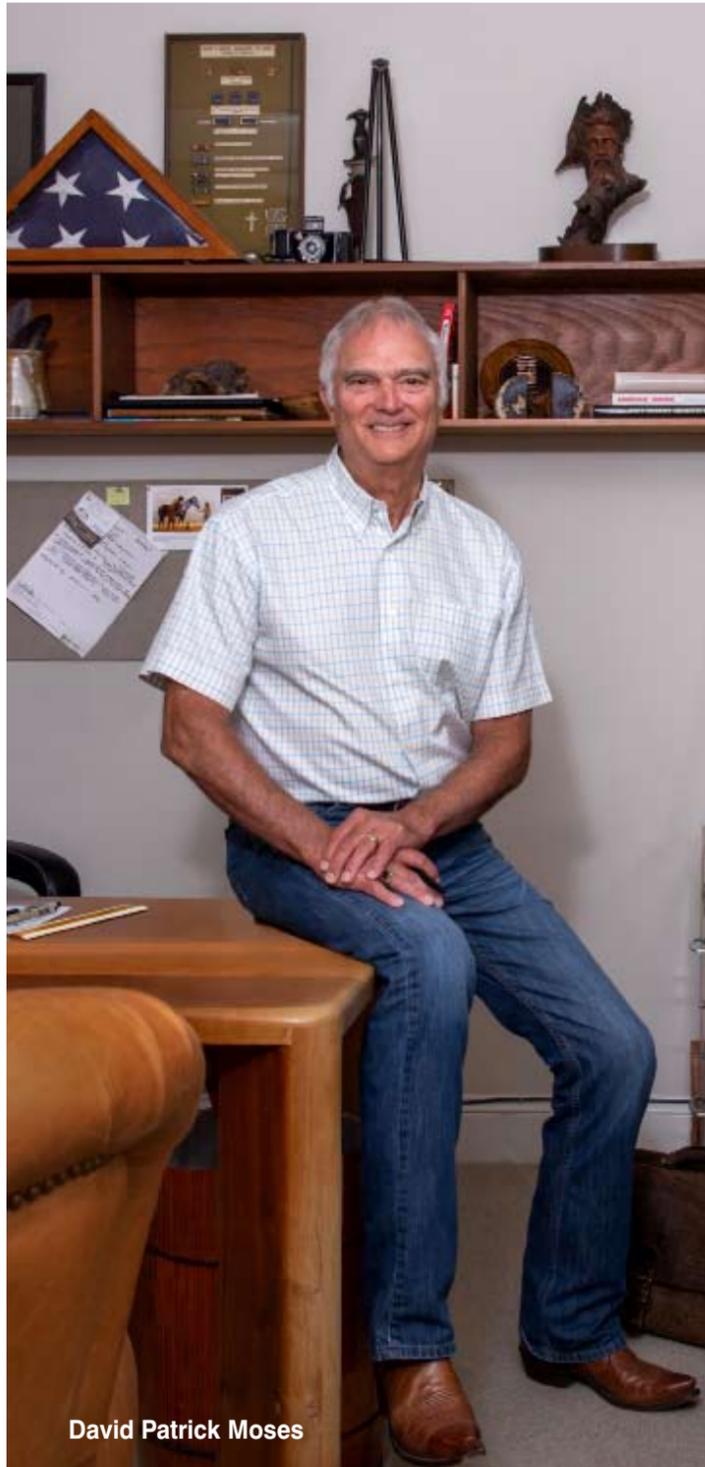


# Trusting the Process

## DAVID PATRICK MOSES



David Patrick Moses

### Architect Still Hard at Work in the High Country

By Nathan Ham

For a man whose architecture career spans almost five decades, you will never hear David Patrick Moses brag about it.

His humility is admirable for a man who has designed everything from multi-million-dollar homes in gated communities to robust commercial properties and countless new and renovated projects along the way. "I've done a lot of work in our mountain community since starting my practice here in 1981. I'm older than most of my clients now" David jokes, "Many of the realtors and contractors I worked with over the years are now retired."

Moses recently sold his former building and relocated his practice to the Grandfather Center in Banner Elk, just one-half mile from his previous location. He wants everyone to know "We are still in business and doing all we can for our clients."

#### How It All Began

Moses graduated from Carnegie-Mellon University in Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania and began his work in architecture in 1974. He then moved to Charlotte in 1977 with his wife, Maureen.

"North Carolina was really starting to grow in 1977. During the four years I was in the Queen City, I did a lot of residential projects in Linville for the firm I was working with at that time. I looked forward to my trips to the mountains I began to dream of living here.

David says at the time there were only one or two ar-

  
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Castle House

*This residence of almost 18,000Sf is sited on a large tract of gentle sloping land with a western long-range view. Built primarily of locally quarried Grandfather stone and heavy timber, the owners program dictated an up to date castle design with a primarily open floor plan with large arched windows and interior gothic stone arches dominating the interior/exterior design.*





**House on the Hill**

*View was key to this home placement on the property and the total low-profile design concept. Heavy timber, bark and natural wood siding, stone and natural light also played an important role during the design process.*



chitects who worked in the area. “We had our baby, not much money, and not a lot to lose. So, we decided to take a chance and follow our hearts to the High Country.”

