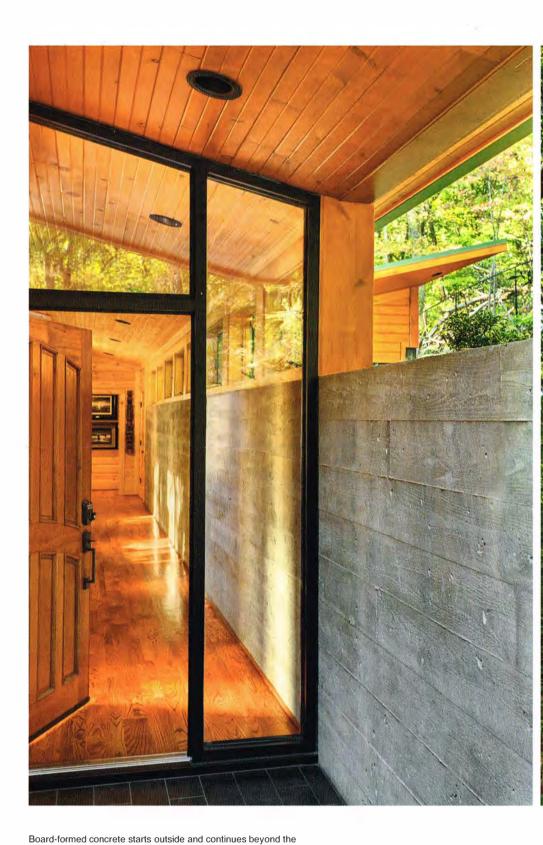
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front door of the main house. Nick chose a commercial frame for the front door to accommodate a handmade door gifted to him by a friend from Honduras. A companion door marks the master bedroom at the opposite end of the house.

To achieve a more open, inviting entryway, Nick went to bat with the builders to eliminate the original beam supporting the roof edge outside the front door.





ICK MOODY WANTED TO LIVE IN THE WOODS. AND WHAT BETTER WAY TO LIVE IN THE WOODS THAN IN A LOG CABIN - A TREE HOUSE OF SORTS. BUT NICK IS A BUSY GUY. HE RUNS HIS OWN IT CONSULTING FIRM, IS BUILDING A NEW YOUTH ORGANIZATION FROM THE GROUND UP, AND SPENDS WHATEVER TIME HE HAS LEFT BACKPACKING OR OTHERWISE COMMUNING WITH THE GREAT OUTDOORS. NICK DOES NOT HAVE TIME FOR THE UPKEEP A TRADITIONAL LOG HOME REQUIRES. NOT TO MENTION HIS CONSERVATIONIST SPIRIT WAS LOOKING FOR SOMETHING A LITTLE GREENER THAT MATCHED HIS MODERN SENSIBILITIES.

"When I told people I was building a modern log cabin, they really didn't know what I was talking about," Nick says.

Not willing to give up on his dream, Nick did a little digging and found his way to Timber Block, a Canadian company that was just beginning to make headway in the U.S. market. Rather than building with a whole log – which in a traditional log home will continue to settle over the life of the home as the wood loses moisture content – Timber Block replaces the interior wood with high-density polyurethane foam insulation. The interior wood is then recycled into other usable building components. The foam-filled logs are stacked and bonded in panels according to the house plan in the controlled environment of the factory. Using this technology Timber Block claims to deliver four times the energy efficiency of a traditional log home.

Nick's house was shipped to him in ready-toassemble panels on two tractor-trailers, then craned off and assembled on site. This made for a much cleaner jobsite that produced far less waste, as well as a massively efficient building process.

"The biggest benefit was the time from this being raw property to this house being here was six months," Nick says. "That's a very short building time."

