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The Lakeshore House



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Homeowners Daniel Pomp and Andrea Eisen chose Ellen Weinstein of Weinstein Friedlein Architects to build their home on Lakeshore Drive in Chapel Hill.

ARTICLE CONTRIBUTED BY BY JODY BROWN

When I sat down with Daniel Pomp and Andrea Eisen last week to tour their house on Lakeshore Drive in Chapel Hill, I ask them why they chose to build it.

"That's easy to answer" they said, and led me out to the screened-in porch overlooking the lake. This is a 20-foot tall screened porch with exposed wood beams, a lovely fireplace and a breathtaking view of a picture-perfect little lake. Plus, there are retractable windows between the kitchen and the screened-porch so you can open up the entire house to the outside. You get the breezes, and the views, and the feel of being perched above the water throughout the entire home.

The design of the home is extremely well-thought out. Daniel

and Andrea were careful when they chose their designer. It is a difficult site to build on, but it's a beautiful place to live.

Daniel and Andrea enjoy swim-

ming and kayaking in the lake. They wanted to find the right designer to make the most of this unique site. So they sent out questionnaires to 10 different firms

and ultimately selected Ellen Weinstein at Weinstein Friedlein Architects. Daniel said most of the architects seemed good, but Ellen was the one that had a "vision for the house." They made a good choice. She did have a vision, and it shows throughout the home.

Each decision was made with this specific place in mind, and every design move made to make the most out of a life by the water. The whole house seems to be oriented toward the views. Each room has a balcony, porch or deck and a large expanse of windows facing the lake.

All the spaces flow together and the house is lofty, airy and open. There are small openings in the walk-in closets just above the



The kitchen opens to the deck, living room and formal dining room. Spaces flow together and the house feels lofty, airy and open.

Selling the old family home

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The U.S. economy may be improving, but countless young adults are still living at home or counting on a childhood bedroom for backup housing should they prove unable to pay rent on their own.



Ellen James Martin

"Many kids now in their 20s to early 30s are in a period of protracted adolescence. They're intellectually, culturally and technically ready to be independent, but not emotionally or financially," says Bruce Tulgan, author of "Not Everyone Gets a Trophy: How to Manage Generation Y."

As Tulgan notes, the continued dependence of young adult children can sometimes seriously complicate their parents' need to liquidate a home.

"Many parents are scrambling financially themselves. Just to make it possible to retire, lots of people have to sell the family house and downsize to a smaller place," he says.

Even parents with lots of financial resources may find themselves in conflict with their grown children over their desire to move elsewhere.

"On the emotional level, lots of kids want the family home where they grew up to be kept like a museum – a place where they could return at any time and stay in their childhood bedroom," Tulgan says.

Kathleen Shaputis, author of "The Crowded Nest Syndrome," says even young adults who are employed full-time may prefer to live at home if they don't make enough money to support the sort of lifestyle they enjoyed during their growing-up years.

Shaputis says it's not only young adults living at home who may try to intervene and change their parents' minds about selling the family property.

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hanging clothes to open the space to the rest of the house.

As Andrea walked me through the laundry room, she opened the door leading to a small enclosed deck.

"Here's an area to hang up the clothes to dry. The design-

ers really did think of everything." She said.

The house on Lakeshore Drive sits gracefully at the edge of a beautiful lake and blends seamlessly with the natural environment of this beautiful little lake. While standing on that screened porch, looking toward the water and feeling the breeze on

my face, I could completely understand why Daniel and Andrea wanted to build here. They made a good choice.

Knock Knock visits some of the Triangle's most unique residential architecture, powered by the archives of preservation nonprofit North Carolina Modernist Houses, www.ncmodernist.org.



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Views from the Pomp-Eisen home are spectacular from almost every vantage point.

SMART

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Even those living independently may protest.

"Many young people see the family home as their safety net, a place where they can retreat if they lose a job or can't make it on their own," she says.

"Parents have got to cut the cord sometime. This is not so much about tough love as reality," she says.

Here are a few pointers for the parents of grown kids who plan to sell a family home:

■ Solidify your plans before informing your grown children.

"It's important to make your plans prior to breaking the news to the kids," says Shaputis. "Parents who let their children in on the decision-making process can expect they'll try to influence the outcome."

But Shaputis says that if your grown children are living at home, or are counting on the family domicile as a fallback, it's only fair that you announce to them your decision on moving with as much advance warning as possible.

■ Help your kids make a smooth emotional transition.

Handling change is more of a challenge for some people than others. Just because your children are young adults doesn't mean they won't experience the sale of the family home as a significant loss.

"Tradition is extremely important to some kids. For example, they might be very unhappy that Thanksgiving dinner will no longer be celebrated in the same place where they lived for years," Shaputis says.

You can help your children make an easier transition emotionally with reassurances that they'll be welcome no matter where you live.

■ Assist your boomerang children to find a place of their own.

If your grown children are currently living with you, Shaputis says there are several ways you can help your kids formulate their plans for independent living.

"Brainstorm with them about how they could make it on their own financially, including possibly taking a second job. Help them scan the ads to find a reasonably priced apartment and a roommate to share the rent," she says.

Obviously, the preference of parents to make an immediate move sometimes conflicts with the legitimate needs of their grown kids to stay put in the family home for a defined period.

"If the circumstances warrant it, you may have to delay your home sale for a while to do what needs to be done for the good of the family as a whole," Shaputis says.

■ Recognize that good parenting involves more than housing and money.

Tulgan, who specializes in helping companies understand Generation Y employees, notes that some affluent parents can both make a major housing move and help their kids financially during their formative career years.

Still, Tulgan says parents who must downsize and can't afford to subsidize their kids still have a lot to offer in less tangible ways.

"Encouragement is great, as are guidance and support. Anything you do to help them learn problem-solving and decision-making will help them gain the grit and resilience they need to survive on their own, long-term," Tulgan says.