“My dad and mom loaned us enough to pay our rent, buy our food and put gas in the car. We opened our business at the entrance to Mill Ridge and within a year, I was able to pay my parents back. We were blessed to be able to live and raise our family in this very special, beautiful community.

One of the other architects in the area at the time, Ray Howell, reached out to Moses to see if he would be interested in joining his firm. “While I appreciated his offer, I wanted to continue with my own practice. We really didn’t consider ourselves competitors since each of our practices focused on different types of work. Throughout the years since his call, Ray and I became friends and colleagues.”

As in the case for every small business owner trying to get a start in a new location, David had to find a way to get some name recognition and find new leads on jobs, both for homes and commercial properties.

“When I started my practice, the two groups of people that I visited were realtors and contractors. I wanted to let realtors know that I was available to help them and their potential buyers analyze property to determine which lots would best meet the requirements of their new home or business. Many realtors began to call on me for help, which also helped me to meet many of my new clients. I also wanted the general contractors to know I was available to them and their clients to provide design and construction document services for use during the construction process. These services were beneficial, of course, to the owners to have a quality set of documents. It was also beneficial to the contractors to have all the information they needed to apply for a building permit and construct the project.

As his career continued to grow in the High Country, David had the fortunate chance to make history by designing the first freestanding, two-story Wendy’s in the United States. “It’s one project I had so much fun with. People don’t realize how tough of a project that was because of its location adjacent to Boone Creek. It required caisson foundations that are not typical in this area” he said. “I was really happy and excited that the owner asked us to take the prototypical Wendy’s layout and create a look and feel that would give our Wendy’s a distinct mountain character, completely unique for a fast food restaurant in the High Country. It’s a landmark in Boone. So many people give directions based on its location.”

Some of the other well-known commercial projects that David Patrick Moses designed include the AppalCart Offices and Maintenance Facility on the Highway 105 Bypass, the ASU Chancellor’s Residence, Boone Dermatology, Hospitality House of Boone, St. Elizabeth’s Catholic Church, the renovation to Ross Automotive, Skyline Communications Sales Showroom and Retail Building renovation, Lost Province Brewing renovation, and the original High Country Bank building in the New Market Centre in Boone; the Avery County Humane Society and the Hugh Chapman Family Center in Newland; the Blowing Rock Fire Station #3 and the American Legion Building renovation in Blowing Rock. We currently have several new and renovated projects under construction including The Greene County Wellness Facility in Snow Hill, NC, Chestnut in Blowing Rock, an upscale condominium project, and the new President’s Residence at Lenoir Rhyne University in Hickory, NC, and Carolina Timberworks Manufacturing Facility in West Jefferson, NC.

### It Takes A Team

Through all these years, Moses says his practice could not have been successful without the help of many talented employees. “They have been invaluable to us. We were involved with the intern program at Appalachian State



*Office Conference Room Photo: David and Elaine discussing design details of a current project.*

for many years and had numerous young people learn about the workings of an architect’s office. Many of those students and other very talented indi-

viduals have gone on to become successful architects themselves or have become involved in the design profession and construction industry.”

Currently, Moses’ right hand and Associate is Elaine Swieter, Senior Project Coordinator and CAD Tech. She has been with the firm for over 22 years and handles many of the day to day project coordination issues and all computer drawings as well as some client meetings and on-site inspections/observations. Lisa Jones, part time office assistant/manager for over 20 years, makes sure the office runs smoothly and all the correspondence is promptly sent. Patty Robinson,



*From left to right, Patty, Lisa, Maureen, David, Elaine*



**Red Roof House**



*Gardens and a water feature will be installed under the bridges to accent and enhance the entry sequence to the front door which opens to 3697SF and to a magnificent view to the profile of Grandfather Mountain.*



White House



*This craftsmen style residence built in Hickory on open and gently sloping terrain captures the look and majesty of a former time using natural materials.*

Inc., David E. Looper and Company, General Contractors and Dianne Davant and Associates, Interior Design.

“So, the firm does have my name, but it is not just me. One person could not do this job alone. It takes a team, our team for whom I am most grateful.”

### Trusting the Process

*It All Starts with Choosing the Best Site*

The lot where a home or business is situated determines to a large extent the character and style of the project and how it will relate to the property. “My 42 years of experience understanding of the topography, climate, orientation and views in this region give me a distinct advantage over an

architect from outside the area. Accessing these mountain properties can be tricky and must be carefully assessed if the project is to be successful,” Moses says. “The entrance to the site begins to form the entry sequence to the house/building on the property.”

