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# Home & Garden



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## home of the month

October's profile of a well-designed living space

See more photos of this house and other Home of the Month entries online at [www.newsobserver.com](http://www.newsobserver.com) key word: **architectural**. Next month's home: An Artist's Palette

# from bungalow



### transformations

There are few alterations to the front of the house. New columns, a porch roof and a dormer respect — and almost mimic — the character of the original house and its neighborhood. You would never know that a modern addition in back takes a whole new direction.

# to butterfly



### the wings

The addition to the rear of the house puts a modern spin on wood-frame construction, while still 'fitting' very comfortably next to the older bungalow structure. New and old get along famously. The addition to the back of the house does not masquerade as a new house dressed in historic bungalow attire, but it complements the existing structure while giving the homeowners an extraordinary kitchen and living space, and an airy master suite. The roof is called a 'butterfly' because it resembles a pair of delicately raised wings perched atop the house. Its appearance is dramatic — and unexpected — in a neighborhood of many conventional gable roofs. While typical roofs shelter a house, the butterfly roof seems to hover above the walls.

PHOTOS COURTESY OF JWEST PRODUCTIONS



### new/old

Look up along the side of the house to see where the new polycarbonated roof meets up with the older gable roof at the far left. The slim, modern column mimics the columns at the front of the house.

Today's Home of the Month is reviewed by architect David Hill. Home of the Month, a collaboration with N.C. State University's College of Design, shows possibilities in constructing a space that's well thought-out and built with the homeowners' living patterns and preferences in mind. Each month, we'll profile a new home selected from designs by area architects.

BY DAVID HILL  
 GUEST COLUMNIST

Something miraculous happened when Cannon Architects took a gable roof and turned it upside down on an addition to an old bungalow — it became a butterfly. Sounds odd?

Imagine a 1920s clapboard bungalow merging with a 21st-century modern addition with an inverted gable. Then imagine the two roof planes of the addition rising into the sky — like the wings of a butterfly. It is dramatic. It is graceful. The approach is quite an unexpected way to add onto an old house. Yet the renovation and addition of the Witman Bungalow is all about defying expectations. It prompts several questions: Should an addition to a historic structure be

about deference or difference? Should the new harmonize with the old by replicating its style and detail? And, can contrasting styles of new and old provide evidence of the way lifestyles have changed?

Deference or difference? In this design, the correct answer is both. The clever thing here is that the addition hasn't completely turned its back on the character of the old house's Craftsman-style construction. But, at the same time, it hasn't tried to copy it either.

The house, says Susan Cannon, "grows from something traditional to something untraditional."

In its original life, the house was a collection of small distinct rooms. While keeping the

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### the project the bungalow addition

**architect**  
 Susan Cannon, Cannon Architects

**project location**  
 Raleigh

**beds/baths**  
 3-3½ baths

**completion** | 2005

**square footage**  
 2,428 downstairs, 660 upstairs

**cost** | Unavailable

**key design concepts**  
 Connection of old and new, inside and outside views

## Marvelous mums

When it comes to chrysanthemums, there's really very little negative you can say. They are stunning showoffs, putting on performances with an amazing array of shapes, sizes and colors just when most other plants are playing out.

There's just no other plant that says fall like this beacon of beauty.

As greenhouse manager of Fairview Garden Center in Raleigh, Carol Calloway is responsible for growing the nursery's 3,458 mums, which include 29 varieties. While she agrees that mums are marvelous, there are certain mums better suited than others when it comes to making a particular statement.

For the discriminating homeowner who think not just any mum will do, here are some mums that will ...

### INSIDE

What you should know about growing mums.

► 4E

### STOP TRAFFIC HOT SALSA



This firecracker red daisy mum might as well be a red light with a yellow center. "It's a little different, unique," says Calloway. "It's hard to get a red, red in a mum, most tend toward bronze."

### SPARK BRILLIANT COLOR ATLANTICO YELLOW



Plenty of mums can wear amber, but this one is pretty and shines like the sun.

### DO DOUBLE DUTY TASHA



A late bloomer, this orange daisy mum has good keeping quality, which means it won't fade like most oranges and reds. It also looks great at night, says Calloway.

### SHOCK & AWE TEMPTRESS RED



It wasn't exactly love at first sight, but the unusual red variety has sort of grown on Calloway. "It almost looks like Saran Wrap — almost dull on one side and shiny on the other."

### STAND OUT CARPINO



For the daring, a mum in dark lavender — really more sensuous purple than the delicate lavender. It too casts late-season blooms.

Weta Ray Clark



**Exposed bones** The structure in most houses is hidden within the walls and attic. Not so in the living room, here, and other portions of the Whitman house. The architects worked closely with structural engineer Richard Kaydos-Daniels of Raleigh to create a delightful ceiling structure that is a major visual feature. The trusses are meticulously crafted of Douglas fir wood beams with steel rods, cables and connectors.

