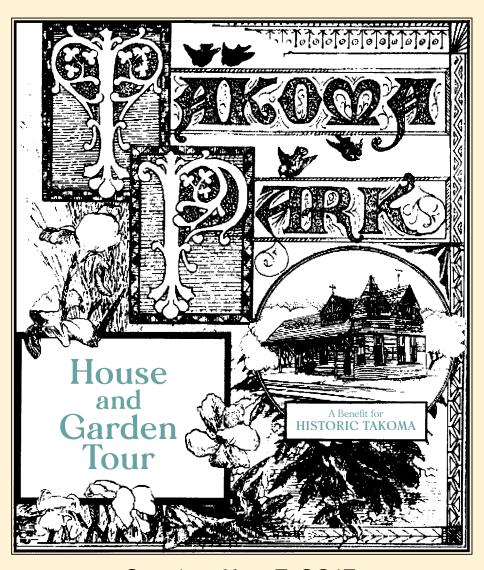
→ SPRING PARK ←



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44th ANNUAL Takoma Park House and Garden Tour

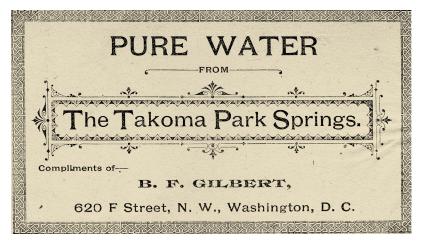
→ SPRING PARK ←

HIS LOVELY, WOODED NEIGHBORHOOD has quite an interesting development history, and Spring Park is central to its story. Laid out in 1886 by B.F. Gilbert at the edge of his second parcel, it is no surprise that other individuals developed the remaining land near the park by the 1920s. Proximity to one of the most productive springs in Takoma Park, located at the park and known rightfully as "Big Spring," was a primary factor. Gilbert consistently marketed pure water from Takoma Park springs in finding his buyers, even providing complimentary water samples.

After bad economic times, Gilbert sold the Big Spring rights to the Takoma Park Springs Company in 1891 to recover his fortune.



Spring House at Spring Park with "No Trespassing" sign



Label for complimentary spring water sample from B.F. Gilbert

When the company built a fence around park property to bar public access and also erected "no trespassing" signs, citizens went into action in true Takoma Park fashion. While some took the matter to court, others tore down the fence. Eventually, it was established that public access to the spring water was guaranteed. The company's claim was voided; the City regained control of the property and access resumed. By 1948, Big Spring was closed due to contamination from development. Pipes were capped and Spring House was later torn down. Big Spring still exists, feeding the streams in Spring Park and Circle Woods.

Also interesting, the area on the tour today was once in Prince George's County. After a long process involving annexation and unification spanning 1978 to 1997, it became part of Montgomery County. It was in 1995–1996 that the City acquired and established Circle Woods as a preserve, accessible to the left of House #5.

Houses on the tour are eclectic. For the first time, two new houses are featured. The "Magic Box," (House #5) showcases playful modern design. House #4 built in 2015 combines Victorian and Craftsman architecture in a contemporary way. Three fascinating "shotgun-style" homes are currently being researched by Historic Takoma, two are open today (#10, 11). A current working hypothesis is that they were built earlier than the surrounding houses for workers from farms once in the area; they remain a delicious mystery yet to be solved. Enjoy the tour!

-HISTORIC TAKOMA







313 Elm Avenue

First floor and lower level, garden





LARGE PELICAN CARVED FROM from a double tree trunk by master wood carver Jim Calderwatches from its perch as you approach. Entering this c.1948 mid-century modern home, the focal point is an expansive stone wall with a fireplace in the spacious living room surrounded with windows.

The first floor and lower level of this home was renovated to perfection by Dave Hoskins of The Right Angle. The dark cabinetry of the large kitchen is dramatically accented by a stainless steel farmhouse sink and appliances. By removing a wall for kitchen enlargement, Dave importantly opened the interior house space. This created a pleasing flow and spacious view. A rear addition for the master bedroom suite (complete with

washer and drier!) was designed by architect Dana Haden of Studio d (ad page 12). A former bedroom was converted into a family room with a wall of glass doors/panels leading to the deck. Skylights provide ample light.

The lower level contains a large. comfortable home office, a generous media room, a guest bedroom and a gorgeous bathroom with a steam shower. Textured linoleum with the appearance of wood boards is a perfect floor choice. The home is beautifully designed and constructed to meet all needs.

Access the lovely rear garden from the first floor family room. The owners are avid gardeners; Jeff particularly loves historic Glenn Dale azaleas. The patio, pond (with goldfish) and waterfall were built by Jeff, while all the stone walls were built by Kathy.



