

High Country

HOME

VOLUME 2 - 2014

MAGAZINE AND RESOURCE GUIDE

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CONTEMPORARY
HOME**

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THE CONTEMPORARY HOME

Living in the Treetops

by SARAH SANTIAGO

Photos by MICHAEL RUSSELL

Travelling down a gravel road in Ashe County you will spot a house off to the side that is nestled in the trees. It does not impose itself onto the landscape, but rather blends well with the surrounding nature. The concepts of Frank Lloyd Wright are apparent in this contemporary home with its four foot eaves and organic features. Tall windows in every room allow loads of bright light inside along with

a close-up of the treetops. It's hard not to appreciate the vitality that the green leaves give throughout the house. Change in the seasons also brings change in the view, as we are told that in the winter months they are able to see clear to Mt. Rogers in our neighboring state of Virginia!

Trish and Duane Hellard were ready for a change of scenery after their grown kids moved out of the house. Mov-

ing from the bustle of Raleigh to the serenity of Ashe County was a welcome change. The process of designing and building a house for two began in 2011 and finished in June 2013. The architect, Stan Russell, gave the couple a lengthy questionnaire which helped him create a blueprint for Trish and Duane with a deep understanding of how they wanted to live their lives at home. Trish and Duane's wish list included lots of light

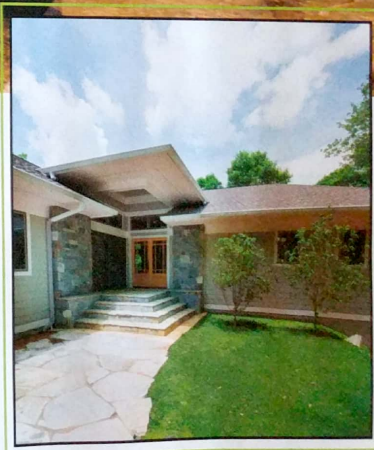
"The concepts of Frank Lloyd Wright are apparent in this contemporary home"

and the feeling of being up in the trees. Builder Jeff Smith was happy to accommodate, as this was not an unfamiliar feat for him to achieve. Jeff Smith and his crew are experts at bringing to life plans that involve generous amounts of natural light and a feeling of being one with the outdoors.

This house was designed with practicality as a priority. The main floor contains all the essentials for daily living: master

bedroom and ensuite bath, office, living/dining/ kitchen combo, laundry room, guest room with bath, a pleasant porch with a grand stone fireplace, and two-car garage. This design was intentional for the ability to live on one floor of the house someday, if necessary.

To the right of the front door, the crisp, soothing master bathroom and roomy walk-in closet steal the thunder of the master bedroom. Gorgeous white and





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grey quartz countertops create a relaxing spa feel. The tile floors are heated for extra luxury in the winter months.

