

Virtual Tour of Homes and Online Auction Live July 23, 2021

July 23rd, the 2021 Virtual Tour of Homes, and an Online Auction will be launched! The online auction will have items including jewelry, fine dining, events, rentals, and art that you'll learn more about in a later article. This year's virtual tour highlights four homes. This week we'll take a look at two of the homes.

Maison Dans Les Nauges, or House in the Clouds, is the home of Polly and Richard Gambill. First built in the sixties, it was described then by The Charlotte Observer as “a little French townhouse with a mansard roof.” It has now been totally remodeled to a large, comfortable mountain home with spacious deck affording spectacular views, making it the perfect full-time home for the Gambills. The French influence has been maintained and beautiful gardens have been newly created. On a clear day you can even see the skyline of Charlotte! The views are truly magnificent!

In the entry, art welcomes family and friends: glass by Fruin, steel art by David Russell Smith and two metal flower framed designs by Tommy Mitchell. The living room is a welcoming space and is the heart of the house. It is a comfortable lounging area with beautiful Southern art. Bass Lake is featured in an oil painting *Summer Serenity* by F. Baggett lending a peaceful ambiance to the room. An eclectic collection of glass and clay art abounds in the room and on the shelves, including glass by Goldhagen, a Terry Lewis signature dogwood vase, and the homeowner's collection of goats by ceramic artists.

On the dining room buffet, *Longboat to Valhalla* is from an Asheville glass artist and the painting *Ever Changing* is by artist Brenda M. Councill. The table is ready for a night to remember, with a showstopper ceramic centerpiece made by Jenny Sherburn. The beautiful and spacious deck can be entered off the living and dining areas and has seating, dining and an area for relaxing in the jacuzzi.

Upstairs, the primary bedroom showcases David Eichelberger's, *Wall Tray Set*, and other art pieces that are particularly special. There is a private balcony off the bedroom to enjoy a morning coffee or evening cocktail. The in-suite bathroom and spacious dressing room are every person's dream. Additional second floor bedrooms offer luxurious amenities.

The downstairs guest apartment has wonderful extended living space and a kitchen. Framed world and United States maps pinpoint the sites and dates where the Gambills have travelled. The one billion-year-old rock on which the home was built is also exposed for viewing.

It may be a "House in the Clouds" but on a clear day, you can see forever. What views!

The Jeff Roberts' House

Last year Jeff Roberts and his wife Casey Bastion were gutting, remodeling and updating their mid-seventies house. Ceilings were raised, walls removed, and designs planned to focus on beautiful views and an open floor plan. The staircase was relocated, display cabinets built, and everything painted to make living with their art seamless. Jeff continued the plans after Casey's death, and the house that is now a home is a testament to their life together.

In addition to the contemporary art, notable features on the first floor include the steel fireplace surround. Above the fireplace Tim Turner's *Bird's 53* grabs your attention. Cabinets flank the fireplace and a number of pieces purchased from artists at Art in the Park in Blowing Rock are displayed along with Rick Beck's *Screw*, and Sam McDowell's *Burl Ambrosia Maple* that lends an organic element. From the living, dining and primary bedroom areas you can enjoy the view and enter the deck. The views of Elk Knob, Snake Mountain, Cone Manor, the Parkway, and Wilkesboro are spectacular!

All spaces benefit from a touch of Oriental furnishings and the living room console is a handsome decorative element between the living space and the relaxed dining area. The dining room painting is by Jim Chapman. Joshua painted the beguiling portrait of a Maltese maiden that hangs on a short wall separating the dining room from the gourmet kitchen. Accomplished chefs, the homeowners furnished the kitchen with Wolf and KitchenAid appliances to make cooking easy and fun.

The primary bedroom features art, antiques, and “newtiques” – round furniture complementary with the contemporary vibe. Additional bedrooms remind that comfort is luxury.

Heading downstairs, the gently curving staircase shows the creativity of Roberts who fashioned the pedestal and the downstairs table legs. The cozy downstairs has a comfortable sitting area in front of the fireplace. There are numerous paintings by Sam Ezell, Julian Davis’ *Back Alley* takes everyone back to urban roots, and *The Polka Dot Cat* by Norma Murphy is a fun riff on Manet. Finally, a study dedicated to baseball memorabilia, is jammed full of baseballs, gloves, signed pictures and baseball bats from Hall of Famers. It is an amazing experience to be in that room and in the home!