

A core of simplicity

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COURTESY OF GRAVITATION STUDIOS

The GREENvilleHOUSE's design and materials complement surrounding woods. Glass walls bring the landscape into the living area.

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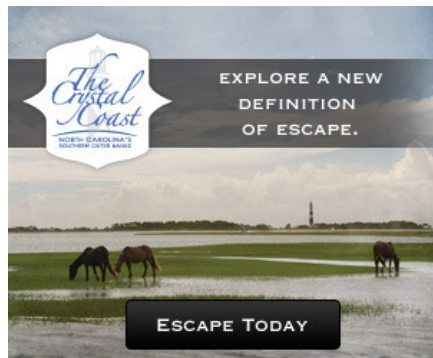
BY LAURA BATTAGLIA - CORRESPONDENT

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Bobby Walters had always been drawn to the simplicity and clean lines of modern architecture. But a modern aesthetic was not his only requirement as he planned a house for himself and his wife. Walters was also interested in sustainable features and cost-conscious decisions. In essence, he wanted to build a better house.

A radiologist by profession, Walters relates his sense of design and attention to detail to his work analyzing radiology images. He worked with Tonic Design on scheme after scheme; a process that his wife, Kristi, called a "five-year affair." As the design developed, the team realized that their design was inherently "green." The overriding concept of the Greenville residence is a series of wings that extend from a central core living area into the landscape in a pinwheel fashion. This allows for visual connections, breezes and natural daylight - all features of a design engaged with its environment.

Robby Johnston, the project manager from Tonic, encouraged the Walterses to pursue a LEED for Homes Silver Rating. As part of this green certification, the design team included a rainwater collection system for irrigation, photovoltaic roof panels to provide energy for hot water, geothermal wells and sustainable materials such as zinc and cedar siding.



This house suits the lifestyle of its owners. The central public living area is airy and light-filled. This inviting space contains the kitchen and a double height living room with a balcony above. The second floor contains a play area that is connected both spatially and visually to the living area below and bedrooms. The other parts of the house are designed as three single-story wings that extend from the central core. They are the more private spaces of the house - the master bedroom and guest-room suite, the media room and the garage/laundry area.

This house began with the owner's love for modern design. Five years later it is a perfect marriage between environmental stewardship and the beauty of modern architecture.

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