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Design translations

This year's Homes of the Month offer details you can use in your own house

By WETA RAY CLARK
STAFF WRITER

When you get the up-close look at this year's batch of Home of the Month designs, don't get stuck on the obvious — a contemporary-style house sitting in a rolling field or on a wooded lot. Search for the specific — how natural materials are used to incorporate color or interest, how carefully placed windows allow in natural light or scenic views without obstruction from surrounding buildings or how storage issues are resolved with clever built-ins.

There are details and concepts you can envision and incorporate into your own home.

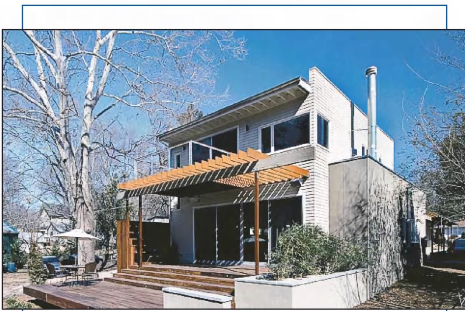


PHOTO BY MARK HERBOTH

barker residence

architect | Vernacular Studio
A Five Points two-story addition saves face amid traditional and industrial neighbors.

Shining a spotlight on examples of exemplary house design is the intention of Home of the Month, a joint collaboration by The News & Observer and N.C. State University's College of Design. In its third year, Home of the Month invites architects from across the state to submit their finest residential designs for consideration in a yearlong series in The N&O.

Today we show the submissions we received for the 2008 series. On the cover are the nine designs that were selected by a three-judge panel as the top of the crop of 24, plus an editor's choice.

On the last Saturday of each month, beginning Feb. 23, look for one of the top designs to be

INSIDE

Take a peek at the remaining 2008 Home of the Month submissions.
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of good design be pointed out, but you also will get a bird's-eye view of the kinds of houses that architects are creating as solutions to area homeowners' in-home daily needs and to the clients' desire for more meaningful living experiences.

What stands out among this year's entries are the many design concepts that could easily

home
of the
month

SEE HOME, PAGE 6E

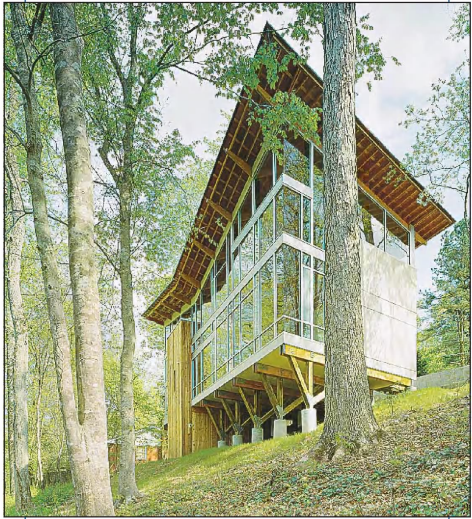


PHOTO BY TIMOTHY HURSLEY AND JEFFREY JACOBS

strickland-ferris residence

architect | Frank Harmon
The client wants "a feeling of living in the trees" — it's accomplished without cutting a single specimen tree.



PHOTO BY FRED JERNIGAN

house in town

architect | Fred Jernigan
A small addition lightens up a downtown Durham Foursquare and creates a new hub and gateway to the outside.



PHOTO BY PAUL WARCHOL PHOTOGRAPHY

paletz-moi house

architect | Kenneth E. Hobgood
Lots of glass, light, and indoor and outdoor workspaces leave homeowners feeling at home in the trees.



PHOTO BY MARC LAMKIN

tise residence

architect | Tise-Keister Architects
A compact plan is strategically built to take advantage of the surrounding sloped, wooded splendor.



PHOTO BY STEVEN CLIPP

twersky/beauclair residence

architect | Steven Clipp Architecture
A plain-Jane exterior hides contemporary surprises within — on a budget.



PHOTO BY DANIEL ARNEMAN

wendell bungalow

architect | John Sibert, 2SL Design Build Inc.
A classic Craftsman-style bungalow in downtown Wendell gets a modern adaptation.



PHOTO BY TINA GOVAN

zapffel farmhouse

architect | Tina Govan
One man's love for an old French farmhouse is played out in a Trenton bean field.



PHOTO BY MICHAEL COATES, BRIAN WATSON, GANG WANG

modern foursquare

architect | Michael Coates
A two-story living room is center stage in this updated interpretation of a Foursquare.



PHOTO BY TIM BURLESON

chips cottage

architect | Thomas Lawton
Mountain home inspired by the European Arts and Crafts movement has three levels of multigenerational living.

Some things new and renovated

Submissions to the 2008 Home of the Month featured a variety of styles, from new builds to renovations and additions. Many of the back stories were as unique and interesting as the designs. Here is a snapshot of the remaining 14 designs as the architects described them.

For a bigger view, go to newsobserver.com/lifestyles.



PHOTO BY DANIEL ARNEMAN

thomas residence

architect | 2SL Design Build Inc.
The update for this traditional Durham Colonial begins with the client's desire for a front porch.



PHOTO BY DEVON TOLSON

reaves drives addition

architect | DeVon Tolson Architecture Inc.
A second expansion – this time to a Five Points home's backside and roof – is the charm for comfortable living.



PHOTO BY TOM WELLS

poplar hill

architect | Design Development
A two-bedroom single story keeps things simple and passive with a strong southern exposure – for about \$180,000.



