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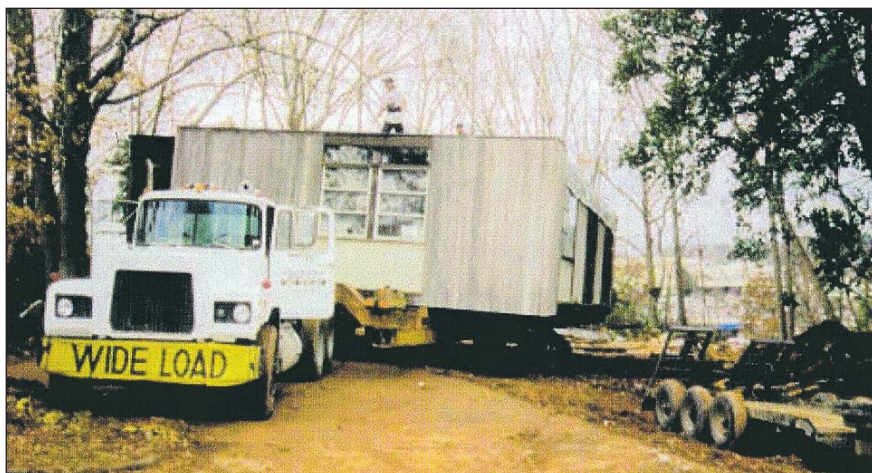
# Home & Garden

**Coming Sunday:**  
 Find out how Raleigh's Riggins family is managing in the "Extreme Makeover" home.  
**SUNDAY JOURNAL**

home of the month

May's profile of a well-designed living space

Take a slide show tour of the home and hear architect Ellen Cassilly talk about it at [www.newsobserver.com](http://www.newsobserver.com), search 'home.'



Today's Home of the Month is reviewed by Ken Friedlein, an architect and writer whose article on preserving the 1954 Polard House in Raleigh appeared in *The News & Observer* in August 2001. The column caught the eye of a Durham man who had recently hired a designer to do a modern house. With a phone call, he redirected the collaboration between homeowner and architect.

BY KEN FRIEDLEIN  
 GUEST COLUMNIST

Ellen Cassilly clearly recalls the late summer day in 2001 when her client phoned with a piece of news he had read in the Sunday paper: Preservation North Carolina was looking for someone to buy, move and restore a remarkable but relatively inconspicuous Raleigh house designed in 1954 by N.C. State University Design School professor George Matsumoto. It had been the home of another faculty member, George Poland, who owned it until his death in 2000.

Cassilly, a Durham architect, was contemplating her own design for a residence for Don DeFeo, then general manager of the Washington Duke Inn. She recalls his enthusiastic voice on the phone. "Ellen, did you see the paper?" DeFeo asked. "We have to go see this

the project  
 the poland/defeo residence

**architect**  
 Ellen Cassilly  
**location**  
 502 John Jones Road, Durham  
**year built** | 1954  
**year moved** | 2002  
**square footage**  
 1,780 heated, 420 unheated  
**sales price** | \$629,000  
**key design concept**  
 honoring a midcentury masterpiece by remaining faithful to the original design

## a modern movement

SEE **POLAND**, PAGE 4E



the renovation

The boxlike building designed by George Matsumoto in 1954 sits atop a concrete block foundation. The lower-level opens in the rear to a broad lawn, which leads to the woods and reservoir. Originally, the under-house space on the lower level was an open terrace and carport, designed by Matsumoto so that it might be later enclosed. Architect Ellen Cassilly finished the enclosure that Matsumoto had anticipated, turning the 1,200-square-foot Poland House into the 1,800-square-foot Poland-DeFeo House.

PHOTOS COURTESY OF ELLEN CASSILLY

### Let's party in the posies

& Gas prices are high. Money is tight. But you've got your lawn going on. No lady knows how to throw a garden party like a Southern lady.

We'd like to hear how you party in the garden and see photos of the beautiful setting where the gathering will take place. We are looking to sit among your pretty blossoms, adore your handsome landscape and sip some sweet tea with a small group of your closest friends.

Send us an invitation, and who knows? Maybe we'll crash your party and tell everyone all about it in a future story.

Share your plans and upload your photos at [share.triangle.com/gardenparty](http://share.triangle.com/gardenparty).



## Doctor sows love into family garden

BY VIRGINIA A. SMITH  
 THE PHILADELPHIA INQUIRER

PHILADELPHIA

Jules Vassaluzzo's gardens tumble and flow in entertaining harmony, one big bear hug of a landscape, with surprise and delight at every turn.

You'll find tree peonies next to hostas next to clematis next to hellebores next to strawberries, so many colorful plants and trees that something interesting is happening all year long.

"I'm an equal-opportunity plantsman," Vassaluzzo explains with a chuckle. "Whatever's free or cheap."

So he's no snob, though he studied biology and botany in college and is a veteran of the Philadelphia Flower Show. (His beloved wife, Rosemarie, who died in 2001, was a 14-time grand-sweepstakes winner there.)

"I just love gardening," he says. "Who wouldn't?"



Self-seeding Virginia Bluebells in the garden require little maintenance.

MCT PHOTO BY RON TARVER

He knows the origin and proper botanical name of every plant in his Langhorne gardens, which twice were on a garden tour.

But this is a private place, as well. Vassaluzzo says gardening allowed him to share precious, carefree time with his three children, and now his seven grandchildren.

"Oh," he says, "I could tell you stories." And he does, starting with how he fell in love with Rosemarie Pellegrino, a farmer's daughter from Bucks County, Pa., back when both were students at Temple, and how she wasn't much interested at first, but then ...

They married in 1962. She was a teacher, he was a family doctor, and their simple Colonial house had exactly two trees in the front yard and two trees in the back when they moved there in 1969.

Over time, the Vassaluzzos turned the front, back and side yards into a verdant expression of the life and values they shared: full, busy and bustling with children and grandchildren.

SEE **GARDEN**, PAGE 3E

