

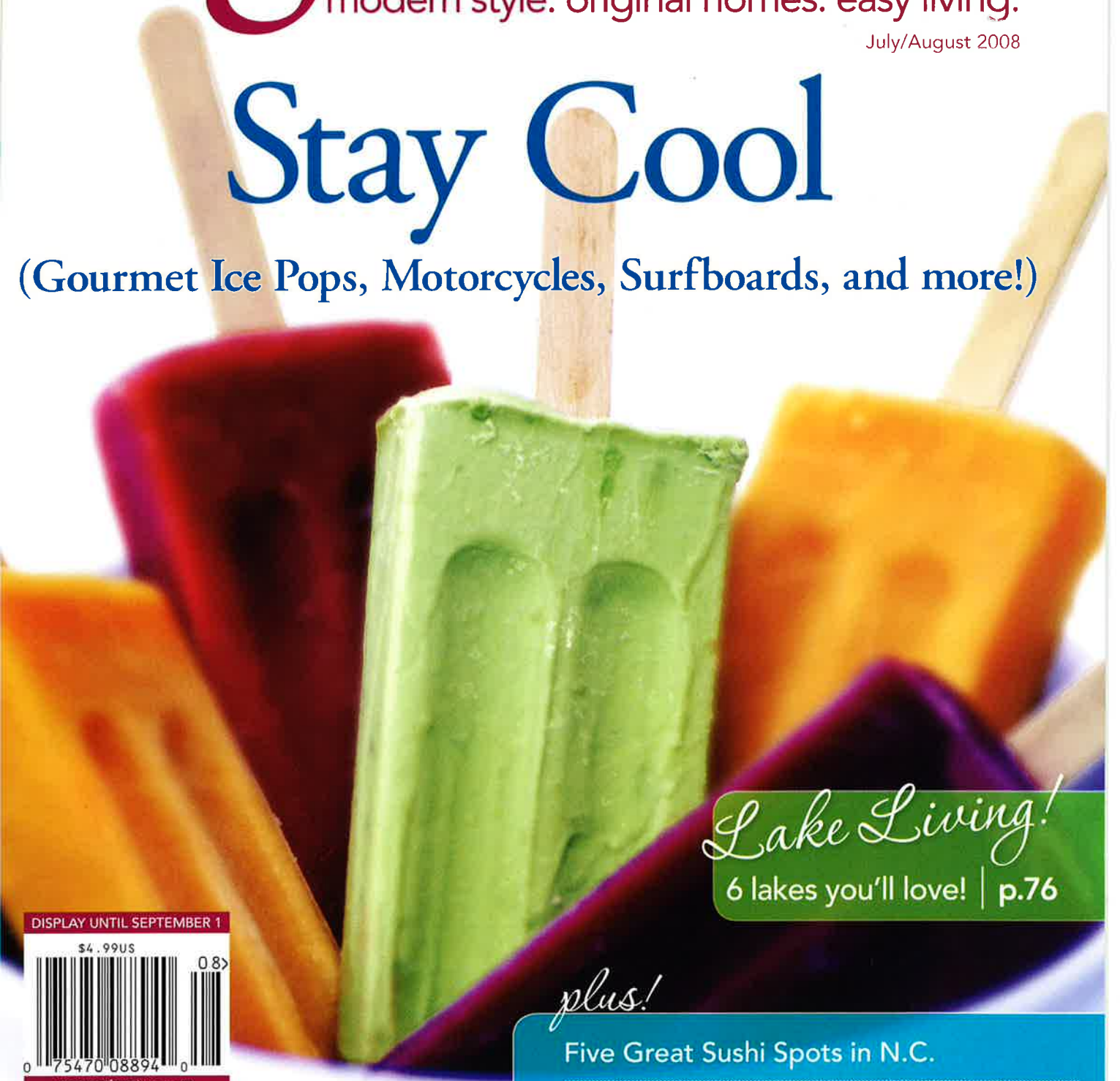
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Penthouse Living in Charlotte



Above: The view from Kevin and Leslie Archer's penthouse stretches for miles, showcasing horizon sunsets over the foothills of western North Carolina.

"WE BOUGHT THE VIEW"

The Archers' penthouse faces west. On a clear day, the foothills of the western North Carolina mountains rise above the Charlotte skyline. "We bought the view," says Leslie, pointing out Bank of America Stadium, Gateway Village, and Johnson & Wales University, as well as the site of the future minor-league baseball stadium.

The entire length of the penthouse features a wall of floor-to-ceiling windows. Automated drapes in the kitchen at one end of the condo and in the den at the other end let in a lot of light in the morning, but allow the harsh afternoon sun to be shut out later in the day.

Working with Charlotte interior designer Aida Saul, who owns Luxe Home Couture furniture boutique, the Archers created a living space that's "energetic, full of color, and fun," says Saul. When they aren't hanging out in the kitchen ("Kevin and I like to cook," says Leslie, "but with all the restaurants around, I'm finding I have to make myself stay in,"), the den is where the Archers and their kids relax. Leather wall tiles and silk floor-to-ceiling drapes set the tone for the room (Kevin's favorite) that includes a built-in media center, which also works as a partition for the home office tucked behind it.

While the penthouse speaks to style and sophistication, Leslie is quick to emphasize it's truly a well lived-in home. "It isn't so much of a showplace," she says. Whether relaxing

in the den and fighting their teenagers for the remote for the 72-inch plasma television, or grilling dinner and entertaining friends on the large balcony, the Archers admit, however, that the time they spend at home isn't what it used to be. "I never get in my car on the weekends except to go to Temple," says Kevin. "There's so much entertainment all within walking distance." □

an insider's tour



Have you ever wondered what the inside of some of Uptown Charlotte's high-rise condos looks like? A website and blog, maintained by Realtor Shane McDevitt, features

updated "fly-throughs" and virtual tours of Charlotte's most desirable penthouses and lofts. McDevitt lives in Uptown Charlotte himself and has an insider's advantage into the goings-on of the city. □



For a closer look at some of Charlotte's toniest addresses and luxury condos, log on to www.centercityliving.blogspot.com