as a separate dwelling, has living and sleeping space, and a dedicated kitchen and bathroom.

Progressive Zoning & ADU Opportunities

CSA founder and architect Christopher Strom is known as the “ADU guru.” His most recently published ADU is [iCaliente!](#), which was selected by the *Star Tribune* for its [October 2020 Home of the Month](#). This ADU, built above a two-car garage, is the homeowners’ family getaway room, and provides a place for visiting parents to stay.

Across the metro area, and throughout the United States and Canada, homeowners are building ADUs for a variety of other reasons: as a source of income (as a rental property), to provide family members with independent multi-generational living, as housing for a caregiver, or to use as an office or studio.

“We’re seeing new, progressive zoning across the country in response to the increasing demand for a cost-effective alternative to an apartment or even an assisted living facility,” says CSA founder and licensed architect Christopher Strom. “Not only do ADUs add to density, which is becoming a mandate in many cities. Second suites also allow families to pool financial resources, or to provide independent housing for grandparents helping with childcare and adult children helping with aging parents.”

The COVID pandemic has provided another valuable use for ADUs: as an office or studio for adults working from home, as well as an education space for children or college students engaged in virtual or long-distance learning.

Regulations and Expertise

Regulations for ADUs in St. Louis Park differ from those in other, more urban areas. For instance, Minneapolis allows ADUs to be up to 21 feet tall; in St. Louis Park, ADUs cannot exceed 15 feet in height. As a result, second suites designed and constructed in St. Louis Park need to be one-story structures. Also, access issues differ in St. Louis Park, a first-ring suburb: In Minneapolis, second suites are often constructed in a backyard near an alley for access. For more on St. Louis Park's regulations, go [here](#).

CSA, with its expertise in ADU design, helps homeowners: decide why and where to build a second suite, navigate city regulations, select an architectural style, and customize the space to meet their needs and objectives. "We understand the complexities of zoning regulations and can assist a homeowner in 'building-to-blend' with an existing residence or creating something entirely modern and different," Strom says.

Moreover, investment in an ADU today can provide families with housing options for generations, whether for rental income, as housing for adult children or grandparents, or as a way to age in place. "ADUs are a cost-effective alternative to apartments and assisted-living facilities," Strom says. "The Second Suite, our design service for ADUs, represents a lifestyle we offer for families in the Twin Cities metro area. We're excited St. Louis Park has approved ADUs, and we're looking forward to working with our neighbors."

About Christopher Strom Architects

Christopher Strom has 20 years of architectural experience and knowledge of Minneapolis residential zoning code; serving as advisor to city zoning staff for recent Minneapolis residential code changes including the adoption of the Minneapolis Accessory Dwelling Unit Ordinance passed December 5, 2014.

Strom's work has been selected for seven AIA Minnesota/ *Star Tribune* "Homes of the Month" and several *Mpls-St Paul Magazine* RAVE awards. His homes have also been featured on five AIA-MN "Homes by Architects" tours. Strom served as an adjunct instructor at St Olaf College, teaching Architectural Design. In 2016 Chris was honored with an AIA-Minnesota "Young Architect Award" for exceptional leadership and significant contributions to the profession.

Find more information on the firm at christopherstrom.com and more details on Christopher Strom Architects' Second Suite program at secondsuite.org. Follow the firm on [Facebook](#) and [Instagram](#).