



GRIFFIN ARCHITECTS P.A.
ARCHITECTURE INTERIOR DESIGN
PLANNING PRESERVATION

Eight Fairway, Biltmore Forest, North Carolina

After thirty years of practice I was fortunate to have the opportunity to be able to express my and my staff's expertise with the subtleties of Tudor half-timbered architecture for my friend Rose MacDowell. Our firm has enjoyed historic preservation opportunities in Biltmore Forest and Asheville while working on many historic structures from the 19th and 20th Century. These significant structures include the Biltmore House, Biltmore Village, the Bingham Residence, the Grove Arcade, the Manor, the Colburn Residence, Chanteleupe, the DuBose Residence, the Firth, and many others. We have been honored with numerous awards and articles in both regional and national publications. We are known for our ability to create a "fit".

The Chateau de Angervilles, a French Tudor residence from the early part of the 20th century, inspired the MacDowell residence. Rose's daughters were attracted to the picturesque style of this residence from a portfolio of French homes I shared with the family. The Art Nouveau and Art and Crafts subtleties were an appropriate approach to this particular Tudor home for many reasons. Rose brought a wonderful collection of architectural fittings with her from her travels when she moved to Asheville. We were able to incorporate many of them into the design of the home. These architectural antiques also inspired us all to extend the unique attributes they afforded into many of the new elements of the home. "Asheville Handmade" provided many artisans to choose from in order to complete the exceptional quality required.

My partner Ron Clemmer of Fireside Interiors collaborated on the interior design. Ron's use of Furnishings and finishes complemented the residence with a comfortable yet elegant style. Photographs of the home are often interpreted as those of an historic home.

In many ways, despite it only being 6 years old, the home has become historic. The custom blend of Vermont Slate on the roof we created has been one of the most popular blends to be installed by C & H Roofing, a nationally known roofing contractor in business for decades. MWB Construction, a well-respected regional firm was the General Contractor. MWB coordinated their most expert subcontractors. The orientation of the home provides a private shaded view of the Biltmore Forest Country Club's golf course. A second lot left vacant completes the park-like setting.

The home, like its owner, is both elegant and strong. It has character, grace and charm. It has both beauty and depth. As a commissioned artist, I draw from what surrounds me. In this case I was fortunate to be working with a positive client, and an agreeable contractor. This positive relationship shows and I feel the many fond memories whenever I visit.

Robert S. Griffin, AIA