

# YOUR COMMUNITY

**KNOCK KNOCK: THE TRIANGLE'S MOST UNUSUAL HOUSES**

## Pared down perfectly

Raleigh family creates their dream home by downsizing

**BY KIM DEVINS WEISS**  
NORTH CAROLINA MODERNIST HOUSES

### RALEIGH

Laura and Greg Kelly can stand in the living/dining/kitchen space of their small, modernist house in West Raleigh and see the two-story, 3,200-square-foot house they gladly left behind to downsize to exactly the amount of space their family of four actually needs.

After measuring the unused space in their big house, they realized they only needed 1,400 square feet, and all on one level, to be perfectly happy.

Laura, a pediatrician, remembers the day their oldest son,

Troy, a senior at Broughton High School, pointed out the amount of space that they didn't use. "We realized he was right," she said one recent morning as an early fall breeze wafted through the wall of open glass doors that front the living area. "We never used the formal living room or formal dining room. It was such a waste."

"If you used a string to measure between us, we were hardly ever more than 10 feet away from each other," said Greg, a business appraiser who works from home. Along with their parents, Troy and his younger brother, John, a freshman at Broughton, hung out in the eat-in kitchen and family room at the back of the

big house. "Yet we were heating and cooling all that space and it took so much effort and energy to clean it."

Eager to simplify their lives yet stay in the same neighborhood and school zone, the Kellys found a 1,215-square-foot, ranch-style house built in 1954 just a couple of blocks away. It was the perfect foil for a renovation that would express both their family's lifestyle and their appreciation for clean, modernist design.

The Kellys sold their big house for \$675,000 and bought the little one for \$245,000. With the profit, they began working with Richard Hall Designs of Raleigh on the renovation.

Knock Knock visits some of the Triangle's most unique residential architecture, powered by the archives of historic preservation nonprofit North Carolina Modernist Houses, [www.ncmodern.org](http://www.ncmodern.org).

It was important to Laura and Greg to keep the original scale and footprint in respect to the neighborhood. Yet they opened the interior by eliminating walls that separated the original kitchen, dining, and living rooms. A steel beam, exposed

inside, replaced the load-bearing wall between the kitchen and living room. A small screened-in porch near the carport became Greg's home office, effectively increasing the house's square footage to 1,400.

At the Kellys' suggestion, Hall replaced the old peaked roof with one angular plane, covered in standing-seem metal. This extends the roofline from its lowest point, at the



Architect Richard Hall replaced the house's front wall with glass clerestory windows and NanaWall® glass doors that completely open the living space to the 15-by-45-foot deck. For the exterior, stained wood siding offers a warm note among all the glass and steel.

carport, to 13 feet above the living room at the highest point.

Beneath this peak, Hall replaced the house's front wall with glass clerestory windows and NanaWall® glass doors that completely open the living space to the 15-by-45-foot deck. For the exterior, stained wood siding offers a warm note among all the glass and steel. An elegant wood and metal partial fence creates privacy and a private garden at the front of the house without actually closing the house off to the neighborhood.

According to Laura and Greg, neither they nor their sons use their bedrooms for more than sleeping, so they kept the original, small (by today's standards) bedrooms right where they were. Built-in cabinetry provides all the storage they need without intruding on the bedrooms' limited space. Large window expanses also make the

rooms seem larger.

Sleek, built-in storage throughout the house, created by Bo Taylor Custom Woodworking, was one of the renovation's greatest expenses yet worth every penny, the Kellys say, because it eliminates the need for extra furnishings. And simple, pared-down space was a high priority, especially for Greg, who admits to a strong aversion to clutter and

unnecessary decoration.

The casework's rich wood tones also provide a warm counterpoint to the crisp white walls seen throughout the house.

Besides the welcomed benefit of lowering property taxes and energy use expenses, the Kellys say their "little" house feels much bigger than their previous home because it isn't filled with furnishings and it is so open to the outdoors.

Laura's father, Troy Herring III, was an architect who, according to Laura, loved the Modernist sensibility. He died when Laura was barely 20. After their new house was completed, an uncle told her that her father would have loved it. "That meant so much to me," she said.