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317 Elm Avenue

First floor, garden

Exit from rear

 Ψ Refreshments

AUSE A MOMENT ON THE FRONT porch before entering this home! You are high on a hill, magically surrounded by forest and birdsong, seemingly far away from bustle. The tranquility amid nature found here was loved by the owners when they purchased their c.1925 home in 1994.

Inside, you are welcomed by a lovely fireplace with hand-crafted blue tiles by artist **John Hume of Sligo Creek Tile Co.** (ad page 9). The stone surround and mahogany mantle were installed by **Tillerman Gardens**. Large windows bring nature inside making this a favorite spot.

A small kitchen was expanded into a lovely, functional space with an open view of the dining room area. The large dining/family room addition has high ceilings for dramatic contrast with the old house, also providing a stunning view of the wooded back yard and pond.

Architect **Rick Vitullo** (ad page 9) infused the house with Craftsman spirit



by designing a second story (not on tour) with wide eaves and large brackets. The exterior massing is cleverly minimized with alternating width boards, an interesting technique.

The extensive outdoor landscaping work of Tillerman Gardens is integral to the home's natural beauty. The front's deep setback has stoneterraced gardens, an Eco Cobble permeable driveway, front flagstone walkway, stone front steps and railing with a Celtic design. The rear woodland garden is a masterful composition with its added plantings, a stone patio and side walkways. The pond and waterfall surrounded by stone is a backyard focal point. \leftarrow

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403 Elm Avenue

First floor, garden

Exit from rear

his beautiful c.1925 bungalow with its unique scalloped front porch beam is largely unmodified. Inside, you are comforted by earth-colored walls, hand-crafted art and the Craftsman spirit of this home. Regarding themselves as stewards, Reid and Sonya have always appreciated the good bones of this classic house.

The owners moved here two weeks before their second child was born in 2000. They set about making the house a home, named her "Elma Louise" and filled her with love, art and music. True to the bungalow spirit of domesticity, they tended the hearth, worked the garden and raised their family. Each year, they included "Elma Louise" on labels Sonya designed for their holiday homebrew made by Reid. The creative

brew labels, featuring "beer we can believe in," for 2008, are displayed on a kitchen poster.

Sonya, an artist and singer, was the daughter of John Cohen of the folk revival music group, The New Lost City Ramblers, and Penelope Seeger, a potter whose elder siblings were folk musicians Mike, Peggy and Pete Seeger (each of whom stayed here). Sonya was the grand-daughter of seminal musicologist Charles Seeger and avant-garde composer Ruth Crawford Seeger, also a pioneer in children's musical education through the Silver Spring Cooperative Nursery school.

Sonya passed away in the fall of 2015. Her positive energy is felt throughout as we honor and enjoy the home she and Reid created together.

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6716 Poplar Avenue

First and second floors, lower level

the details of Alex and Dan's beautiful home! The house was designed by Dan with assistance from Shawn Buehler of Bennett Frank McCarthy Architects (inside front cover ad) and built by Matt Kulp of Galaxy Homes in 2015. Its transitional architecture combines Victorian and Craftsman elements with extensive woodwork and attention to detail.

Dan, a woodworker and graphic designer, obsessed over every detail from unusual door knobs to 4" hickory flooring. In the dining room, a 6' llama and giraffe observe you while you dine at one of the tables Dan made. A pulley light fixture made from old barn hardware was so heavy the ceiling had to be reinforced to hold it.

The first floor powder room's underwater theme features a deep-sea diver helmet light fixture and sea creature



murals. Dan made the sink top over the Singer sewing machine base.

The expansive kitchen and family room have a rustic mountain lodge feel, with a large stone fireplace, high volume ceiling and Frank Lloyd Wright stained glass replicas.

Colorful 60s swag lights brighten the stair landing and Dan's "spin art" records. New themes emerge upstairs. Particularly fun is the "flying machines" nursery with a giant airplane mural utilizing a ceiling fan for the propeller. The colorful lower level is used as Dan's workshop and Alex's craft room.







6714 Poplar Avenue

First and second floors, lower level

Exit from front

HIS MODERN HOME IS OFTEN referred to as the "Magic Box." It was designed by Mark McInturff and Colleen Healey of McInturff Architects and built in 2012 by its owner Alan Kanner of Added Dimensions. It received the Washingtonian Award for Architecture in 2016.

The Magic Box has been described as an "outrageously wrapped gift rising amid the trees." It provides two distinctly different experiences. On the exterior, the colors and forms convey energy and playfulness. One of abstract expressionist artist Richard Diebenkorn's "Ocean Park" paintings inspired the color palette. Exposed, colorful struts convey a sense of mobility.