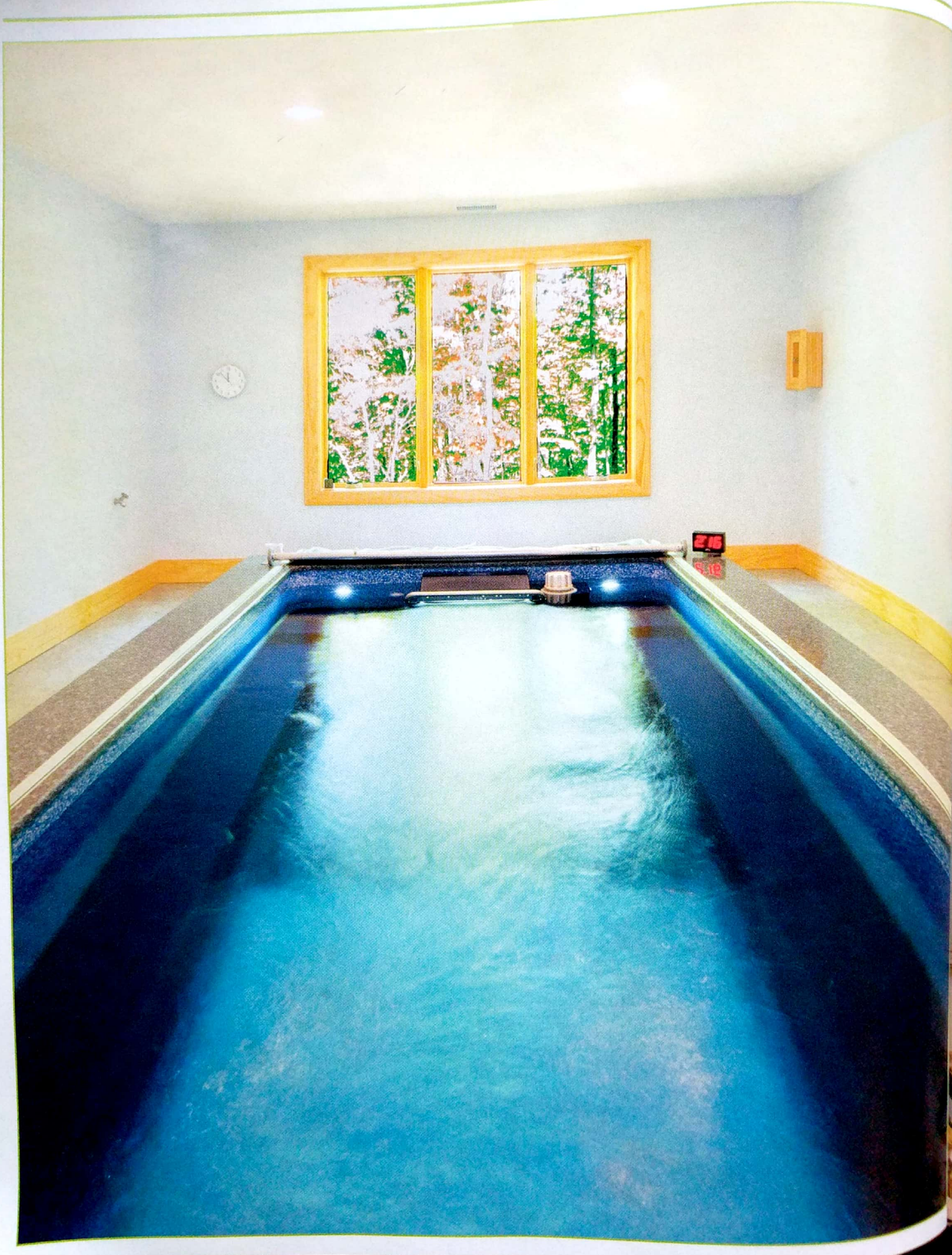
Columns of beautiful chocolate grey stone and immense wooden beams across the vaulted ceiling create interest and appeal where one typically sees simple painted drywall. The hefty beams are custom made glulam (compressed layers of Douglas Fir timber) and held tight with large brackets. These beams were not only part of Trish and Duane's wish list, but also served as necessary structural engineering pieces.

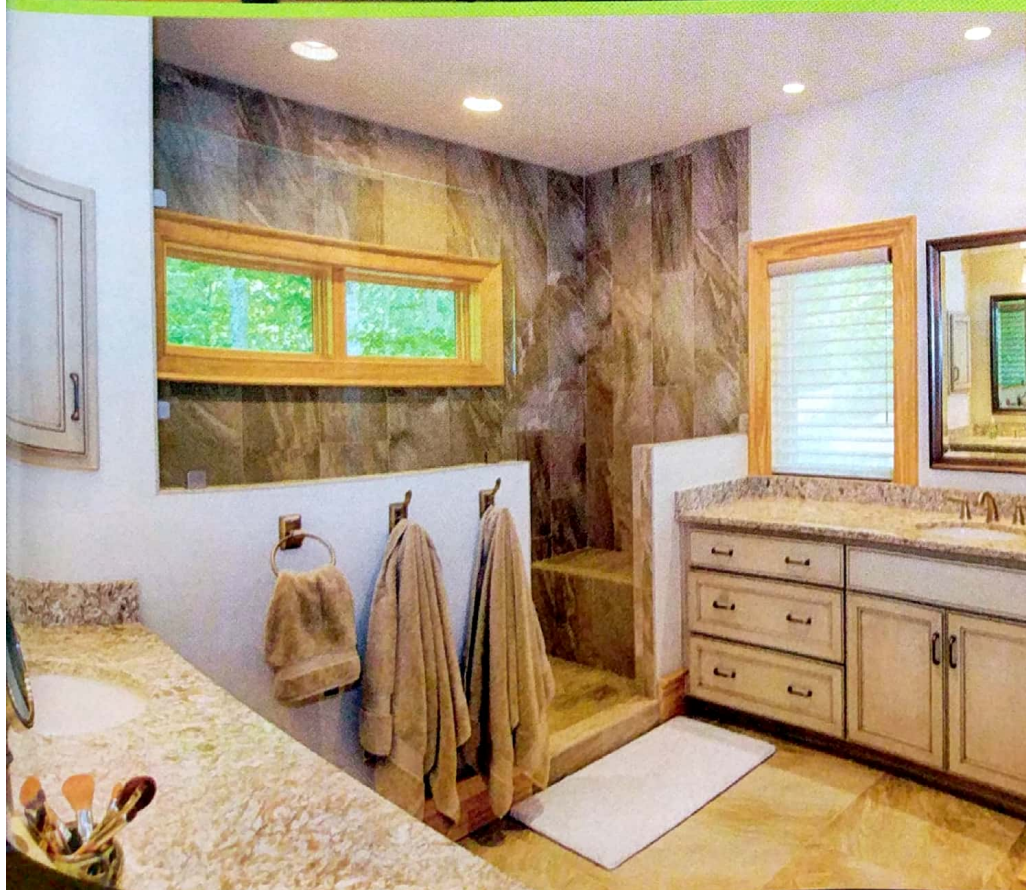
The fireplace surround is a sleek black soapstone. The two fireplace mantelpieces (one inside and one outside) and stair railing are all wood gathered from the couple's previous residence where a tornado came through their yard downing some pine and oak trees. We love that Jeff Smith upcycled this wood into a new purpose.

