



before



after

#### ROOM #3: LIVING/DINING ROOM

### Up from the Ashes

**D**avid and Adele Roth were in the process of remodeling their kitchen and bedroom in May 2008 when lightning struck and destroyed their home, located in **Quarterpath Trace** in Carrboro. What followed were 15 grueling months of planning their next step – the reconstruction of their transitional home into one more contemporary and green. The couple, who has been married for 25 years, decided that, since the fire burned nearly all of their old belongings, they might as well start anew. The one-time antique collectors chose to simplify their lives with less clutter, open spaces and clean lines.

That meant not building back a wall that once separated the living room from the dining room and adding blocks of 30-inch storefront windows with metal trim, which were found by architect **Sophie Piesse**, for views of the trees around them.

Energy-efficient insulation and bamboo floors, installed by builder **Russell Kennedy** of **Kennedy Building Company** in Hillsborough, make the house greener. And designer **Nicole Baxter** of **NBaxter Design** used earthy tones to make the space comfortable. “We didn’t want anything to be hard or stark,” Baxter says. “And that really is the trick to contemporary design.”





Instead of a formal dining set, the Roths opted for a half booth, half table under the windows. The cost of rebuilding the kitchen, living room and dining room totaled about \$120,000.

"There isn't anybody that comes into this house who doesn't say, 'This is exactly how I'd like to live,'" says David.

Adele calls the space her "sanctuary," where she often reads or does work. (She and her husband are consultants who work from home.) "Before, the house was dark," she says. "And now, you don't have to turn on lights."

It seems fitting that from the stress and trauma of losing a home, the Roths created one of peace.

"We hear from guests that, for a contemporary house, it's warm," says David. "It's inviting." **CHM**

**1** An avid art collector, David says his tastes changed after the fire as he rethought his life. The piece above the sofa was created by Chapel Hill artist Steven Silverleaf.

**2** Old Grove Cabinets custom made the bench, which was upholstered by Rainbow Upholstery in Raleigh, to go with the Skovby table.

**3** The Roths found this artisan-made table in Asheville, which they use as a buffet when they entertain.

**4** "She has a tremendous, contemporary eye," says David of designer Nicole Baxter, who outfitted the room.



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