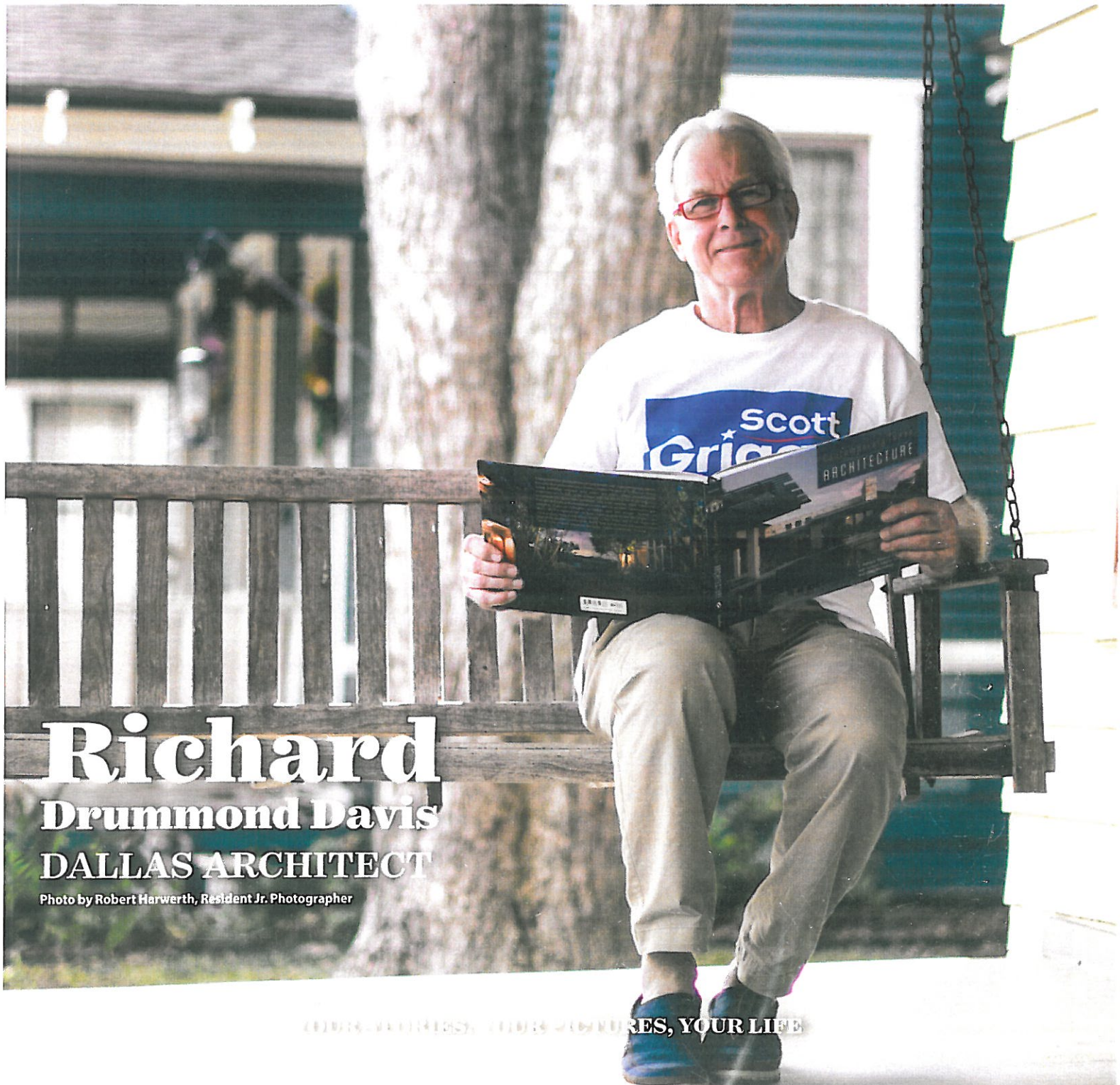


Life IN THE Cliff

A SOCIAL PUBLICATION FOR THE RESIDENTS OF NORTH OAK CLIFF
APRIL 2019



Richard
Drummond Davis
DALLAS ARCHITECT

Photo by Robert Harwerth, Resident Jr. Photographer

COMMUNITY, YOUR VOICES, YOUR LIVES, YOUR LIFE

ARCHITECT Richard Davis

COMING FULL CIRCLE
IN HIS CAREER

meet your neighbor

By Judy Porter
Photos by Robert Harwerth

When Richard first finished his Master's Degree in Architecture from Princeton University and was working as a young architect, he was designing modern homes. "But nobody wanted them then," he says, so he designed traditional homes.

"We did Georgian houses for several years, then French houses, then English houses and finally more Mediterranean houses than anything. I think the unadorned white walls of that style led to more contemporary design", Davis speculates. "Also, millennials and Gen X don't want any of their parents' antiques or china, so we've finally come back to designing modern architecture and actually getting it built."

Richard is happy about it because he says, "You can be experimental and creative and push the envelope out with modern architecture."

Born in Dallas, he attended Preston Hollow Elementary and Hillcrest High, where he played football, basketball, and baseball before heading to UT—where he played the same sports in intramurals. Next, he was off to Princeton for a professional degree in Architecture. A UT Longhorn fan, Richard enjoys watching the games with his older son, Paul, who was a varsity cheerleader at UT.

After receiving his training at Princeton University under renowned post-modernist Michael Graves, he

worked in New York for the acclaimed architectural firm of Hardy Holzman Pfeiffer, but soon moved back to Dallas to establish his own firm. He's now lived in the Winnetka Heights Historic neighborhood for 14 years in a two-story, prairie-style home he didn't design but has updated.