PHOTO BY CHRIS BECK

national mainstream green home

architect | Cherokee Investment Partners LLC
A rainwater catchment system, thermal heating, reclaimed wood and translucent roofs are how this green home grows.



PHOTO BY KEN PETERMAN

house on bogue sound

architect | Ken Peterman
A four-season retreat is driven by a desire to view and experience the sound off Emerald Isle.



PHOTO BY BARRY SWANSON

house for aging parents

architect | Swanson + Stalwart Architects, PA
Two houses in one have all the necessities for an elderly couple and live-in caregiver.



PHOTO BY PAUL WARCHOL

gravely-khachatoorian house

architect | Kenneth E. Hobgood Architects
This is what can happen when a residential architect, a renowned landscape architect and the homeowners collaborate.



PHOTO BY MATTHEW LUCK

genzer residence

architect | Szoatak Design Inc.
This home is a reinterpretation of a traditional North Carolina farmstead, made naturally plush with verandas and covered breezeways.



PHOTO BY CHRISTOPHER CICCONE

fox peck house

architect | Ellen Cassilly Architect
Carving out space for a growing family starts in the kitchen and family room – and doesn't leave out Mom.



PHOTO BY G. DAVID HUGHES

craig-proctor residence

architect | J. Knox Tate IV Architect
A house that offers views of grazing cows, valleys and mountainsides – thanks to disappearing glass doors and interior walls with windows.

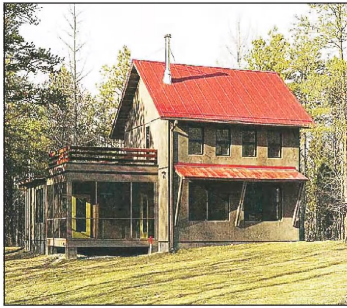


PHOTO BY CHRISTOPHER CICCONE

caswell county retreat

architect | Ellen Cassilly Architect Inc.
When the clients asked for a small getaway for observing nature, they got a cross between a bird-watching platform and a nest.

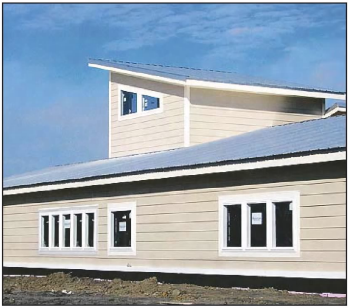


PHOTO BY CHE CLARK

1962 university

architect | Native American Design Services
A cupola extends a hearty welcome to the whole clan into this open one-level on family farmland.



PHOTO BY RONALD COLLIER

second chance ranch

architect | AlphaCollier Inc. Architect
A 1960s ranch gets a contemporary makeover that rearranges interior rooms, restructures the roof and makes room for full accessibility.



PHOTO BY STAN FOWLER

2106 banbury road

architect | Perry Cox Architect, PA
A renovation and smart additions breathe a new, updated life into this mid-20th century modern house.

HOME

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translate to any home. People just have to be able to see beyond the design style in the photographs, said R. Christian Schmitt of Schmitt Walker Architects in Charleston, S.C.

"Good design is good design no matter what style it is," Schmitt said by phone. "The good aspects of any of these houses can be applied to any style."

He pointed to a renovated Craftsman-style entry that made the final cut. "These people built a

separate building on the back and renovated the front. That kind of design shows people what you can do with a very simple house in a simple neighborhood. The finished product is very upscale and elegant, but it is done with very modest means."

The panelists

Duo Dickinson of Duo Dickinson Architect of Madison, Conn., and Christine L. Albertsson of Albertsson Hansen Architecture in Minneapolis found the entries to be sensitive to their sites and to the environment.

"We were very surprised with

2008 PANELISTS

Christine L. Albertsson, Albertsson Hansen Architecture, Ltd., Minneapolis
Duo Dickinson, Duo Dickinson Architect, Madison, Conn.
R. Christian Schmitt, Schmitt Walker Architects, Charleston, S.C.

the variety of scale of the projects, but also the variety of the context," said Dickinson, co-founder of the Congress of Residential Architecture, the first national organization of residential designers. "There were some edgy, cutting-edge designs and stuff that was user-friendly."

Referring to examples of the projects' "freshness," Dickinson pointed to how some architects' use of simple steel systems or engineered wood systems enabled them to have "very basic structural grids, big overhangs and very simple shapes that were either twisted a little bit or shaped a little bit to get a big bang for their buck."

"There was a lot of innovation and thoughtfulness evident," he added.

The absence of traditional colonials, tiny ranch houses or shotgun houses laced with old-fashioned fixtures and charm is not to imply that these beautiful old

homes do not exist, but that they are not what most people are looking to build — at least not without an updated bent more conducive to the way we live today.

"Everybody wants to live in a modern way," noted Albertsson, a member of the architecture faculty at the University of Minnesota. "Nobody comes to an architect and says, 'I want a tiny kitchen, with a few rooms and six to eight windows throughout.' The image of the historical is more of what they are interested in preserving. The problem is that to create that image from scratch is more expensive than what many people have to

spend.

No doubt a few of the Home of the Month selections are fancy, expensive houses, but, Schmitt said, "what's interesting is that you can put those next to one of the more modest, contemporary houses and you can see some of the same design concepts in them — open plan, natural light features."

The Home of the Month project gets people to see that you can have some of these meaningful design considerations "without having to spend millions of dollars."

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