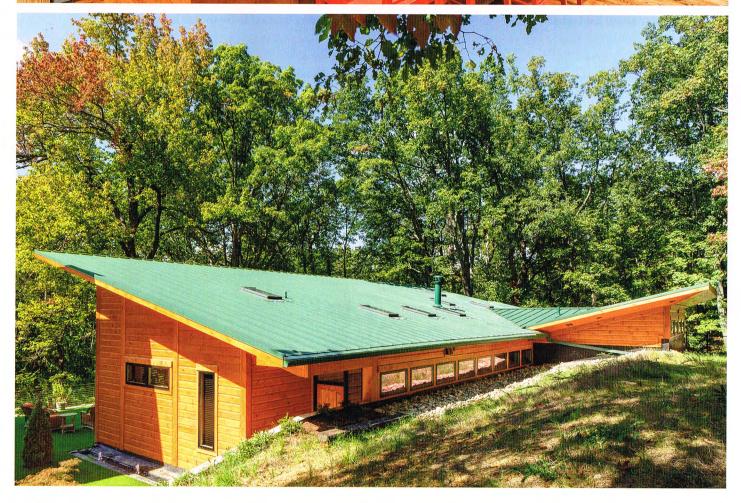
Timber Block does offer both stock and custom plans, but Nick knew exactly what he wanted. He drew up a plan and then consulted with Frank Bain, a local architect friend, before turning it over to the Timber Block engineers.

"I have a lot of experience working in homes, crawling under homes, pulling wires," Nick says. "All of that time I was making mental notes about things that I wanted to do in this house."

Multi-pitched eaves lend added flair, while their four-foot width and a secondary lower awning mean Nick and his pups can circumnavigate the house on a rainy day without getting wet.

I WAS REALLY BIG ON HAVING ALL THE DOORS OPEN - SO THAT INSIDE AND OUTSIDE ARE ONE. I REALLY WANTED TO OPEN IT UP AND BASICALLY HAVE A TREE HOUSE." -NICK MOODY





"WHEN I TOLD PEOPLE I WAS BUILDING A MODERN LOG CABIN, THEY REALLY DIDN'T KNOW WHAT I WAS TALKING ABOUT." -NICK MOODY

NICK ALSO LEARNED A LOT ABOUT WHAT HE WANTED AND DIDN'T WANT FROM HIS FIRST HOUSE – A TYPICAL SUBURBAN HOME IN A NEIGHBORHOOD ON GREENVILLE'S EASTSIDE.

"It was a great house, but there were walls in between every single thing and I used maybe 20 percent of my house," Nick explains. "Here I used fewer walls so I can change things whenever I want."

The living area of the main house is essentially one big room that comfortably contains the kitchen, dining and sitting area. The two guest bedrooms anchor this space on either end, and the master bedroom suite occupies the far end of the house. The layout is simple, but every bit of it is used well and often. (Nick jokes that his goal for the guest bedrooms was to make them comfortable, but not too comfortable.)

Another thing he learned was that working from home is a great way to save money on office space, but finding a way to maintain physical separation between home and work is essential to preserving one's mental health. So he decided to expand the detached garage both up and down to give NewWave Consulting a room of its own. The

underground portion was originally used to store equipment, but now serves as home base and meeting space for The Agency, the outdoor youth leadership program Nick launched in 2013.

