

# A short history of Fred Carter Williams

F. Carter Williams was born in Fork, NC in 1913. He grew up in Greensboro, NC and worked at the O. Henry Hotel as a teen. Williams practiced architecture for over 50 years, giving shape to more than 600 projects, including the NC Archives Library in Raleigh, buildings at East Carolina University, the renovation of the Governor's Mansion, and Raleigh's City Hall Complex. Each year, AIA North Carolina awards the F. Carter Williams Gold Medal, their highest honor, to an individual in recognition of a distinguished career or extraordinary accomplishments as an architect.

1935	Earned degree in Architectural Engineering from NC State
1939	Earned degree in Architectural Design from the University of Illinois
1939 – 1941	Assistant professor, NC State Department of Architecture
1941	809 Gardner St, Raleigh.F Carter Williams House. 1st architecture office was in the basement
1941 – 1946	In the Army during WWII; taught at West Point
1944 – 1945	Completed post-graduate work, Columbia University
1950	3078 Granville Drive, Raleigh: The Robert (Mayne) and Frances Albright Residence. Albright was a candidate for North Carolina Governor in 1948, and attorney for AIA North Carolina
1951	2106 Banbury Road, Raleigh. The W. Carey Parker and Evelyn Parker House
1951	2802 Exeter Circle, Raleigh. The Reverend E. McNeil Poteat House. Grossly altered
1952	1724 Picadilly Lane, Raleigh. The Martin and Catherine Green Residence
1952	2906 Grant Avenue, Raleigh. The H. B. and Katie Dickson House, not modernist.
1952	915 Williamson Drive, Raleigh. The Guy C. Branaman House. Outside, not modernist
1954	NCSU School of Design's Matsumoto Wing of Brooks Hall, School of Design. FCW was arch of record. Matsumoto, Macon Smith and Turner Willaims
1955	714 Lake Boone Trail, Raleigh. The Elmo and Alice Williams Residence, Gil Slack house.
1956	2220 Wheeler Road, Raleigh NC. The Michael and Salve K. Bolus House
1956	5008 Lead Mine Road, Raleigh. The George and Pota V. Vallas Residence, National Art Interiors
1958	<b>'BLUE HAVEN'</b> , 6612 Rest Haven Drive, Raleigh. F Carter Williams home. Dick Bell, landscape architect. Sold to Samuel and Lynne Harris. Sold in 2005, to Jill Maurer (extensive restoration)
1960	1428 Canterbury Road, Raleigh. The Garland Dewey Johnson and Elma Johnson Arndt House
1960	6614 Rest Haven Drive: The L. Dow and Rhea Pender House. Sold in 1962 to John S. Rhodes. On 6.1 acres. Sold in 1979 to his son John Flint Rhodes, wife Ruth. Fire in 1995, bedroom wing. Karl Gaskins designed restoration + kitchen renovation. Sold in 2013 to GMAKS LLC, George and Mary Ann Klein.
1962	Williams designed the firm's office at 2806 Hillsborough Street, Raleigh
1968	511 Lakestone Drive, Raleigh. The William and Mary Oviatt Residence
1972	3606 Alamance Dr, Raleigh. The Abe and Sylvia Holtzman House

## Interesting Details - 'Blue Haven'

Per Jill Maurer, owner, this house qualifies for both local and national historic registration, and may be eligible for tax credits, if still available. (i.e., National Register of Historic Places and Raleigh Historic Landmarks).

The hard scape approach to the home was designed by Dick Bell. Japanese maples and azaleas flank the exposed aggregate concrete exterior foyer. Mr. Bell recently visited Blue Haven, and it was noted that he liked to sculpt clients' landscapes "on the fly" with a bulldozer. The covered stoop is terrazzo, which carries into the interior foyer of the home. (for more info on Dick Bell: ncmodernist.org/bell)

Each visitor - since 1959- has been greeted in the same way, "Welcome to Blue Haven" upon the opening of the front door, which is graced by an artisan-designed phoenix door knocker. On the back of the door is another pattern - some say it is like an "ink blot", and its subject open to interpretation. It also looks like a spine (the "back" of the door). This was added later, since Ms. Williams did not like to see the raw fasteners of the door knocker from the interior of the home.

