

# LAUREL



The Heart of the Highlands-Cashiers Plateau for 20 Years

## Family Foundation

PLATT Celebrates  
40 Years in Business

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*Paintings Keep  
The Love Alive*  
Cover Artist, Carol Tamplin

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C. Tamplin



Father and son Al and Parker Platt remain at the heart of the dynamic PLATT. To learn more about its services, visit [platt.us](http://platt.us) or call (828) 884-2393.

**P**LATT combines father and son talents – and more. The company began after Al Platt studied literature at the University of North Carolina Chapel Hill, taught school for a few years, and then returned to study architecture at North Carolina State University, where he obtained a master’s degree and afterwards founded an architectural firm in 1982.

His son, Parker Platt, also attended N.C. State and secured a degree in architecture; he even sat under some of his father’s same professors. After graduating in 1994, Parker joined his

father in what is now a four-decades-old business that started off at a desk in Al’s bedroom.

Currently, with a team of nearly 50, the firm has expanded from architecture into construction, into real estate and land conservation, and most recently into interior design.

Based in Brevard, PLATT is a full-service firm with projects throughout the Southern Appalachian Highlands and beyond. Two years ago, Parker took over the business from Al and became principal owner and president. However, Parker

emphasizes that his father, currently running for North Carolina House in the 119 District, made up of Jackson, Swain, and Transylvania Counties, regularly maintains a strong and active advisory role with the company.

PLATT specializes in custom homes and unique commercial structures and has successfully completed over 500 projects nationwide. Many of the projects have drawn recognition due to their unique attention to sensitive planning, the use of indigenous materials, and the ability to capitalize on surrounding views, abundant daylight, and sustainable practices.

“We relate our projects to their settings in an attempt to complement landforms, foster belonging, and soften the boundaries between indoors and out,” noted Parker.

Al was drawn to the mountains by his late wife’s father, who was instrumental in the development of Sapphire Valley. When he finished college, he secured a job in Brevard and that is where the family settled and where Parker grew up.

“I’m just really fortunate to be able to continue what Dad started,” said Parker. “He’s a very talented designer, has been a great mentor, and has patiently and quietly helped many, many families connect in a meaningful way to this beautiful place that we’re lucky to call home.”

*by Deena Bouknight*