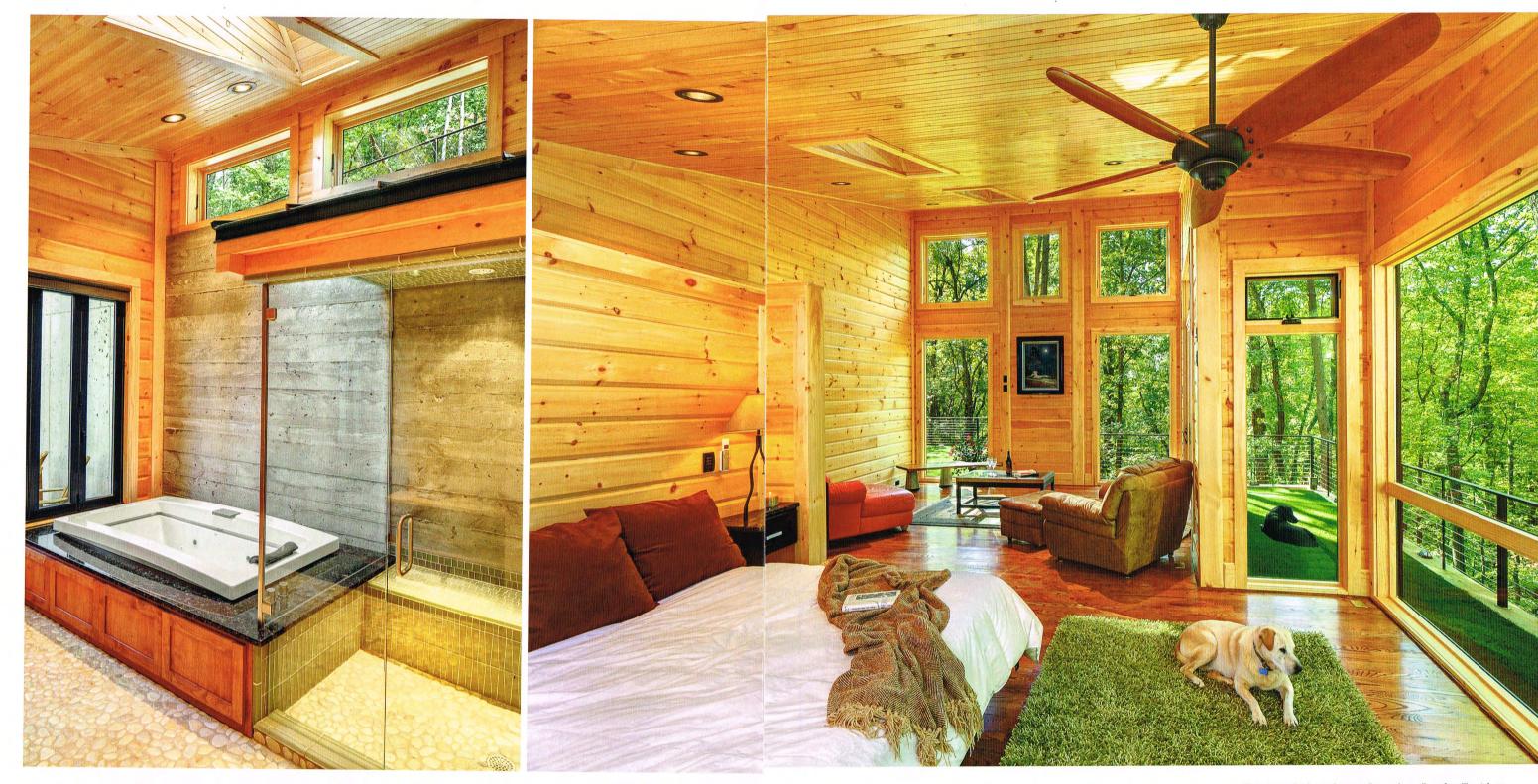
Everywhere you turn in Nick's home you see his intention to fully engage with its natural surroundings. Nearly every window in the house can be thrown open to catch the breezes coming down the mountain. A Big Ass Fan that lives up to its name catches those breezes and circulates them through the house, helping to keep energy costs low. Most of the living room wall is actually a giant garage door that can be opened rain or shine, thanks to a creatively designed wider-thanstandard eave and secondary awning that keeps Nick and his three pups dry in a downpour.

Even the synthetic turf – which allows those pups to come and go as they please without worry of tracking in mud and dirt – feels natural in this modern mountain masterpiece.

(opposite

Nick designed the kitchen tile himself, adding splashes of red to alleviate his fear of living in a "big pine pox with no color." He credits Chuck Fern of Fern Cabinetry with bringing his vision of clean, modern kitchen cabinets to reality.





