

Retirement ranches

text Bromley Davenport

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Most older people looking at assisted-living options are faced with generic apartment complexes—hallways leading to elevators leading to a dining/activity room. Wouldn't it be nice if they could continue to live in a neighborhood of single-family homes, perhaps in a one-level ranch house?

That was the dream of David and Terri Green, and their son, Jeff, an architectural and interior designer. In the suburbs of Dallas-Fort Worth, the Greens have transformed three ranch houses into contemporary residential care homes with six to nine occupants apiece.

"Licensed assisted-living facilities have 24/7 credentialed caregivers, but in the setting of an existing home in an existing neighborhood," explains Jeff Green. "We have adapted the houses to the specific needs of our elderly residents and, while I have modernized each one, I have also tried to maintain the original architectural spirit of the home. Using period furnishings, lighting and accessories not only reinforces the style, but also provides a means of connecting our residents to memories of their younger days. In our homes, the midcentury modern architecture and interiors serve not only an aesthetic, but in a sense, a therapeutic purpose as well."

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