

Who & Ware: Durham artist bound to the letterpress. 7E.
Top Drawer 2E
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Home & Garden



Poetry and music:
N.C. Symphony
performs program
with cellist Denise
Djokic. PAGE 12E



PHOTO COURTESY OF JAMES WEST/JWESTPRODUCTIONS.COM

smith/troutman residence

architect | Jim Smith, AIA HagerSmith Design, PA
The historic Walnut Hill Cotton Gin in Southeast Raleigh is reincarnated as a house and studio.

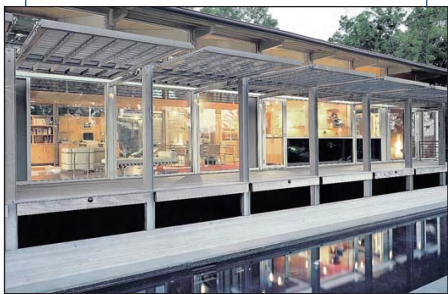


PHOTO COURTESY OF RICHARD LEO JOHNSON

lowcountry residence

architect | Frank Harmon Architect
A creekside abode in a hurricane zone offers a 21st-century solution to 400-year-old problems.



PHOTO COURTESY OF JAMES WEST/JWESTPRODUCTIONS.COM

chiles residence

architect | Tonic Design Professional Corp.
The open-frame steel bones of this 1960s Raleigh home are honored and updated in its rebirth.

Crushing the cookie cutter

home of the month

This year's Homes of the Month go beyond the traditional with contemporary twists

By WETA RAY CLARK
STAFF WRITER

Some homeowners and North Carolina architects dare to break away from the traditional and humdrum to try something different.

We saw it in the inaugural year of the Home of the Month program, and we'll see it again in 2007.

Home of the Month, a joint project by The News & Observer and the College of Design at N.C. State University, invites architects from across the state to submit their finest residential designs for consideration in a yearlong series in The N&O.

It gives North Carolina architects a chance to showcase their work and explain the design process and methods. And the public gets to see the value of an architect's input in home construction, while learning about design solutions that address specific home-living needs and desires. It's also an opportunity for the public to judge an architect's work.

This year's Home of the Month selections, seen here on the cover, were culled

from 27 entries. Each month, a design expert will profile one of the designs.

From across the South, the selected designs include mountain and beach get-aways, renovated bungalows, new construction and even a repurposed cotton gin. As you will see, most of the design styles possess modern interpretations and twists, with contemporary flourishes.

This shouldn't be interpreted as a slight to all that is historical and traditional, said one of the nationally known architecture experts who judged the entries. It was pure coincidence, said Meghan Drueding, a senior editor at Custom Home and Residential Architect, a pair of industry magazines based in Washington.

"These happen to be the ones we liked the best," she said. "It was not us trying to make a statement about any style was best. We tried to have a variety of different styles."

What stood out most among the panel's selections was the "the clarity of purpose, not necessarily always the most complicated or expensive," Drueding said.

"Sometimes it was just the most simple, well-done and thought out. That usu-

ally happens when there's good communication between the architect and clients."

In their decisions, made last month at the Residential Architect conference in San Diego, Drueding and the other panelists — Dale Mulfinger, co-founder of Mulfinger & Susanka Architects and an adjunct professor at the College of Architecture and Landscape Architecture at the University of Minnesota in Minneapolis, and Peter Twombly, of the Estes/Twombly Architects firm in New England — expressed surprise over the lack of more traditional or historical designs.

"Given your state," Mulfinger said, "I would have thought there would have been more historical referenced work. There certainly were a few projects that learned from history, but it would have been good to see a few more."

As in other regions, Mulfinger explained, North Carolina has a certain architectural character of house design that is historically indigenous. Drawing "from that ver-

SEE HOME, PAGE 7E

inside | A look at the rest of the submissions, page 6E.

february's home | Private Residence



PHOTO COURTESY OF CASEY LABORDE

private residence

architect | Szostak Design Inc.
Views to a pastoral setting set the stage for the planning of this Orange County residence.



PHOTO COURTESY OF JAMES WEST/JWESTPRODUCTIONS.COM

the goodall addition

architect | Tina Govan Architect
1923 Raleigh bungalow grows 650 square feet for more living, dining, working, sleeping and storage.



PHOTO COURTESY OF BARBARA MYERS

atlantic sneak-away

architect | Maurer Architecture
A Beaufort seaside cabin that offers sweeping views, a loft, and sleeping for 12 in 705 square feet.



PHOTO COURTESY OF PHILIP SZOSTAK

piano pavilion

architect | Szostak Design Inc.
Acoustics and views play sweet music in a Durham addition for recitals and practice for local pianist.



PHOTO COURTESY OF HAL LINDLEY

the campbell residence

architect | Hal Lindley, Architect
Silk Hope home offers minimal upkeep, energy efficiency and handicapped accessibility with views.



PHOTO COURTESY OF JAMES WEST/JWESTPRODUCTIONS.COM

ball residence

architect | Cherry Huffman Architects
Small, modest Raleigh ranch is transformed into modern statement of "comfortable minimalism."

