

STYLISH LIVING IN WESTERN NORTH CAROLINA

H O M E

CAROLINA

+ GARDEN

FALL 2013

A MODERN CHALET

SLEEK UPDATE FOR
AN ASHEVILLE HOME

LAND OF PLENTY

A tour of Sheila Dunn's
edible perennial garden

ARTISTIC ALCHEMY

Potter mixes science, art
and a dash of magic

MINIMALIST MOXIE

A Fairview home designed
for a streamlined life



A MODERN CHALET

**A Town Mountain home
gets a sleek update**

By Kate O'Connor
Photography by David Dietrich

The house had a lot going for it. Situated on the mountainside off Town Mountain Road, it overlooked downtown Asheville.

It was interesting: an asymmetrical roofline with a streamlined “modern chalet” sensibility and sturdy foundation.

But the circa 1978 structure certainly didn't have a truly contemporary feel.

It was, in a word...dated.

The asymmetrical roofline of the home gives it the sense of a “modern chalet.” Architect and builder Rob Carlton reinforced the structure's relationship to the site by accentuating its horizontal nature with a bank of windows that lead the eye through the house to the landscape beyond.



SIMPLICITY IS KEY WITH HOUSES LIKE THIS —TO GIVE IT A FINE ORDER.

Still, the new homeowners saw tremendous potential, despite concerns like a structurally suspect back deck. They engaged Rob Carlton of Carlton Architecture and DesignBuild, Inc. to help them bring the house into the present and give it a fresh start.

"When we were redesigning the house, it was all about lifestyle. There was a lot of space, but it was poorly configured," Carlton recalls. "Simplicity is key with houses like this —to give it a fine order." That organization began with the façade of the house, which required a unifying element. "The scissor truss creates two different pitches. We divorced the windows from the interior ceiling and banded them together so that we could have a large window composition in the great room, have it linked in to the clearstory windows in the powder room and master bath and then tied it all in with dark panels. It reinforces the horizontality."

At the lower level, where one enters the home, a crab orchard stone paver walkway by Hammerhead Stoneworks, inset with squares of river stone, extends into the entrance foyer through a square, pivot hinge glass door. "The entry was open to upper level, with a modest

stair that went up," notes Carlton. "We rearranged the flow and formalized the entry by removing an existing bedroom and added an elegant, modern, sculptural stair that creates a moment of welcome before you ascend up to the living level."

At the top of the stairway, the eye is drawn to a massive, steel-supporting beam that spans the great room and gestures out to a generous deck, which is supported from below by steel columns and sheltered by a cantilevered overhang. "Because there are no visible columns on the deck itself, you get unencumbered views and a direct connection with the landscape," says Carlton. "With this type of architectural pattern, it's important to focus on moments of transition so that interior/exterior relationship telegraphs through as cleanly as possible."

The choice of interior materials reinforces that relationship by presenting the elements in an authentic manner and highlighting their innate characteristics. The floors are dressed in quarter-sawn white oak. For the custom cabinetry by Architectural Woodcraft rift-sawn oak was chosen for its more linear pattern and clear coated. On the walls, rift-sawn oak panels have been given a

The deft integration of finishes gives the kitchen a warm yet sleek appearance. Cabinets by Architectural Woodcraft are given a clear coat, while the wall panels received a light wash. Caesarstone from Mountain Marble & Granite tops the counters and the steel-clad island. Plumbing fixtures are by Salon Blue Ridge. A massive exposed steel beam supports the scissor truss of the home's asymmetrical roof.

A quilt designed and commissioned by the homeowner presides over the dining area which features a buffet and table designed by Rob Carlton of Carlton Architecture and DesignBuild, Inc. and fabricated by Ryan Moran of Custom Living Quarters and ironworker Rob Sadler. The hanging lamp is Ingo Maurer. Chairs are from Mobilia.



Rob Carlton gave careful consideration to the interplay of the materials in this renovated home, maintaining their authentic and inherent beauty. Linear, rift-sawn maple panels line the living room walls, creating an elegant contrast with the raw, industrial texture of minimally processed steel around the fireplace

A pathway of crab orchard flagstone with inset wells of river rocks, crafted by Marc Archambault of Hammerhead Stoneworks, telegraphs into the entrance foyer, literally bringing the outdoors in. Above the period credenza, a commissioned work by Philip DeAngelo features an iconic image of the house itself.



light wash to establish a subtle, but effective distinction. Accents of European beech and alder window frames keep the structural silhouette light and airy.

Steel appears again in the kitchen backsplash and hood, and encases the kitchen island. At the opposite end of the great room, the fireplace surround is clad in steel panels that retain their mill scale, the raw result of processing, which has been given a clear powder coating to maintain small areas of surface rust that add a textural appeal.

The homeowners have furnished the residence with an emphasis on fine handwork, including several custom pieces designed by Carlton and fabricated by area craftsmen and an array of works by local artists. Among them is a commissioned piece by painter Philip DeAngelo that hangs over the credenza in the entrance foyer. It features an iconic image of the house, with its asymmetrical roofline, set in a stylized landscape — an indication, perhaps, that this resurrected structure has gone from “dated” to “timeless.” ■

A graceful staircase with dark-stained white oak treads ascends from the lower level entrance to the living space. The ironwork is by Rob Sadler, the curved wood handrail by Mark Akers — both local artisans. Floor tile is by Crossville Tile & Stone.