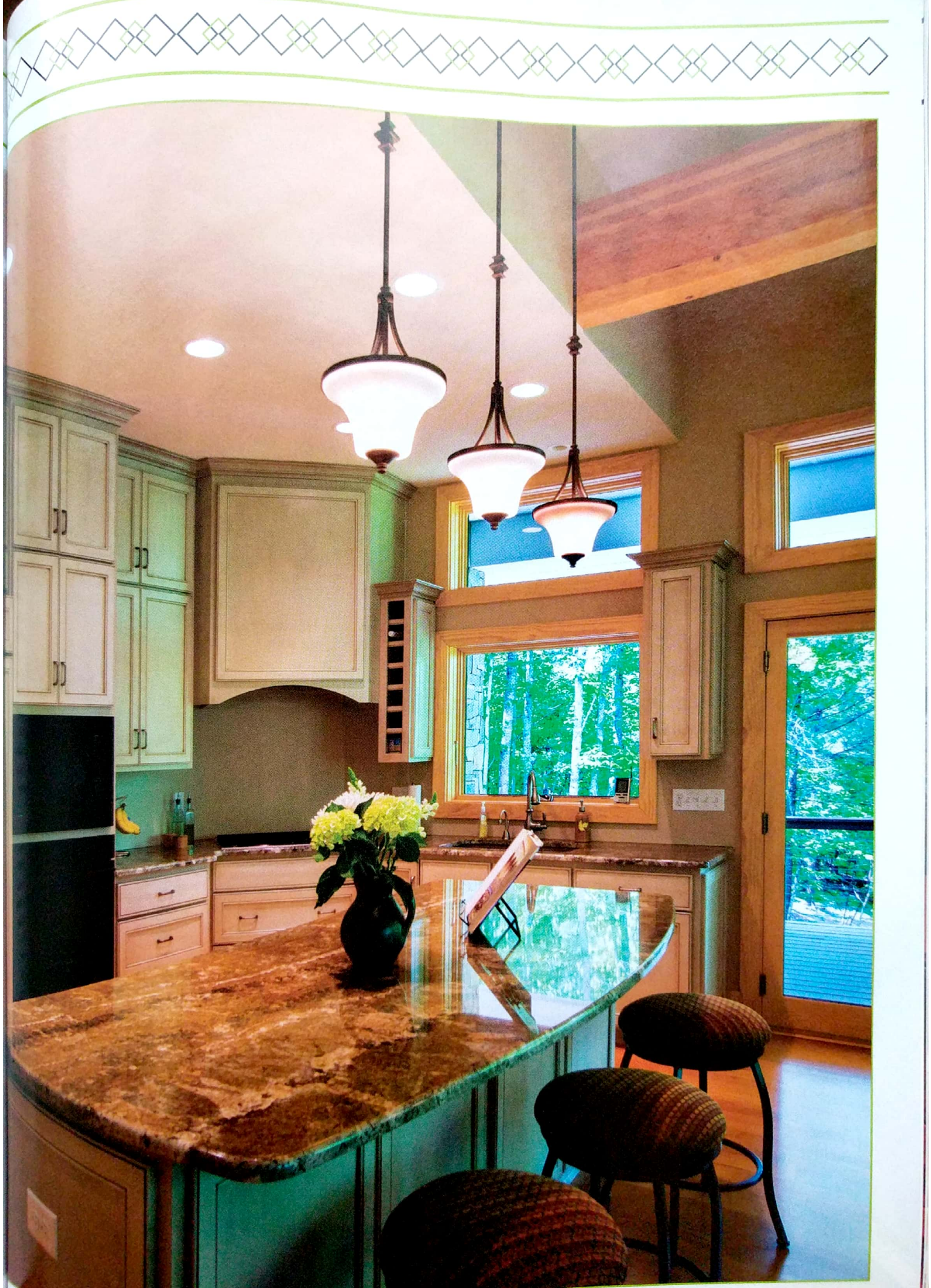
After a visit to the Raleigh North Carolina Museum of Art, Trish and Duane decided to use the same floors of quarter-sawn oak in their new home. The natural, light colored oak makes a bold contrast to the dark colored stone bringing attention to

