

Charlotte

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Art &
architecture

Gallery Crawl:
A tour of local exhibitions

Inside the home of artist Stephen Wilson



Lee Industries club chairs offer elegant seating for four in front of a grand fireplace with limestone surround. The refinished 1928 hand-carved Schulz piano proves antiques with new furnishings can play well together like the sideboard that was purchased through Darnell & Company and original artwork by Windy O'Connor. Exposed beams on the twelve-foot ceilings give a nod to traditional architecture.

A photograph of a living room. In the foreground, a large, light-colored upholstered chair is seen from the back. To the left, a dark wood coffee table sits in front of a light-colored sofa with green and grey pillows. In the background, a wooden piano is positioned against a wall with a framed picture and a lamp. To the right, a large stone fireplace is visible, with a large abstract painting hanging above it. The room features exposed wooden beams on the ceiling and a large window with sheer curtains on the left.

CHANGE OF Scenery

CHANGE OF Style

By Page Leggett
Photography by Michael Blevins

Chicago transplants go from midwestern traditionalists to a sophisticated, Southern aesthetic.



Lisa and Pete Beebe didn't just want milder winters. They were ready for an entirely new aesthetic. The family of four had previously lived in a Winnetka, Illinois historic landmark that was built in 1903 and later renovated in keeping with Tudor traditions. When they headed south, they traded old and traditional for something their architect, Greg Perry, calls "simple sophistication."

"We loved our architect, who had major input in the design and feel of our home," Lisa Beebe says. "We told Greg that we love to entertain and wanted the main area of the home to open to the outdoors. We planned to take full advantage of the outdoor living in North Carolina."

The Beebes wanted no wasted space in the 6,000-square-foot house. And they wanted a home that was suitable for formal entertaining but relaxed enough to be a teen hangout.

Beebe, a stay-at-home mom, managed the major home renovation. In fact, this is the third home she has completely renovated and, according to her, will be her last. The renovation was so massive that Beebe says it is practically a new house. They bought the home in November 2014 and spent nearly a year on the makeover. When they moved in the following September, there was still another six months of work to complete. "We gutted the home," Beebe says. "The only original aspect is the front stonework. Literally, nothing else is the same."

"Greg and I worked through every detail of the house



Left: The stone exterior is original. Otherwise, the Beebe home is entirely new. Landscape design is by Burch Mixon. The shutters are painted in Benjamin Moore Mopboard Black while the garage doors are stained a custom dark oak.

Top Right: This kitchen proves that the hub of the house doesn't need to be chaotic and crowded. The vibe here is totally peaceful. Chandeliers are by Visual Comfort. Kitchen counter stools, each of which comfortably seats two, are by Lee Industries. Countertops and backsplash are both Bianco Rhino marble.

Bottom Right: What's better than a man cave? The Beebes' freestanding veranda with a fireplace, TV, and pool view. Charlotte's temperate climate means the family, especially the man of the house, can enjoy this space in all but the coldest months.

together," Beebe says. "He would show me options, and I would often say, 'If you like it, then I like it.' I fully trusted him and his great taste. And I knew, since I was embarking on a different style than I was used to, I would have to let him pull it all together."

"Greg helped with much more than the architectural design," Beebe says. "He had input on details from hinges and door knobs to lighting to marble and tile." Many trademark Greg Perry

elements are on view here, including overall clean lines, barreled and varied ceiling heights, and sophisticated and monochromatic materials and fittings.

Interior designer Patrick Lewis came on near the end of the renovation. Lewis' philosophy is that "your home should relax you." Beebe signed on to that design credo and let Lewis guide her. Since the family went from historic to modern, most of their old



Top Left: This may be the most Zen room in the house with its white-on-white calming effect. The oversized sofa and chairs invite family and friends to relax in front of the fire or the TV. The vintage coffee table was purchased in Chicago. Original artwork by Windy O'Connor.

furniture didn't work in the new house. Lewis helped choose pieces that were a reflection of the home and Beebe's new aesthetic.

"His neutral tones went right along with Greg's design," she says. Beebe's favorite room – even though she doesn't relish

cooking – is the combined kitchen and family room. "It's definitely the hangout spot for everyone."

Pete Beebe, co-founder of a Charlotte-based asset management firm, may not have a man cave, but he has something even



Top Right: Sleek and sexy, the bar, painted in a Benjamin Moore high gloss black, makes an elegant backdrop for beautiful barware. Bianco Rhino marble countertops are gorgeous *and* utilitarian.

better. His favorite spot: the pool and 400-square-foot detached veranda.

“We have had several large events, including a 50th birthday party with a great band, several charity functions, and also the required homecoming and prom parties,” Beebe says. “Fires are

awesome on the veranda with either a group of teenagers just hanging out or as a family night enjoying the outdoors. The pool is usually filled with kids playing hoops.”

From the veranda or the hot tub on a warm evening, cold winters are a distant memory. ♦