A dramatic column of Carolina Blue Stone greets visitors. The stone was quarried especially for Blue Haven, and is used extensively throughout the home's interior and exterior. The pool at the based of the stone column was originally part of the home's electric cooling system. Water was pumped through the house and under ground, and out to the location of the current stand of mare tails in the rear of the home. This system was removed, and the current owner, Jill Maurer, installed a pump, lights, and stone to convert it into an natural aquarium. A skylight above the stone creates a shadow play across the rough stone. F. Carter Williams personally directed the placement of each of these stones over the shoulder of the stone mason - deviating from his intended rectangular plan, as depicted on the original construction plans. There is nothing else like this architectural feature exhibited in any of Williams' other residential designs.

The home is a well-choreographed play between glass, views to the green-tree canopy outside, warmtoned woods, cool Carolina blue stone, white cool terrazzo, and warm marmolean, which is soft under the feet. There are very few painted surfaces in the home, and the natural properties of the selected materials is celebrated.

Since the home has such unique lighting opportunities, it has been employed numerous times by the film industry, and is a featured backdrop to the current owner's video series, and jewelry line images.

The rear of the home enjoys views of deep woods, exhibiting the entire value range of greens: dappled yellow of tall trees' leaves, natural ferns, and deep green moss. Deer trails lead to a gentle creek - complete with a sandy beach, and salamanders and minnows to meet. The home is barely visible from the creek; the lot is just shy of 3 acres. The forest deer have become almost like pets - they wait patiently for deer corn to be spread near the large sculpture; the close nature show is visible from the living room and lower level entertaining area.

In order to preserve the home from the likely threat of demolition by surrounding development, the property was subdivided and two large parcels were created on either side of the home. Restrictive covenants were created for these new parcels - and whomever owns Blue Haven, has the architectural approval power of the two smaller parcels. Both parcels have sold in recent years, and a new one story

home is currently in progress to the left side on the house. This home will be situated between two F. Carter Williams houses.

## Room by room details

Living room - Blue stone column is the focal point of the room during the the evenings, and the nature is captivates throughout the day. Floor to ceiling glass gives the impression of a view from a tree house - and the natural colors of trees is a respected part of the interior color scheme. The original floor plans (which are available as digital scans) indicate an area specifically for the Williams' family organ, and a grand piano once sat near the rear windows. Original built-in cabinetry and bookshelves abound, and are refinished. The existing light-colored carpet was replaced with marmolean, which is a "green" building product, and is friendly to allergy and asthma sufferers, and easy to maintain. A sliding glass door leads to an ample deck - just imagine relaxing with a cool cocktail on a warm summer evening!

Dining Room - Original ceiling light fixture, and the built-ins include a drop down bar to the right. The windows throughout the home are stationary; to introduce fresh air into the home, the bottom panels beneath the windows open, to allow air flow.

Kitchen - The existing wood custom cabinetry's finish was restored, as was the rest of the home's wood features. There are thoughtful details, such as multiple pull-out cutting boards, included in the cabinetry design. The peninsula was removed, and quartz counters were added. The propane cook top and the dual drawer dishwasher are both Dacor. The counter-depth refrigerator retains as much of the circulation space as possible. An upright freezer is located in the large pantry, accessed by three sliding panels. A new broom closet was created when the existing dumbwaiter was removed (and saved onsite, for the new owner) The original pantry is now a convenient powder room - note the unusual sink!

The Family Room includes one of two fireplaces. This one is constructed from Carolina blue stone, which carries the slate blue color and texture out to the rear screened porch. A door to the right of the fireplace leads to the porch. A built-in desk is to the right, and custom shelving and storage partitions making up the walls for the dining area.