A community volunteer, he served on the Planning Commission for four years as Delia Jasso's appointee and is backing Scott Griggs in his Mayoral Campaign. He also works with North Dallas Young Life at Thomas Jefferson High.

He's proud of his two grown sons: Paul, 37, a lawyer in McKinney, and younger son Mark, 34, on the counseling staff at Oregon State University in Corvallis, Oregon.

Richard says he enjoys the "small, home-town feel" of Oak Cliff, and attending performances at The Kessler. He has a special connection to the theater: he helped with the redesign and restoration when it was turned into a music venue.

His efforts have not gone unnoticed, as local and national personalities and music experts have noted about The Kessler: "Since its rebirth five years ago, there's been no better place to catch a marquee act's performance in the state," raved Jaime-Paul Falcon of the Dallas Observer. And, "If you're going to see any canonized yet unconventional musician where every note counts, you can do no better than the Kessler's listening room," opined Christopher Mosley writing in D Magazine. Danny Balis, a Dallas Radio Personality and renowned Musician also gushed, "The Kessler is the best small venue in the state!"

Enjoying music at the Kessler, shopping at Indigo, eating breakfast at Norma's or Jordan's and dining at Nova in the evening are Richard's favorite things to do. He also enjoys the many local, small town-style events offered in Oak Cliff. While Richard doesn't boast about his accomplishments, he is currently working on something really big, a 72,000 square foot house in Springfield, the eighth largest home in America.

