



PHOTO BY MATT ROSE

Amy Conner-Murphy

ACM Design:

Architecture & Interiors

BACK DECK

She insists “it’s not a fancy place,” but the airy back deck appending

Amy Conner-Murphy’s South Asheville home is a splendid example of a simple “outdoor room” — a feature increasingly important to those who build in Western North Carolina and other geographically desirable places. A string of celebratory, copper-covered porch lights and a Roycroft-look lantern are a wink to Craftsman style. The floor, however, is plain decking trussed by spare brackets; architecturally, the only upscale touch is a trio of French doors that keeps the deck visually and philosophically close to the house.

Smooth indoor-outdoor flow and prime location are what makes it a much-used area for the family. Placed on the home’s north side, the deck “gets beautiful morning light, and in midday it stays cool,” says Conner-Murphy. “The late-afternoon light is also great. You can wake up slowly with a cup of tea, or wind down with a glass of wine after a hard day’s work.”

Her dual background surfaces when she describes the “natural greens and spicy oranges” accenting the deck’s furnishings. Working as both an architect and an interior designer doesn’t leave much time to enjoy the 50-foot water feature and bluebird sanctuary in the backyard. So when she does get to steal a little peace, she likes to maximize her moments.

In order to maintain her creative energy, says Conner-Murphy, “I have to refill the well, so to speak. Being on our back deck does that for me. It’s a space of rejuvenation.”