Moving back through the foyer, a long hall signifies the separation of the public and private areas of the home. There is an amazing abundance of storage, as evidenced by closets on either side of the hall, which is rare for a home from this time period. Most walls in the home are used for convenient storage.

The owners' suite is at the very end of the hall, and is most private. The current owner had built-in furniture custom-designed for this room, which will convey to the new owner. The back wall is graced by the same Carolina blue stone as in the rest of the home, the ceiling has soft uplighting from the beam and cove lighting. Large floor to ceiling windows look upon a private balcony - with views of the rear woods. A built-in dressing table with large mirror and concrete counter is positioned at the entry of the owners' suite dressing room, complete with wood-clad closets, built-in chest of drawers— and room for everything! The owners' bath suite is special — there are two separate water closet/vanity rooms. A shared shower room has high windows, integrated seating and storage shelving. The vanities have newer concrete counters and sinks. Pocket doors partition the areas from one another - an ultimately lead to bedroom number five - which was originally designated as a Guest Room on the original construction plans. This room is the ultimate flexible-use space - perfect for yoga, meditation, a second dressing area, an office, a nursery, an art studio, etc.

Bedrooms two and three share a bathroom between them. Each bedroom in the home has its own built-in desks and vanities - complete with sinks, and newer concrete counters. These counters replace the original pink boomerang laminate. Additionally, the bedrooms on the upper level all have their own "attic" storage - reachable by a ladder for storage of off-season clothing and supplies. Quite smart!

The shared bath has unique features - each bedroom's medicine cabinet opens into the bath - so each occupant doesn't have to move their special toiletries when bathing. There are also two built-in hampers - one for each room - located in the bathroom. Note the unusual sunken shower - this is also a sunken bath! The tile in the bath is original to the home.

The lower level of the home was unfinished when the current owner purchased the home in 2005. A beautiful original banister leads down to original cool lower level, which is kept bright with light terrazzo flooring. There is an exterior door at the bottom of the stair, providing potential for separate living quarters. A kitchen was added, new marmolean floors cover the once-bare concrete of F. Carter Williams' studio and workshop. A private bedroom was created, and the existing bath renovated (the original happy yellow tile remains in the shower). The area is a great entertaining space, with a free flowing layout, and enough room for a living area, dining area, and recreation area (currently used for the pool table and gallery). The windows have the same operable lower wood panels as the main floor, to allow for air flow into the house on temperate days. A covered patio is accessible through sliding glass doors. The centerpiece fireplace has been improved to include a niche for a flat panel TV, and a floating concrete hearth.

The full kitchen has a dishwasher and wall oven, and a deep utility sink. This area was once accessible by the dumbwaiter from the main kitchen above.

Located behind the lower stairs, is a door to the mechanical room. On the back of the door, is a Gold Medallion - signifying the home started as an 'All Electric Home', and never utilized heated using oil. Westinghouse and GE launched campaigns during the 1950s, when electricity was becoming cheaper to produce, and therefore, they wanted to encourage more people to use it to improve business. Everything that was once a chore, could now be accomplished with the touch of an electric powered button, using clean electricity! The Gold Medallion was a special emblem, to show your friends just how modern your house was - and to the envy of the neighborhood. The original schematics are still tacked on the back of the door, flanking the prized Gold Medallion.

There are two wells on the property, now capped, which may have potential for irrigation usage. There is also room on the property to build a pool, pool cabana, etc., and the owner has had conversations with architects to discuss appropriate placement (though no design schematics were created). The original home includes a carport with separate, secured storage, which opens to the grilling deck. After parking in the carport, the home is accessible through a utility / mud room with built-ins for capturing "drop zone" items — shoes, backpacks, reusable market bags, etc. There is also a separate propane tank (above ground) which is used solely for the cook top.

