

photography Walter Shackelford



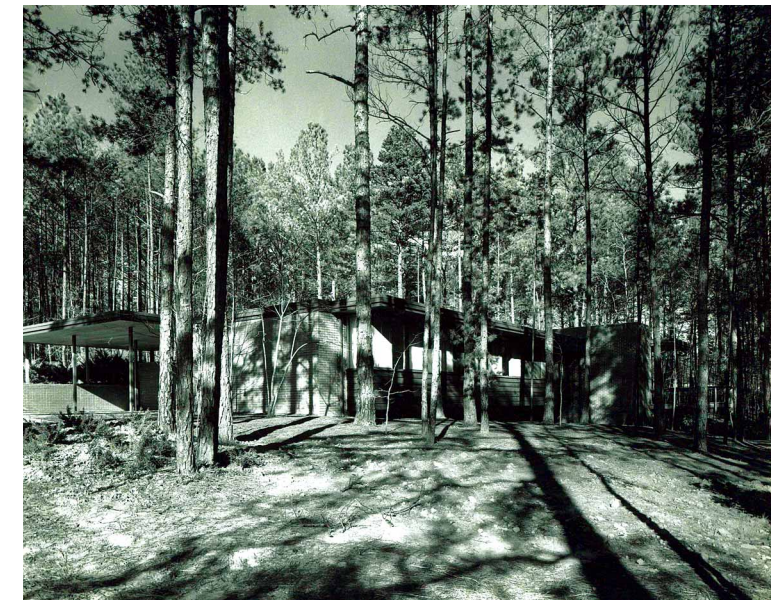
**h**istorical preservation takes passion and grit. From going house-to-house to calm neighbors' fears that a historic district overlay won't mean the style police will be moving in, to fund raising to save a midcentury motel's neon sign, it can be frustrating and discouraging work. That's why we thought we'd share some good news and invite submissions for future issues. Today's success story comes from North Carolina.

"I knew this house was a prime target for the

bulldozer," says George Smart, the founder of Triangle Modernist Houses (TMH), a nonprofit site dedicated to mid-century modern architecture in Durham and beyond. "It was an older house on a large lot on a golf course, coupled with an empty lot next door—the perfect storm for a McMansion and a tragedy for a uniquely beautiful house in near-perfect shape."

The home, designed by Kenneth Scott in 1958, was put on the market in fall 2009 by the original owners. Smart

"I knew this house was a prime target for the bulldozer"



and the listing Realtor, Susan Peak, collaborated to find a buyer who would love the 2,337-square-foot house and grounds for what they were, not for potential development dollars. Their approach included publicizing the home locally, holding an open house for TMH supporters, linking the MLS listing to TMH's site and reaching a national audience through entities like the Recent Past Preservation Network.

Six months after it was listed, Mark Hansen and Marie Lukens purchased the home and are considering applying

for National Register inclusion. "The new owners love what they've bought," Smart reports. "They split ownership of the adjacent empty lot with a neighbor, so that will never be built on. And they plan a small, but respectful addition in the coming year. This preservation story couldn't have ended better."

Learn more about North Carolina architecture at [trianglemodernisthouses.com](http://trianglemodernisthouses.com).