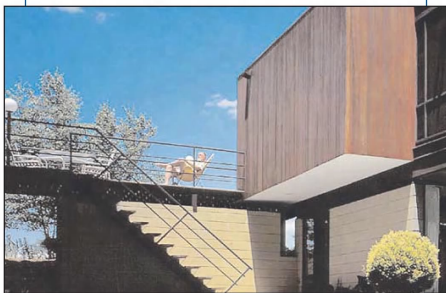


PHOTO COURTESY OF CHRIS CHICCO

poland-defeo house

architect | Ellen Cassilly, Ellen Cassilly Architect Inc.
A relocated Bahama residence gets a new basement and landscape, but keeps historic integrity.



PHOTO COURTESY OF KEN PETERMAN

the curves-ravenel house*

architect | Ken Peterman
Chapel Hill home in historic area embraces mature landscape with an enclosed courtyard.

*editor's choice

meet the panelists

Meghan Drueding is senior editor at Custom Home and Residential Architect magazines. She has written about home design and architecture for 10 years, winning several national and regional journalism awards. Drueding lives in Washington, D.C.



Dale Mulfinger co-founded SALA Architects as Mulfinger & Susanka Architects in 1983. He also teaches at the College of Architecture and Landscape Architecture at the University of Minnesota. His interest in regional architecture is expressed in his research of 20th century Minnesota architect Edwin Lundie, and in the book "The Architecture of Edwin Lundie" (Minnesota Historical Society Press). His most recent books are "The Cabin" and "The Getaway Home" (Taunton Press).

Peter Twombly co-founded Estes/Twombly Architects. The award-winning firm is known for its simple, innovative designs with roots in the New England tradition. The firm's work can be found in the popular "Not So Big House" series, and The Distinctive Home, House Beautiful and Architectural Digest magazines.



COMPILED BY KATIE WAKEFORD

HOME

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1E

anacular character without using all the details" is one way to incorporate that history into a modern-day design.

Not that Mulfinger doesn't enjoy modern. "I do. But there would have been a better balance if we had more of the historical or traditional structures."

Twombly, though, saw the inclusion of so many contemporary designs as refreshing.

A resident of Rhode Island, he said there is not much diversity in the home designs in his part of the nation.

"In the Northeast, it is rare to get a client that will entertain a modern, contemporary home. There's such a stock of historic homes here. There is such an ingrained sensibility of what a house should look like, and people are so worried about what the neighbors will say. They want their house to fit in. Breaking away from that can be difficult," he said.

The modernist turns from North Carolina architects was "kind of different for me coming from another region," he added.

Twombly was impressed with how the designs dealt with the integration of the landscapes and the level of resolution carried through from the inside to the outside. He noted that there were projects with obviously large budgets, but overall, "things aren't overly elaborate. Money is spent on landscape preparation and integration, and quality detailing of materials as opposed to huge kitchens, elaborate staircases. There's quality rather than quantity."

Where are the kids?

If anything was missing in the designs overall, it was children, Mulfinger said. "I got the feeling that the majority of these were clients without children."

He said he would have liked to have seen more houses that were clearly about family and that reflect the breadth of what family needs.

"We know there's plenty of houses being built down there for families," he said. "The question is are there architects down there really serving those families or are they serving the empty nesters?"

Trends emerging from this year's entries are in line with what the panelists are seeing around the country: open, flowing interiors, an influx of natural light and kitchens that allow for cooking and socializing. "We are all living in our kitchens," Mulfinger said.

It was no surprise either that nearly all the entries dealt with the outdoors impressively. "In your climate it is so important," said Drueding, who talks to architects, designers and builders all over the country. "There are so many months of the year that you can spend outside. There seemed to be a huge push to having rooms that relate to the outdoors or having outdoor rooms."

Choosing among ideas

Home of the Month was created as a learning tool for architects and the public. Among the 11 home designs (10 selected by the panel and one Editor's Choice) readers will learn about unique houses with welcoming porches and sunny kitchens, homes for gracious entertaining and relaxing getaways, homes for young families and for retirees.

Twombly said, "People get to see well-designed homes, and hopefully they can gain some insight to what the possibilities are."

The general thought is that architects are out of touch with reality, budgets and affordable housing, Twombly said. Home of the Month, and similar programs (there's one in Minneapolis) offer opportunities to show how residential design can address those topics and still be top-notch and style-driven.

Even with broad strokes of modernism, homeowners and prospective homeowners can find plenty to take away and integrate into their own homes.

"Certainly ideas of light and space, which one sees in modern homes, like in the houses that were selected, can be used in smaller homes even better," Mulfinger said. He likened the merge of modern and traditional styles in home design to the Ikea experience.

"In Ikea, you don't feel too much about history or nostalgia. The products are pretty fresh, relatively modern."

Although some of the people who are buying products from the Swedish furnishings store may have homes with similar attributes, Mulfinger said, most of us live in traditional homes. Incorporating contemporary or non-traditional design touches into our homes is sort of like that.

"We're probably picking ideas that are more akin to products you find in Ikea."

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