**Inside/outside** One clear theme in the addition is the connection of indoor and outdoor spaces. The interior living room opens up to a large, elevated wooden deck made of Ipe, a Brazilian hardwood, and the butterfly roof. The roof, says Cannon, "extends over the deck, increasing the scale of the house while protecting this exterior living space."

**BUTTERFLY**

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1E

front of the house much the same, Cannon Architects opened up the back of the house beginning at the family room to allow in light and allow open space to flow into the dining room, kitchen and an airy master suite.

The little house appears unaltered — its general shape maintained — except for the demure addition of a new second-story dormer and a welcoming porch with a standing seam metal roof. These two features may go unnoticed from the street, for they are nothing out of the ordinary in a quaint Five Points neighborhood with many other rocking chair porches. But the clever, yet subtle, detailing of the alterations adds a modern touch that Cannon believes "echoes the proportion of traditional bungalow columns in an updated vocabulary."

**Straddling old and new**

Inside, the boundary between old and new is artfully disguised as the historically defined entry hall and sitting room in the front of the house gracefully flow into the modern living spaces in back. The state-of-the-art kitchen straddles the border between old and addition, defining the new heart of the home.

The design clearly reflects today's lifestyle, where people in different rooms can interact with one another while carrying on different activities. The ap-

proach also answers the latter questions above: Should the new harmonize with the old by replicating its style and detail? And can contrasting styles of new and old provide evidence of the way lifestyles have changed?

Susan Cannon affirmatively answers with this redesign that gives way to a transformation where the virtues of the old are heightened by the refreshing presence of the new.

The typical way to add on is to match the old, using the same details and colors, to make the new part look as if it has been there for a long time. But here, while the architects have used similar materials — cypress siding on the new portion to match the cedar shake on the original house — they also have placed old and new next to each other. (Craftsman detailing next to modern. The butterfly roof next to the original low roof. New, open spaces next to the older, distinct little rooms.) The virtues of the two together — the sum of their parts — is better.

The original 1920s Sears kit house (yes, you could order one from the catalog back then) could have easily met a different fate: It could have been torn down like so many other aging inside-the-Beltline homes. After all, the lot is tight, and starting from scratch, in some ways, would have been easier. Fortunately, the Cannons and the home's owner at the time of renovations accepted the challenge of the small lot and the idiosyncrasies of the old bungalow.

**Boldly, the design goes**

The redesign is so bold and so out-of-the-ordinary that it is hard to find fault in it. If there was any criticism of the house, it is that in taking advantage of every bit of space in the upstairs renovation of the old portion, the consequence is an upstairs bedroom that's rather cramped with a low ceiling.

Clearly, a house addition as daring as this may not be for everyone, but it certainly captivated the new owners, Bill and Betty Witman, who recently bought the property.

Betty Witman is pleased with the spaces in the old and new portions of the house. She says that she especially enjoys watching the "changing of the seasons" through the windows of the new family room. The house displays a series of transformations as it moves from old to new. The bungalow's cozy, introverted rooms give way to the lofty ceilings and expressive spaces of the addition. The formality of the old house relaxes in the new. Craftsman goes Modern. And gables become butterflies.

Transformation can be a beautiful thing.

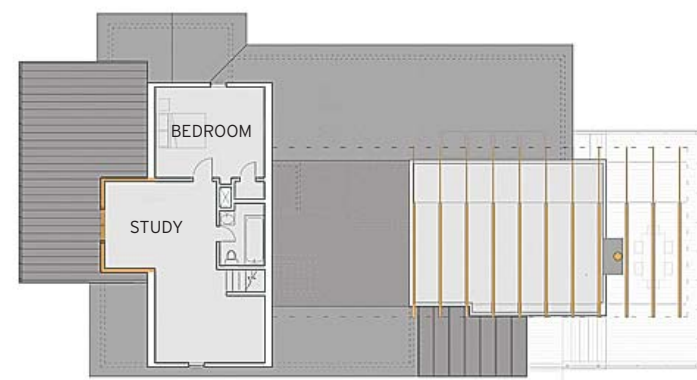
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**the plan**

The kitchen separates the older, distinct spaces — the living and dining rooms — from the more open family room, master suite and back decks.



First floor



Second floor

**kitchen hub**

A stylish new kitchen, featuring custom mahogany and glass cabinets, defines the center of the house while connecting old and new. The lighting is subtle and the flat, low ceiling contrasts with the dramatic high ceilings of the family room beyond. A large corner window opens up views to the backyard and makes the galley-style kitchen seem much larger than it really is.

**architect's aim**

The renovation and addition, Susan Cannon notes, "respects the scale and pattern of the neighborhood," unlike so many McMansions that replace inside-the-Beltline teardowns.

**panel comments**

"A playful yet respectful transformation" that's "daring" and "surprising."

**PROJECT CREDITS**

STRUCTURAL ENGINEERS: KAYDOS-DANIELS ENGINEERS, PLLC; COUNTERTOPS: FORMWORKS CONCRETE; MILLWORK AND CABINETRY: BO TAYLOR AND EVAN LIGHTNER  
PHOTOGRAPHER: JWEST PRODUCTIONS