The master bedroom is a smaller scale replica of a villa at Azur Luxury Lodge in Queenstown New Zealand. Board-formed concrete finished with the feel of wood is repeated in the master bath, along with a river rock floor and steam shower enclosed using scrap roofing materials from the home's exterior.

So You Have Decided to Talk to an Architect

How to make the most of your design meeting

Written by Frank Bain, AIA CRAN | AIA Greenville

hether you are building a new home or remodeling your existing residence, there are a myriad of questions and decisions to be addressed before any hammer hits the first nail. There are many resources available to the homeowner today with the goal of making the design process easier. However, in this information age, it is sometimes overwhelming to sift out the "good" advice and discover what is right for you and your project.

If your needs are specialized and you would like a design professional to assist you in sorting through all of the options available, you may have decided to talk to an architect. Architects specialize in many different building types, but an architect who focuses on residential design and renovations may be your best resource to offer guidance through the entire design and construction process.

So, if you've decided to take the step of engaging the services of an architect, here are some tips to help you get organized and make the most out of your design meetings.

Just as you would when meeting with your accountant, tax professional, attorney or doctor, it makes sense to be prepared and bring all the needed documents to your meeting with the architect. Consider the following guidelines to get you started:

Make Two Lists. As you begin to think about your project, whether it's your first house, a seasonal residence or a renovation, take time to create a "wish" list and a "needs" list. These lists help to identify what you'd like and what you must have to meet your family's needs.

The "wish" list allows you to dream, while the "needs" list keeps your feet on the ground. The process of creating the lists establishes expectations, minimizes impulsive decisions and fosters an objective balance between fantasy and reality. This exercise can also help determine the location and setting of your new home. Together, the lists you create become the foundation for a focused design and the program for a house that best suits your lifestyle, going a long way toward assuring your satisfaction now and long into the future. Take your time here. Keep both lists on hand for brainstorming sessions as well as random thoughts. Put time aside to add to your lists following visits to open houses, model homes, sales centers or local home shows.

Upon completing each list to your satisfaction, take an objective look at what's really needed and what you're willing to trade-off, for whatever reason. Prioritize each list and eliminate items that you know are unrealistic or unnecessary. Then transfer low-priority items to separate lists of wants and needs that you can hope or plan for in the future. As architects, we find that it is easier to provide clients with exactly what they want when they come prepared with clear ideas.

Start a Clip File. Supplement your lists with photos and articles from magazines, newspapers and books on design. There are many online resources where you can post images and create a "gallery" or an "idea book." To reinforce your ideas, add notes or captions to provide even greater detail to communicate to your architect.

Think Outside of the Kitchen. In addition to the most common rooms, keep in mind storage areas, laundry and service rooms, and family and entertainment spaces. Outdoor living spaces also should be considered. These additional spaces are vitally important to the comfort of your family and critical to your ultimate satisfaction.

Consider the Exterior. Consider what you want and need regarding the environment around your home. Do you like shady areas or lots of sunlight? Examine materials with respect to maintenance and their effects on the environment. Documenting such preferences will help you narrow the choices of what type of style your home may be Is sustainability important to you? With today's ever-rising energy costs, the efficiency of the components and systems in your house should be updated wherever possible.

Be Honest About Your Budget. Odds are this is one of the biggest personal investments you'll make in your life. Be realistic and honest with your architect about your budget for both design and construction. This will help your project go smoother throughout the process. If your goals and needs don't align with your budget at first, an architect can help you with design ideas and adjustments to hopefully help you achieve your goals.

By the time you are finished, what started as a

rough collection of ideas has evolved into a clear-cut set of expectations and priorities. At the same time, you have created a guide for your residential architect that will be of great assistance in the creation of a home that has increased value, meets your lifestyle and reflects all that you hoped for in your new or renovated home. ah

> Frank Bain, AIA, is owner of Anthemion Architecture and co-chairman of Custom Residential Architects Network in Greenville.

