

# KeepCraftAlive

CELEBRATING PASSION FOR BUILDING

Every year, Michael Chandler gives a talk on green building at a local music festival near where he calls home in North Carolina. This year, he plans to talk about applying Pretty Good House standards to the weather and climate conditions particular to that region. This education opportunity seems like a far cry from more high-profile opportunities he's had—such as speaking for the NAHB University of Housing, influencing the ICC hearings, or being invited to advise the U.S. Dept. of Housing and Urban Development on creating a building resiliency standard. But in talking with Michael, you get the impression that teaching at a local music festival is just as rewarding. In his own words: "I like being proud of what I do. I've worked jobs that prioritize expediency over quality, and it's just not as much fun as taking the time to really do it well."

Michael started Chandler Design-Build in 1987, which he now co-runs with his wife, Beth—herself an accomplished designer—in addition to working with another design-build company, BuildSense. Getting to this point was a journey with a lot of unpredictable turns, including sketching designs while working at a dairy farm over the summer, teaching dance classes at night while working for a design-build firm, and turning an old railroad car into an office.

During his career, Michael started getting involved in green building and was able to travel with the NAHB University of Housing, holding classes primarily for owners of construction companies. Recognizing the amount of time and money people were giving up for this training, Michael sought to make it as enjoyable as possible. "The key to this audience was to keep them laughing" Michael says. "If I could do that much, they were great students who asked really great questions."

Currently, Chandler lives with Beth in the same type of house that they have designed for others, which he describes as a "permanent summer camp," in which the inside is connected to the outside with multiple window walls. It's the house they built and got married in over two decades ago, and still live in today.

—Lana Melonakos-Harrison, digital editor

**"It was really just kind of fun to go out and spread the gospel of green building."**

**MICHAEL CHANDLER**  
DESIGNER & BUILDER  
ORANGE COUNTY, N.C.



Keep Craft Alive is our campaign celebrating those who have chosen to passionately pursue a career in design, building, and remodeling. Find out more and show your support by visiting [KeepCraftAlive.org](http://KeepCraftAlive.org), and use #KeepCraftAlive to share your passion for the cause.