

Cati – a former newspaper reporter and occasional contributor to the Washington Post real estate blog – has lived in DC for more than 20 years. Together with her family - husband Chuck Lane who is a reporter for the Washington Post, and their three children - she currently lives in Chevy Chase. Her chosen second career as a real estate agent has allowed her to see many more homes than your average enthusiast in the past 13 years. It's not a secret that some of her favorite former clients are now kit house owners, and some have even become close friends.

Marcie, Cati's trusty side kick and business partner, is marginally versed in the kit house world, but



an avid fan, nonetheless. She lives in Bethesda along with her husband, Marc, a journalist and teacher, her two teenage sons and dog Willie. She hails from Sears country (outside of Chicago), with a long stop in San Francisco, though has called DC/MD her home for almost 25 years.



Historic Kit Houses Of Cleveland Park

Tuesday, June 23rd, 7:30 pm

Cleveland Park Congregational Church
3400 Lowell St., NW

Visit our blogs to read about featured kit houses in the DC area.

DCHouseSmarts.com DCHouseCat.com

To see our photos of example kit houses, visit:

[Flickr.com/DCHouseCat](https://www.flickr.com/photos/DCHouseCat/)

catarinabanner

202.487.7177

CBanner@EversCo.com

ILoveRockCreek.com

marciesandalow

301.758.4894

MarcieSandalow@gmail.com

BCCDCrealestate.com

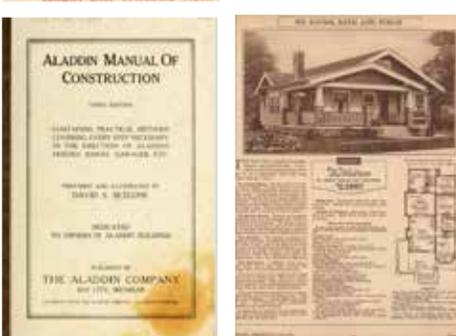
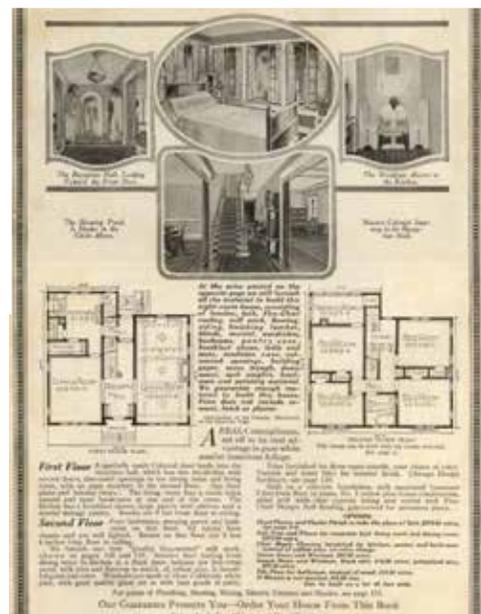
EVERS & Co.

REAL ESTATE INC.

est. 1985

4400 Jenifer Street, NW, Washington, DC 20015 • 202.364.1700





My fascination with historic kit houses started 20 years ago. In 1995, while shopping for my first DC home, I walked into an open house where the realtor had put out a copy of the now legendary, if outdated, "Houses By Mail," a federally funded compilation of pictures and catalog pages of Sears mail-order homes. The house was indeed a Sears house, but the case that owner and agent were aware of that fact, was rare. Information, it turned out, was even harder to come by in the early days of the internet and pre-digital databases. I got my own copy of "Houses By Mail" soon thereafter, but got stuck right there.

A few years later, I started a second career in real estate—an ideal position and an even better excuse to cultivate my love of house history. But it wasn't until I started blogging in 2008 and then teamed up with Marcie that kit houses gradually became a real hobby. We have lectured and written about the topic for the past 5 years.

Today, we belong to a national group of kit house historians and enthusiasts who have started creating and using amazing resources that were not available when "Houses By Mail" was first published in 1986. **Online archives and local registers, sales records and digitalized deeds, scanned pictures and catalogs** opened up new insights into this chapter of American history.

As we hope to publish a **book on the DC area kit homes** in the near future, we are lucky enough to have access to homes on the market as they provide a great source for our targeted research. More than one surprised agent has found us lurking in the basement (and not even the finished part) with our flashlights, looking for stamps or identifying markings. Quite often they are unaware that the house is a part of kit house history! We've got a list of clients interested in living in kit homes, and we frequently get emails and calls from people who believe they live in a kit house. We try our best to "authenticate" as many homes as we can. But this doesn't happen too often—maybe one out of five homes we inspect turn out to be the real deal. And while "HBM" made Sears houses famous, other companies such as Lewis and Aladdin actually sold more kit houses and are just as well-represented in our area.

Since only one of the major six kit house manufacturers, Aladdin Homes of Bay City, MI, retained their early 20th century sales records and donated them to research, estimates on the actual numbers of kit houses sold between 1908 and 1940 vary widely. Even less known is how many have survived to this day. Without awareness, they will gradually disappear.

The lecture will cover **many common myths on kit houses** as well as resources and the basics of authentication. Please don't hesitate to contact us if you'd like some pointers or if you think you live in a kit house! We always have the flash light ready.