

A Charlotte House:

A family of 5 | 1/3 Acre | \$300,000 Budget



Key Concepts

Timeless Quality. Picturesque.

History should not be forgotten. Nor can it be duplicated. The exterior design should acknowledge the scale and proportion of those Charlotte homes that have successfully endured. Subtle details and gestures put a “twist” on the traditional vernacular and make **A Charlotte House** - a house that is of today. And most importantly- A house that fits- and is valued

Alive and Connected

Walk down a street in one of Charlotte’s historic neighborhoods at dusk- the street feels subtly alive, safe, and architecturally interesting. **A Charlotte House** should accomplish these same goals- giving back to its neighbors. The porch and windows should create a sense of transparency that seeks to capture the emotions associated with Charlotte’s finest historic neighborhoods. Let the front door be used!

A Form that Adapts

The design is based on a simple form and structural scheme that allows flexibility. Whether more space is needed when initially built, or if expansion is a necessity years after construction- the simple form, rooflines and structural scheme allow **A Charlotte House** to respond to the needs of different families, beginning on day one.

A House that Considers Family

There is something to be learned from shared space. Privacy is important, but so is family gathering. **A Charlotte House** should respond to family dynamics.

Food Matters.

Really. Let’s make a big, fun kitchen with lots of natural light and views in all directions; a spot for casual gathering while meals are prepared. “Cooking in” is good for a family’s dynamics- and our country’s health. The family who occupies **A Charlotte House** will enjoy gathering and the ritual of a meal together.

Efficient Today, Efficient Tomorrow

A Charlotte House should strike a balance between initial costs and long term performance. Technology of today and technology that continues to endure should both be considered in the design.

Maximize Green Space- Maximize Open Space (streets are for parking)

Parking on the street helps to create a safe “edge” that helps control traffic. **A Charlotte House** should maximize green/ open space by limiting paved areas to what is truly needed. Friends and guests park on the street- or walk.

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Design Features that Support the Key Concepts.

- The organization of space within allows front to back and back to front living- all while respecting privacy.
- Thick walls evoke a sense of permanence and provide thermal efficiency.
- The front door is intended as an every-day route for family and visitors alike.
- A simple circulation “spine” organizes the house and provides efficient structural organization.
- All bedrooms are on the same floor- a nod towards the belief that shared space and closer living often benefits the family dynamic. And doubles as a formula for a smaller footprint
- The simple form and parallel set of organizing walls provide a structural basis that is flexible- and adaptable.
- Deep overhangs (time tested technology) help to limit solar gain during warm months and provide valuable protection for the house’s skin.
- The scale and proportion of windows and openings acknowledges the picturesque historic homes of Charlotte.
- Large openings allow a definite connection to the outdoors/ recreation- And allow the house to “open up” when weather permits
- A simple shingle exterior cladding cloaks the framed walls while a brick base anchors the house. These materials are sourced regionally, are time tested and reference houses in Charlotte that have endured for 100+ years. In addition to referencing the historic homes of Charlotte, these materials are a logical choice for the simple geometry and form.
- Technical features- systems, insulation, controls, materials, etc. are specified to strike an efficient balance between first cost and long time performance.

Timeless

Picturesque

Alive

Connected

Adaptable

Family-Oriented Efficient

Green