The exciting pop and play of the exterior instantly quiets down as one steps inside, replaced by a feeling of serenity. Simple, uncluttered lines of modern furnishings are relaxing. Light is everywhere in the open floorplan. Colors are muted yet there are accent splashes echoing the playful exterior. Natural wood softens the industrial feeling of textured raw steel, clearly seen with the dramatic, open staircase, an important focal point.

Massive windows bring nature views of Circle Woods inside in a way that only modern design can accomplish. Surrounded by natural beauty, one is invited to linger in the open airy interior spaces, even come back to experience changing seasons.

Upstairs, nature is accessible from the large master bedroom windows. Alan chose this property because of its wooded setting, even building his front deck around a large tree rather than remove it.

McInturff Architects

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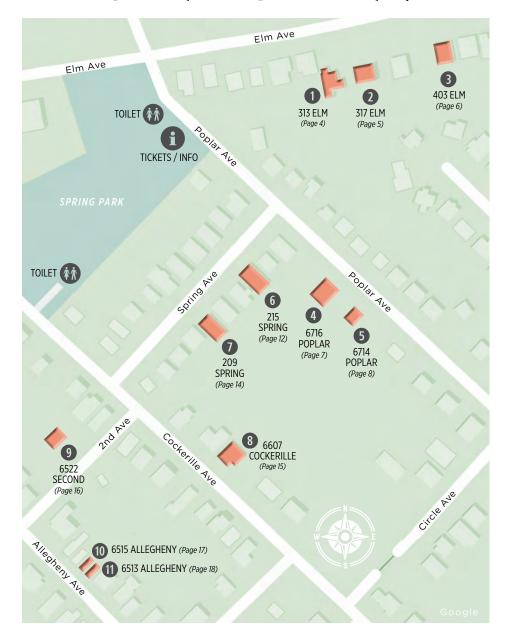
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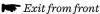


215 Spring Avenue

First and second floors



Wear booties



HIS BEAUTIFULLY renovated home is very dear to Anne and Matt as their family place. In 2003 they purchased a tiny, c.1926 bungalow with a great deal of charm and very little space.

The creativity of architect Dana Haden of Studio d and the patient, problem solving abilities of Dave Hoskins of The Right Angle (ad page 4) retained that bungalow charm. Their 2005 project rearranged first floor space, and added a rear kitchen/family room and second story. In doubling the house size, the renovation does not overwhelm the bungalow feel.

Dana maximized living space. Moving the front door to the right created an inviting living room area that accommodates fireplace seating. A row of three windows instead of two directs more light here. Dining room walls were removed to create openness.



A generous kitchen/family room has ample room for cooking, gathering and office work.

Interior design gracefully combines old and new. The white fireplace surround is a modern interpretation of the Craftsman style. Kitchen cabinet style, hardware and use of bead board are traditional. Crisp contemporary white walls set off the dark original trim and doors. New doors and trim were stained to match the old. Modern accents are provided by seating, lighting, wall prints and white furniture.

A beautifully designed wide staircase, relocated to maximize foyer space, leads to a spacious second floor landing with bedrooms and bathrooms.

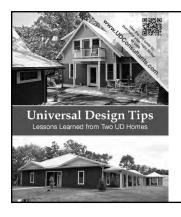






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209 Spring Avenue

First floor, lower level



Wear booties



HIS PETITE C.1921 BUNGALOW has all of its original exterior architectural features, a humble version of the Craftsman bungalow.

Inside, a grand surprise awaits! Floor to ceiling windows from a new rear addition provide an immediate visual connection to modern design as you enter, acting as a beacon for further exploration. The removal of an interior bungalow wall opened up the once constrained space, allowing a flood of light to enter from the rear.

Intriguingly, you must actually descend downstairs to visit the new kitchen and dining room on an industrial steel staircase. Entering this modern space is dramatic. The dining room ceiling soars to 16 feet. The wall next to the staircase was built with aged wood salvaged from a previous addition. It lends character, moderating the crispness of the walls, staircase and cement floor. The kitchen is pleasingly nestled into a smaller, comfortable nook. White kitchen cabinetry with simple lines is softened with the salvaged wood used for a built-in eating area. The interplay of materials is fascinating.

Owners Airi and Jeff wished to artfully merge both Craftsman and Modern styles when enlarging their home. Creatively designed by architect Wakako Tokunaga of WT Architecture and built by Alan Hill Woodworking in 2013, the honesty and simplicity of the modern addition successfully combines with Craftsman philosophy.