both features. Muted grey and beige paint colors throughout the house were derived from the stone fireplace and columns. Trish searched high and low for the precise tone of grey that would give the calming effect of a monochromatic color scheme.

The contemporary staircase composed of straight-edged rectangles with steel wire, leads you downstairs to a most intriguing part of the house where an endless pool beckons you to jump in and start swimming...forever. An endless pool creates a current which allows one to swim in place against the tide. The deepest end is 6 feet





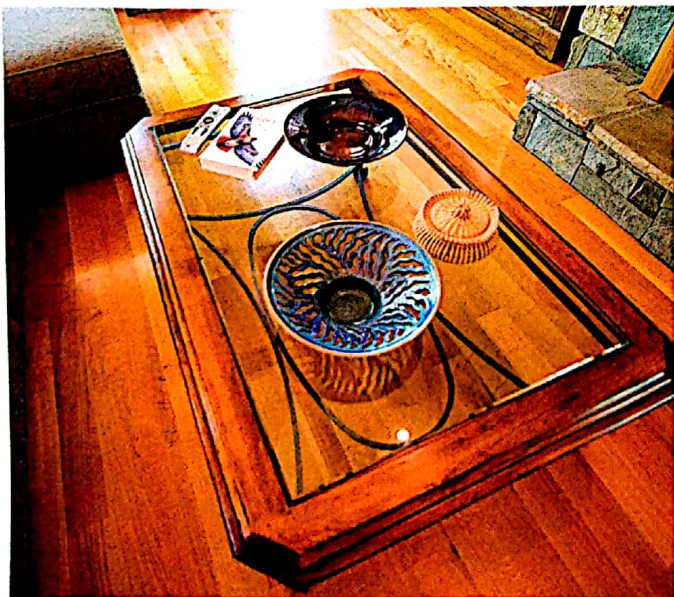




and the shallowest part is 4 feet deep. Perfect for Duane who is an avid Ironman triathlete, and Trish who loves water aerobics. The pool is heat controlled and requires only a small amount of chlorine.

Just down the hall is the room where I was introduced to the Geothermal unit installed by Mountaineer Heating & Cooling in Boone. The Geothermal unit replaces a central heat and air system. It is a super-efficient way to cool and heat their home. Pipes extend down 500 feet into the ground where the air is either heated or cooled on the inside rather than on the outside. What's that I hear? Nothing! The Geothermal unit preserves the quiet beauty of nature; no constant whirring and buzzing of an AC unit on the outside of the home (otherwise known as "noise pollution"). Hot water is a by-product of the heating and cooling system, which is dumped into a tank and heats one side of the house, while a Rinnai tankless water heater heats the other side.

J.S. Construction's commitment to excellence is made apparent through their superior craftsmanship. Each project is meticulously crafted to result in a work of art that clients can be proud to call "home." If you're interested in a seamless construction experience, J.S. Construction is sure to deliver. **HCHA**



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