

WRITTEN IN THE STARS

A modern home tour opens the eyes of two empty nesters.

BY COY ARCHER
PHOTOS BY J. SINCLAIR

Looking up at the bright night sky from the front porch of Mary and Forrest Childers’ home in Lewisville, it’s easy to believe that the circumstances surrounding their new home had always been written in the stars.

It was only a couple of years ago when the Childerses—recent empty nesters—started thinking about moving to a new place, preferably on a bit of land along the Yadkin River. That’s when they heard about a home tour organized by the nonprofit North Carolina Modernist Houses (NCMH). Although far from what they were looking for, it sounded like fun.

The tour that day in June read like a list of Step Inside alumni, with modern homes built by STITCH: Design Shop and Timberwolf Designs, all scattered throughout the Triad.

“We were never really interested in living in a contemporary house,” says Mary.

That changed of course when the couple turned down the half-mile gravel drive that led to the home of Buddy Glascoe and Susan Bradford in Lewisville; the two were featured in the November 2016 issue of *Winston-Salem Monthly’s* Step Inside column.

The couple’s brief little countryside drive past horses in the meadow, a pond, a patch of woods, and a babbling brook went a long way in getting their full attention.

“Wow!” says Mary. “The roof, the windows, the setting!”

Suffice it to say, the reveal was eye-opening.

As the Childerses toured Buddy and Susan’s home with its fabulous butterfly roof, open-air floor plan, and strategic built-in cabinets, they realized they were standing in their dream house.

“We toured the home and just thought, ‘This is what we need!’ A three-bedroom, two-bath house on a single level ... all arranged perfectly,” she says.

This Timberwolf Designs home showcases a combination of natural light and elements that help bring the outdoors inside. Clear cedar and hardy board were used to construct the exterior.



The main living areas feature 12 foot ceilings, eight foot windows, and exposed beams. A lot of life happens in these main living rooms, as well as in the covered rear porch.



Short of asking the builder and designer to move out so they could move in, Mary and Forrest did the next best thing—they hired the dynamic design duo to build a similar house for them with a different roof and exterior. A tract of land close by happened to be for sale.

“Amazingly, we were able to purchase six acres on the same beautiful half-mile gravel drive on which our journey began,” Mary says.

Surrounded by four acres of woods on three sides, the Childerses opted for a flat roof design with a slight front-to-back pitch. They also selected a combination of clear cedar and hardy board for the exterior.

Forward thinking

While single-level living and the absence of stairs addressed part of Mary and Forrest’s wish to be able to age in place, the couple also asked for doorways and hallways to be widened—three feet, to be exact. Those are details typically found in public buildings and required by the American Disabilities Act (ADA). Designed to be “wheelchair friendly,” the couple also requested a roll-in shower big enough to park a Fiat.

After years in the parental caretaking business, the Childerses realized that small doorways and steps were not friends of the elderly or the sick. Six months into construction, in sort of an ironic twist, Forrest suffered a ruptured Achilles tendon that required two surgeries and nearly five months on crutches. Living in a traditional two-story home with only a half bath on the main level at the time, the injury confirmed the forward-thinking decision to build a single-level home.

Country sky

As beautiful as their new home is, Mary and Forrest are just as delighted with their property. The modest back yard boasts an outdoor shower at one corner with a fireplace for Forrest anchoring the opposite corner. Beyond the retaining wall that keeps the wilds at bay, the woods rise to a ridge that still shows signs of the great wagon road that once ran from Pennsylvania to North Carolina.

Out in front, Mary points to the edge of the meadow.

“We used to come here at night and sit

North Carolina's Premier Interior Design Firm

June DeLugas INTERIORS
Reinventing Space

2018 WINNER
INTERIOR DESIGN
JOURNAL
READERS CHOICE

Jay Sinclair

2018 WINNER PLATINUM
JOURNAL
READERS CHOICE

5 Years! Best Interior Design
JOURNAL
READERS CHOICE

Best of houzz 2018 SERVICE

Extraordinary Design

French Meets Modern

2575 Old Glory Road Clemmons • (336) 778-1030 • www.junedelugasinteriors.com

SALEM PLASTIC SURGERY

*Exceptional Care
With an Eye for Beauty*

Scott L. Tucker, MD

Hampton A. Howell, MD

800-FACES10 | 336-768-8483

1345-A Westgate Center Drive
Winston-Salem, NC 27103

www.salemplasticsurgery.com

Members

AMERICAN SOCIETY OF PLASTIC SURGEONS

AMERICAN SOCIETY OF PLASTIC SURGEONS
The Board of Directors
In Commitment to Plastic Surgery



around a fire before the house was finished,” she says. “So many stars in the sky.”

The night sky is one of the pleasures the Childerses appreciate about living out in the country, a pleasure the couple hopes to always preserve. That will be helped by a restriction written into their deed: “no street lights allowed.”

“Have you ever been to Montana,” Mary asks me. “No,” I say. “That’s ‘Big Sky Country,’ isn’t it?” “Yes, you need to go,” she says with a smile. “Maybe someday,” I say.

For now, it seems Lewisville will have to do.



The master bedroom (left) was designed to include a large window at the foot of the bed so the Childerses could wake up and see the beautiful outdoors. Benches were placed strategically throughout the home for the ease of dressing. Each bench was designed by Ryan Hairgrove of Lexington.

here's to fresh starts

Designed to make it easier for you to find the right pieces for the rooms in your home, our well-appointed 10,000 square foot showroom makes it a pleasure to shop for the broadest selection of furniture brands in the area, all at attractive prices. Visit us and let our on-site designers help you craft the backdrop of your life.



m e g b r o w n
home furnishings
memories start here

megbrown.com | Located just off I-40 in Bermuda Run