



Hood-Herring Architecture

LUXURY RESIDENCES WITH A SOUTHERN FLAIR

by Julie Edwards

As a company, Hood-Herring Architecture strives to meet both the functional and bottom-line requirements imposed by its clients while also making an aesthetic contribution to the community.

"We like to say we practice a partnership with our clients," says Tilghman Herring, one of the firm's founders. "Our desire is to always engage our clients in the design process, creating a collaborative relationship that's rewarding for both us and the client so they share a sense of ownership in the final design."

A full-service architectural firm, Hood-Herring was founded in 1995 by Herring and his partner, Jay Hood, in Wilmington, North Carolina. "Having worked in commercial architecture previously, I anticipated a commercial-architecture practice," Herring says. "But Wilmington's growth, particularly in high-end, golf, and waterfront communities, provided wonderful, creative residential-design opportunities.

"Though our portfolio includes a variety of projects, including office buildings, award-winning

historic renovations, and multifamily housing, it's the custom residential design that is most rewarding," he says. "The opportunity for real creativity and collaboration with the owner and contractor is gratifying."

In addition to luxury custom homes, another of the firm's areas of specialty is green building, and the firm boasts a LEED-accredited architect on staff. A clear area of expertise for Hood-Herring is the ability to incorporate renewable resources and products into its luxury design solutions, achieving a reduced carbon footprint and lower operating expenses.

"We also engage the landscape design early in the process, assuring that the outdoor space is created in coordination with the indoor space and building footprint," Herring notes. "Often, the landscaping is an afterthought, but for us it is a critical component of the overall design solution."

One recent green project of note is the Keith Residence, which is remarkably eco-friendly for its size and luxurious appeal. The 5,000-square-

THE RAWL RESIDENCE

Oversize hand-cut cedar shakes and an elevated stone patio give the Rawl Residence a pronounced exterior, distinguishing it from other homes on Figure Eight Island.

foot home's green-design approaches include passive-solar techniques, the home's siting, and the use of shade to mitigate heat and sunlight. Additionally, Hood-Herring's construction approach and engineering allowed for foam insulation and high-efficiency heating and cooling systems, which significantly reduces the home's energy costs.

Another memorable project for Hood-Herring is the Rawl Residence, an expansive coastal home located on Figure Eight Island in North Carolina. Experienced in the design process themselves, the owners were active participants who enjoyed the process thoroughly.

Significant design elements of the project include the interior stair, which became a key sculptural element of the home. Crafted from antique chestnut, it winds up an open, exposed chamber and is visible on all three levels of the home. Other striking elements include the massive exterior brackets, which features a six-foot balcony, 100-year-old chestnut flooring, chestnut beams (salvaged from an old barn) in the great room, and oversized hand-cut cedar shakes.

"The collaboration here is most evident in the final design, from forms to materials to room configurations," Herring says. "The house was designed over two years, allowing concepts to evolve rather than meet a deadline. It was a project of immense enjoyment."

Herring points to Tanyard Parish—an urban-infill project of nine condominium units in Wilmington, North Carolina—as one of the firm's more challenging projects to date. Because it is located in the heart of one of the South's oldest and most established historic districts, the project carried particular requirements for its contextual design. It needed to fit with its historic neighbors while also incorporating modern amenities. The resulting condominiums are a shining example of thoughtful redevelopment and have set a standard for all other urban-infill projects.

As far as marketing strategies, the firm's website has "served us well, and our reputation with local contractors earns us many referrals, and our clients offer strong endorsements and recommendations as well," Herring says. "For the future, our goal is to continue to practice in our respective markets, providing greener, if no less luxurious, residential-design solutions." ■