

## Modern moves in

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COURTESY OF STUDIO B ARCHITECTURE



The primary living area is tall and spacious, with a wood-burning fireplace framed by a polished steel mantel and hearth. The arrangement of windows and doors maximizes natural light while maintaining privacy.

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On a narrow lot near Duke University, one home stands apart from its post-World War II era neighbors. Designed for the needs of the owner, it's an example of introducing modern architecture to a more traditional neighborhood.

The owner explored several options for the home's design before turning to Studio B Architecture, owned by Erik Mehman and Randall Lanou. He presented the designers with a short list of priorities: energy efficiency, low maintenance and a clean interior.

Studio B organized the home as a series of four parallel vertical planes and connected these core living spaces with a stairway module and a screened porch on either side of the core. Interior zones are delineated using color and materials rather than walls, resulting in a sense of spaciousness in the small home. The open plan maximizes cross ventilation and emphasizes long sight lines that end at thoughtfully placed and carefully sized windows.

Warm interior materials, including cherry and brushed nickel, along with stainless steel appliances and a handcrafted staircase of bamboo and steel, give way to a distinctly industrial exterior with corrugated metal, cement-based, rot-free panels and Atlantic white cedar. These virtually maintenance-free materials clad a highly insulated, advanced framed structure. Along with energy efficient windows, equipment and appliances, the result has been minimal heating and cooling expenses.

Standing in contrast to its more traditional neighbors, the home continues to attract intense, mostly positive attention.

**Marshall Dunlap has a master's in architecture from N.C. State College of Design and is a residential green building specialist at the N.C. Solar Center.**

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