The home was thoughtfully, and carefully restored since the current owner purchased the property in 2005. The stone-ballasted roof was replaced - and the roof sheathing removed to feed new electrical wiring to existing fixtures in the tongue and groove wood ceiling. The HVAC system was replaced with a Unico system, which utilizes small form factor supply ductwork, in order to maintain the historical integrity of the home. The crawl space leading off the mechanical room has new plastic vapor barrier, and has a dehumidifier to keep the home comfortable and keep the extensive woodwork from warping or cracking.

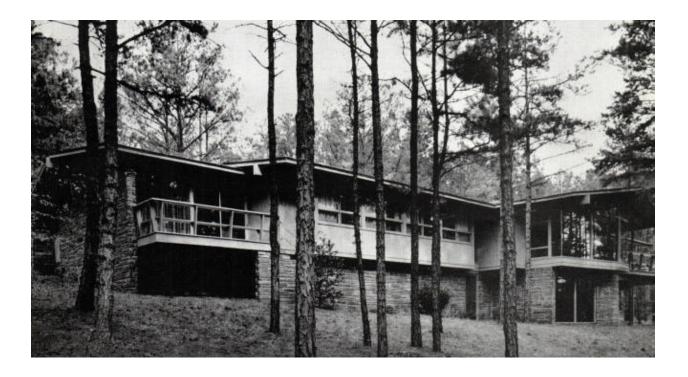
## Dick Bell, Landscape Architect for Blue Haven Biographical Notes

Richard C. Bell (1928-), a native of Manteo, N.C., received a degree in landscape architecture from North Carolina State University's College of Design (then, the North Carolina State College School of Design) in 1950. Afterwards, he apprenticed under Simonds & Simonds of Pittsburgh, PA, and Frederick B. Stresau of Fort Lauderdale, FL. At the age of 21, he became the youngest designer to receive the Prix de Rome, allowing him to study in Europe for two years. He became a Fellow of the American Academy in Rome. In 1954, Bell became a member of the American Society of Landscape Architects (ASLA) and he was elected to Fellowship in the organization in 1980.

In 1955, Bell founded his first firm in Raleigh, NC, and continued to operate the business under various names from its award-winning office space, **Water Garden Office Park**, until his retirement in 2007. Upon Bell's retirement, the firm was handed over to his longtime partner and son-in-law, Dennis Glazener (1955-2010). Over the course of his career, Bell completed over 2,000 landscape architecture projects, received honor awards from 27 national groups, including the American Association of Nurserymen, lectured on environmental design at universities and professional organizations, and served as a member of Raleigh's Planning Commission. In 2008, in recognition of his contributions to the City of Raleigh, Bell was inducted into the Raleigh Hall of Fame.

Other well-known (and well-loved projects) include Pullen Park, Raleigh, Meredith College, and the Brickyard at NC State University.

Adapted from: Bell, Richard C. "About." Peebles in the Pond: News and Musings by Landscape Architect Dick Bell. 29 June 2009. 18 May 2011 http://dickbell.wordpress.com/about/. For additional works by Dick Bell, please visit http://www.ncmodernist.org/dbell.htm



## What is a Gold Medallion Home?

#### https://envisioningtheamericandream.com/2014/09/25/plugged-into-the-american-dream/

Homes before the 1960s used "dirty" fuel - coal and oil. Electric promised to be cleaner to run, and cleaning for the home. No soot, or oil spills. GE and Westinghouse sold not only electric heating systems, but also electrical generating equipment. Both companies launched enormous campaigns and worked closely with builders of spec houses, and made having a Gold Medallion on the exterior of the home something to be coveted - and homes with the medallion were considered to be on the cutting edge of modernity.

'Blue Haven' has its Gold Medallion, proudly displayed for almost 60 years, on the basement mechanical door, complete with the original schematics for the heating and cooling systems.

Video: promoted by GE to promote electric use in homes: https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=Z5KEu5WvdnE

From Life Magazine





#### "Flameless electric house heating is my choice because it's so clean'





IVE BETTER ELECTRICALLY