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6607 Cockerille Avenue

First floor

Exit from front



OHEMIAN IS THE WORD THAT comes to mind upon entering this c.1931 cottage. Its focal point is a thoughtfully designed circular staircase hand-made by the previous owner, a master woodworker. April instantly set her sights on acquiring this house in 2011. Her vision as an interior designer (Ash Design Works) enabled her to see beyond its condition at that time to the open, bright and artistic living area that you see today.

April moved the kitchen upstairs from the basement and removed a wall to open up the first floor living area. New ceilings following the angular roofline were installed together with skylights. Wooden rafters were exposed creating visual interest. The

space now comfortably flows around the circular staircase. Seascapes emphasize a nautical feeling.

Everything was chosen to enhance light, from paint color to furnishings. In the kitchen, sleek shiny white cabinets and tile, light counter tops and glassfronted appliances bounce light around the room. The horizontal walnut veneer kitchen cabinets and wooden island pleasantly soften crisp modern lines.

April's decorating is every bit as bohemian as her unique house. Integrating the right vintage objects into a contemporary setting is central to her style. The thrill of the hunt at **Community Forklift** and a variety of markets fuels her creation of unique compositions, such as a dining room table surrounded by different mid-century modern chairs.







6522 Second Avenue

First and second floors, lower level



Exit from front

BBEY AND NICK FELL IN LOVE with Takoma Park. In 2011, they purchased a tiny c.1927 Craftsman bungalow. It would eventually be transformed into a lovely Craftsman house in 2016.

Architect **Paul Treseder** retained the house footprint and Craftsman charm with his masterful first floor space reorganization and second floor addition.

First floor spaces were opened up and re-envisioned for modern use. An angled wall in the living room proudly hosts a tall new fireplace. Above it is a watercolor painting by Nick's sister Caitlin Berndt featuring Carey Grant, Audrey Hepburn and Caitlin herself. Caitlin's paintings are throughout the house.

Some of the original dining room area was used to enlarge a tiny galley kitchen into a beautiful workspace, but a cleverly designed side bump-out in the dining room made up for the reduction. The large archway into the kitchen effectively opens up the first floor with expanded views. A comfortable family room tucked away next to the kitchen was once two bedrooms.

The staircase leads upstairs to a cozy open landing with seating. Angled bedroom windows provide light from two directions. The master bedroom suite has a walk-through closet and a washer and drier.

The lower level contains a child's playroom, media room and storage. Its potential was a major factor in the owners' choice of this house.





6515 Allegheny Avenue

First floor

Exit from rear

 Ψ Refreshments

HIS NARROW "SHOT GUN STYLE" house is one of three in a row special to both this street and Takoma Park. These were the simple, inexpensive houses. One of two on the Tour today, the exterior of the house is well preserved with much original material. Its decorative "rock face" hollow block foundation was a 20th Century innovation, gaining in popularity by 1904 due to the strength and lower cost of Portland cement.

A colorful quilt art sign made by the owner's sister-in-law proudly hangs under the roof peak, announcing that what is cherished here is a network of family and friends. A fiddle player connected to the folk dance movement and a dance organizer, Kappy purchased her home in 2014. When all



the furniture associated with meaningful people in her life fit perfectly in the tiny spaces, it was a welcoming sign. In this cozy nest, Kappy is surrounded with things of importance to her. Unopened boxes from yet a previous move were discarded as no longer needed.

The first floor interior is today a single room; originally, it was built with three rooms. At some point, the staircase was changed and moved to its present location. It would have been tucked between two walls in what once was the middle room as can still be seen next door today at House #11. \Leftrightarrow





HEN JOHN PURCHASED THIS tiny "shotgun style" house in 1988 it was an absolute mess after several previous rentals. He removed all the shoddy interior alterations and repaired much hidden damage to framing and plumbing, saving as much original material as possible. Today we joyfully experience this historic jewel and learn from it, both inside and out.

Built in a simple rustic style, the house has much of its original material. Remarkably, the home has two of its original three rooms on the first floor; markings from the former wall location between the dining room and kitchen



6513 Allegheny Avenue

First and second floors

Exit from rear

W Refreshments

can still be seen on the floor. The staircase is in its original location and takes you upstairs to a bathroom and two bedrooms. Skylights on the top floor provide light and fresh air.

Note the perfection of storage in this home! Adrienne gives credit on the interior organization to John, who has found a way to use every cubic inch of available space. Seating opens up for storage. Platform beds and baskets under bunkbeds provide usable space. Shelving rules! Narrow wall storage units along the upstairs corridor are efficient. Space is at a premium, and new objects coming in means that old objects must be given away. This house teaches an important lesson. What is here has been chosen wisely. Observing this family together, one understands that happiness does not depend on the accumulation of objects.

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