

Garden Week

The Garden Club of Virginia's Historic Garden Week is an annual 8-day celebration in late April of more than 250 of Virginia's most beautiful homes, gardens and historic landmarks.

Enjoy Virginia Beach's tour, inclusive of these two homes, on Wednesday, April 22 from 10 a.m. - 5:30 p.m.

For more information, visit www.VaGardenWeek.org.



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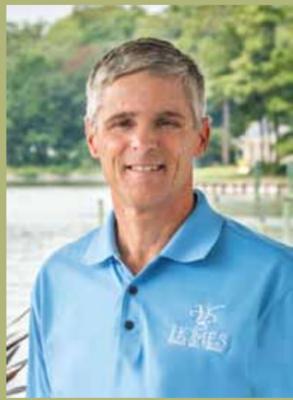


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VB HOMES *Living*

SPRING 2015





The Rowes

305 53rd Street,
Virginia Beach

When the Garden Club of Virginia's Historic Garden Week returns in late April, VB Homes' renovation experience will be well represented with two of the Virginia Beach Tour's five homes. On Wednesday, April 22, you can get a first-hand inside view of the Donovan and Rowe homes featured in this edition of VB Homes Living.



Kelly Rowe may be new to the VB Homes team, but the company's newest remodeling sales consultant is no stranger to renovation work. When she and Tom Rowe were married nearly three years ago, they found a home to make their own in the North End.

Kelly always had an affinity for older homes and within ten minutes of stepping across the threshold of 305 53rd St., Kelly knew exactly how she'd redesign it. Her skill and flair led to a fresh new home that retained elements of its 1950's character and was perfect for a family of three with five pets and a penchant for entertaining family and friends. The original 2,800 square foot, 3-bedroom was converted to a 3,300 square foot, 4-bedroom home with a new outdoor living space and inviting pool - a mandatory addition given Tom's ownership of Ocean Leisure Pools.

Kelly's first step was to refurbish the original oak floors and add plantation shutters to give the entire house a renewed presence. The glass-enclosed front porch was updated with a slate floor and piped-in gas heater to keep the Rowes toasty, a necessity during their frequent al fresco dinners.



Hand hewn tobacco barn beams from Winchester, Va., were installed in the ceilings throughout the downstairs. In the living room, the traditional fireplace was replaced with river rock and a limestone hearth, and topped with a tobacco barn beam mantle.



The galley kitchen was opened up by moving a wall and modernized with a black travertine floor, new walnut countertops made by Kelly's cousin, a large farmhouse sink and a soothing gray, black and white mosaic of birds over the stovetop.

Their new home has already served their lifestyle well. The Rowes often hold impromptu parties with neighbors and now host the semi-annual alumni party for Tom's alma mater Marshall when they play ODU.



The Donovans

8700 Ocean Front Avenue
Virginia Beach



With a permanent home in northern Virginia, Mike and Carol Donovan have long considered Virginia Beach their second home, visiting at least once a month for years. Approaching the end of their careers, they decided to purchase what was destined to become their retirement residence - an oceanfront cottage on 87th Street. Since they had used VB Homes to build their first vacation home at the North End years ago, the Donovans knew where to go for help modernizing the new house.

The 3rd and top floor was Carol's priority as it houses the kitchen and main living/dining room area. A wall around the top of the stairs was removed to visually connect and open up the kitchen to the ocean-facing living room. Immediately off the kitchen, a south-facing deck was rebuilt into a pergola, perfect for catching a little sun while enjoying a morning cup of coffee. New finishes, cabinets and an updated stone fireplace capped off the top floor renovations.

On the two floors beneath, all four bedrooms and two bathrooms were freshened with new paint and fixtures. The master bedroom's original deck was altered into a screened-in porch. A previous sitting room was turned into a den with built-in cabinetry and storage space.

The Donovans had not originally planned to alter the exterior until VB Homes President, Chris Eitel, shared renderings showing its potential. And so the whole façade was updated with new siding, a copper roof, stacked stonework matching the interior fireplace and matching mahogany front and garage doors, a favorite feature of Mike's.

Previously dark and formal, the house is now "light, open and welcoming" according to Carol. It's become a wonderful place for the Donovans to retreat with their 2 canine pals, their 23-year-old daughter, Mali, or any of their 15 nieces and nephews.



Happy spring! I hope everyone had their fill of snow this winter. My family enjoyed a few trips to warmer places just to thaw out. Spring is a perfect time to start working on your new home or renovation.

We are honored to share with you two renovation projects that have been selected this year to be part of the Virginia Beach Garden Tour on April 22, 2015. These two North End homes feature wonderful transformations of baths, kitchens, and exterior elevations.

We have been fortunate to work with our friends Mike and Carol Donovan on several projects over the years including building their new vacation home and, most recently, renovating their oceanfront home on 87th street. We are also excited to share with you our very own Kelly Rowe's home on 53rd Street. We sold this classic cedar shingled home to Kelly and her husband, Tom, in 2012. Kelly's great sense of design and creativity allowed her to completely transform her home, and she uses that same talent as our Remodeling Sales Consultant to help clients with their own renovations.

We are blessed to have such great clients that entrust us with their home ownership needs. We look forward to helping you with your next new home or remodeling project. Call us today for your complimentary consultation.

See you at the Beach!

Chris

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