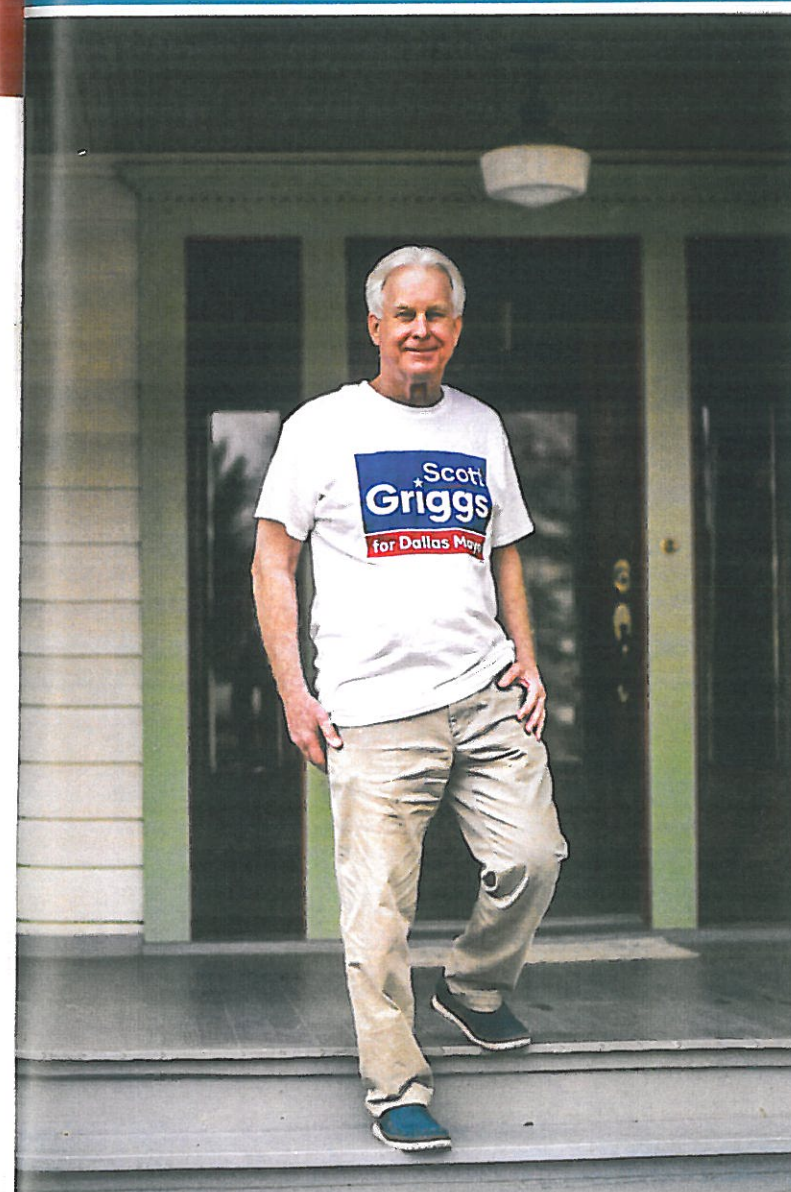
RICHARD HAS COLLECTED ART SINCE HE WAS A COLLEGE STUDENT AT UT. HIS FIRST PURCHASE WAS OF A PAINTING BY TEXAS ARTIST MICHAEL FRARY. HIS COLLECTION INCLUDES WORKS BY JOHN POMARA (SHOWN TO THE LEFT), CHARLES UMLAUF JOHN CLARK, DAVID MCCULLOUGH, CHRIS TURNER, ISA CATTO, AND ANDREA GUAY.

He's been working on it for seven years now, and it's been under construction for five, with two more years to go. It includes an indoor pool, a two-lane bowling alley, fitness center, movie theater, car display garage, a gun range, a giant game room with a wall which includes a huge grid of TV screens, seven wet bars and seven bedrooms suites. The Master bedroom is 3,600 square feet. "Bigger than my whole house!" he admits with a laugh.

Here in North Oak Cliff, he designed a screen porch on the back of John and Allie Mitchener's house in Winnetka Heights and says the contractor who built it uses a photo of it in his magazine ads. Richard's favorite project is always the one on which he is currently working. At present, it is a modern house in east Dallas located on a pond. The property was ignored and vacant for years. "With the new modern house overlooking the pond," Richard says, "it will be spectacular."

So now that his career has come full circle, where does he hope to be in ten years? "Retired!" Or, he adds, "A professional golfer." He has a 10 handicap but says he needs to work on his short game. You might see him doing just that on the links at Northwood Club or at Dallas National Golf Club in Oak Cliff.

Richard Davis is a world class architect with a love for the Longhorns, volunteering with teenagers, creating beautiful homes, and creating a spectacular life.



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