### The Design Process

An architect helps translate the client’s “feel” for their project into a design. David has had clients bring him their own hand drawings, photos from magazines, and even a bowl or a painting, hoping these would help him create a design to match their vision and/or feeling for their home or business. When David sits down with a client the most important thing that he can possibly do during that first meeting is to simply listen. “I listen to the clients as they tell me what they want, and I do not dictate to them what they should have. I can suggest improvements, but the decision is up to them. I have always believed that listening is my fundamental job.”

“Then together we design the project that my clients want.



AppalCart

*This almost 25,000SF free public bus transportation facility services Appalachian State University and Boone. The building boasts a water collection system and solar panel array to help collect solar energy as well as up to date construction practices and techniques using the newest most efficient materials possible.*

I share my knowledge and experience to help their vision become a reality. It is a very personal relationship.” Once the layout and orientation of the property are determined, the thought process is further developed in the design layout for the project. Construction analysis and detailing also begin to factor into all aspects of the design process. The style and appearance of the project begin to evolve. The entire design process, which begins as an idea based on the site conditions and the owner’s design parameters develop into a design concept, which will ultimately become a reality in the form of floor plans and elevations/renderings presented to our clients for review and comment. “Sometimes I begin the design and the pieces might not fall into place as I would like, so I take that drawing or idea and set it



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**Boone Dermatology**

*Heavy timbers and a unique mountain design dominate the interior and exterior of this building of almost 10,000SF. The lodge look was a programmatic requirement and when coupled with the specific needs of a dermatology office helped to create a warm welcoming and peaceful environment.*

aside and then go for a drive, or maybe go home and cut the grass; just do something different. When I come back to the project, amazingly it all comes together just like I had hoped for. I just need to take a break and think about it". The client also has new insights that are considered as the design evolves. Typically, the initial design process is completed in 2 to 3 weeks.

Once the preliminary design has the owners' approval, the firm prepares the necessary construction documents for bidding and construction. For a typical residential project, it can take anywhere from 6 to 10 weeks to complete a set of construction documents.

Fees for projects will vary. David says he typically works on a fixed fee

basis for new residential and commercial projects. The fee is based on the amount of work his clients want him to provide.

### Choosing and Working with a Contractor

Next David and his clients interview contractors for the construction process, choosing the best fit for the clients. Once the contractor is selected then construction process begins. "Another big advantage to my clients is the fact that I am local. I am available to help the contractor and observe the process as the construction progresses, being available to the owners and the contractor to visit the site on short notice as needed."

### Renovations & Additions

In addition to new designs, Moses is also well-versed in renovation and addition projects. The process of design applies to these projects as well. "I love doing additions and renovations. I like to work on older and tired homes and buildings to



create new, updated designs that will meet the current needs of their owner" said Moses. "I've done renovations to houses that I designed 25 or 30 years ago. A house I designed in 1985 was recently sold and the new owner came to me with ideas for the addition and renovation that they wanted to undertake. We gathered all their design criteria, revisited all the existing conditions, and created new design concepts to meet their current needs".

Renovation and addition project fees are billed on an hourly basis, which gives his clients the flexibility to have him do just what they believe they need for him to do throughout the course of the project.

### Choosing the Right Fit

Having someone professional de-



**Chestnut in Blowing Rock**

*Built on the site of the old Blowing Rock Hospital and Davant Care Center, these exclusive condominiums with open floor plans, elevators and outdoor living spaces overlooking Blowing Rock have unparalleled views to Grandfather Mountain and Moses Cone Manor in Price Park.*

sign your new project or renovation is an important step in the construction process. David has some advice for you if you choose to hire an architect to design your project. "If a

client wants something special that's designed specifically for them to meet their needs and wishes and work well on their site by blending into the natural surroundings, then they should hire an architect. However, they must find an architect who is a fit for them who will listen and have the understanding to design the project to meet their programmatic needs giving them the special design they are looking for."

For a look at some of the projects that David Patrick Moses has designed, visit his website at [www.dpMarch.com](http://www.dpMarch.com). If you have a project you would like to have him design, give him a call at (828) 898-6396. ♦

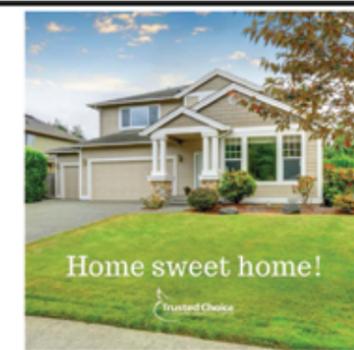


**Elk River Club Covered Patio**

*Located in a private club in Banner Elk, this new open-air facility serves as a popular gathering/dining space for their members to enjoy the open views across the rolling hills of their beautiful golf course.*



*Skybest Communications' Sales Showroom and Retail Building/Boone: From a former laundromat to a high-tech communications showroom, the owners wanted this building to be representative of their businesses moving into the advanced tech world of the 21st century. Stone, large open expanses of glass and arched canopies dominate the exterior look.*



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