

NORWOOD

■ from IH

Tribble's portfolio on the site. When I visited the website I realized that I've been in, oh, a dozen of the homes. And regularly pedaled my bike past many more. The Taylor family - James, et al - lived in a mid-century modern house in Chapel Hill. It's on the website. Cool place, and the pictures don't do justice to the location above Morgan Creek. Those places are on the site.

We celebrated my father's 70th birthday at one of the featured houses. It's in Raleigh, and belonged to my aunt and uncle.

When his group comes to Charlotte in December it will visit the two new museums uptown, the Mint and the Bechtler.

The tour will visit a sleek new house designed by New York architect Lindsay Smith, who's from Charlotte, for her parents here. And that repeat stop, the one that was such a hit back in May? IKEA. "Everyone wants to come to IKEA," he said. "It's quite the pilgrimage." That stop is so popular that Smart had to set rules about how much space each visitor could claim in the bus storage compartment.

Raleigh architects coming to Charlotte for modernist tour

Believe it or not, a busload of architecture lovers from Raleigh are headed to Charlotte in early December.

The group, called the Triangle Modernist Houses, has an unabashed affection for midcentury modern homes, the contemporary houses of the 1950s and '60s.

I had to call TMH founder George Smart in Raleigh: You're really coming from the hip Raleigh-Durham-Chapel Hill area to staid Charlotte to see contemporary architecture? You're driving past neighborhoods of low-slung, flat-roofed homes with walls of glass to come to a town where the dominant style is two-story brick?

He laughed, but said Charlotte doesn't deserve its sometimes stodgy image. There are more midcentury modern homes in the Queen City than folks realize. "And quite nice ones," he said.

Also, he said, the Triangle's strong reputation for midcentury modern is as much coincidence as hipness. It began with the founding of the School of Design at N.C. State in 1948. Young architects arrived to join the faculty, and practiced on the side. They designed houses for the thousands of families arriving after the war, way before the Triangle was the Triangle.

REAL ESTATE



ALLEN NORWOOD

Triangle Modernist Houses

www.trianglemodernisthouses.com features some 9,000 pictures of 2,500 houses.

What's more, he said, this is actually his group's second bus trip to Charlotte this year. They visited in May.

I love midcentury modern houses. They date to my formative years, and lots of my friends grew up in them in Chapel Hill. Smart's organization has exploded since its founding three years ago, and its website now includes information about homes from all across the state. You'll learn more about Charlotte architects: Crutcher Ross, Murray Whisnant, David Furman, the late Jack Boyte and others. If you want to see stunning contemporary homes, check out Charlotte architect Hal

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