You can see more of Richard Hall's work at [www.trianglemodernist-houses.com/hall.htm](http://www.trianglemodernist-houses.com/hall.htm).

## WHAT WE HAVE BEEN READING

### FICTION

1. Inferno, Dan Brown
2. And the Mountains Echoed, Khaled Hosseini
3. Gone, James Patterson
4. Gone Girl, Gillian Flynn
5. The Cuckoo's Calling, Robert Galbraith
6. The Signature of All Things, Elizabeth Gilbert
7. Never Go Back, Lee Child
8. Bones of the Lost, Kathy Reichs
9. How the Light Gets In, Louise Penny
10. The Husband's Secret, Liane Moriarty

### NON FICTION

1. Zealot: The Life and Times of Jesus of Nazareth, Reza Aslan
2. The Unwinding: An Inner History of the New America, George Packer
3. Salinger, David Shields
4. Lean In: Women, Work, and the Will to Lead, Sheryl Sandberg
5. Sister Mother Husband Dog, Etc., Delia Ephron
6. Blink: The Power of Thinking Without Thinking, Malcolm Gladwell
7. Behind the Beautiful Forevers, Katherine Boo
8. Killing Kennedy: The End of Camelot, Bill O'Reilly
9. Proof of Heaven: A Neurosurgeon's Journey Into the Afterlife, Eben Alexander
10. This Town: Two

Parties and a Funeral — Plus Plenty of Valet Parking in America's Gilded Capital, Mark Leibovich

### MOVIES

1. The Hunger Games
2. Flight
3. Argo
4. Zero Dark Thirty
5. Silver Linings Playbook
6. The Princess and the Frog
7. The Iron Lady
8. The Descendants
9. Brave
10. Men in Black 3

### EASY

1. Arthur's Halloween, Marc Brown
2. There's a Wocket in My Pocket, Dr. Seuss
3. I Am Not Going to Get Up Today, Dr. Seuss
4. Curious George and the Dump Truck, Margaret Rey
5. I Am Invited to a Party, Mo Willems
6. Scaredy-Cat, Splat!, Rob Scotton
7. I Can Read With My Eyes Shut, Dr. Seuss
8. The Tooth Book, Theo. LeSieg
9. The Fierce Yellow Pumpkin, Margaret Wise Brown
10. Biscuit's Pet & Play Halloween, Alyssa Satin Capucilli

### JUVENILE

1. The Unwilling

Umpire, Ron Roy

2. Tales From a Not-So-Smart Miss Know-It-All, Rachel Russell
3. Walk Two Moons, Sharon Creech
4. Tales From a Not-So-Graceful Ice Princess, Rachel Russell
5. Tales From a Not-So-Happy Heartbreaker, Rachel Russell
6. Tales From a Not-So-Talented Pop Star, Rachel Russell
7. Diary of a Wimpy Kid: Cabin Fever, Jeff Kinney
8. Diary of a Wimpy Kid: The Third Wheel, Jeff Kinney
9. Tales From a Not-So-Fabulous Life, Rachel Russell
10. Diary of a Wimpy Kid: The Ugly Truth, Jeff Kinney

### TEENS

1. Divergent, Veronica Roth
2. Mockingjay, Suzanne Collins
3. Catching Fire, Suzanne Collins
4. City of Bones, Cassandra Clare
5. The Book Thief, Marcus Zusak
6. The Hunger Games, Suzanne Collins
7. The Fault in Our Stars, John Green
8. Burned, Ellen Hopkins
9. All Our Yesterdays, Cristin Terrill
10. More Than This, Patrick Ness

*On October 27, 2013*

*The Herald Sun will be having a Tribute Page for those who have loved ones battling or who have battled cancer.*

*Submit your **FREE** Tribute with a photo and 25 words by October 23, 2013*



*As the battles continue, and the love remains strong. Prayers and thoughts to those and their family*

You are welcome to include a photo with your ad, however it will not be returned.



# The Herald-Sun

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