

Boston home

68
AWARD
WINNERS
INSIDE

BEST OF BOSTON HOME

*The region's top architects, designers,
showrooms, and more*

A Back Bay home
by Elms Interior
Design and JW
Construction, both
2019 winners.
See page 104.

MODERN LIVING
IN A HISTORICAL HOME

A NORTH END CONDO
WITH HARBOR VIEWS

THE FUTURE
OF CITY HOUSING

Best of Boston Home 2019

When it comes to the wondrous world of home design, few opportunities excite us more than the prospect of building from the ground up. But where to begin? Luckily, we've done that research for you: Packed with 68 of our favorite local designers, builders, shops, and more, here's everything (and everyone) you need to know to build—or remodel—the home you've always wanted.

PHOTOGRAPHS BY JOE ST. PIERRE
STYLING BY KAYLEI MCGAW/
ANCHOR ARTISTS



DESIGN



Architects & Designers

Sustainable-design champions, masters of classic New England style, and the brains behind the area's most covetable contemporary abodes.

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COASTAL ARCHITECT

Hutker Architects

Cape Cod may be a vacationer's haven, but even life in paradise presents its challenges: eroding soil, corrosive salt spray, nosy neighbors. Enter Hutker Architects, the Falmouth- and Vineyard-based firm that specializes not only in jaw-dropping homes but also in deft solutions to the perils of coastal living—in one case creating a light-filled West Tisbury abode with an ingenious wheel-and-spoke design that yields both stunning water views and plenty of privacy. 533 Palmer Ave., Falmouth, 508-540-0048, hutkerarchitects.com.

CONTEMPORARY ARCHITECT

Maryann Thompson Architects

Many of the most successful contemporary designs blur the lines between indoors and out. Maryann Thompson's projects achieve that every time, creating what she calls "unfolding spatial sequences." This intentional ambiguity pervades her sleek coastal retreats, suburban creations, and city residences: Even in her own home in Somerville, she dreamed up an unapologetically modern addition by removing walls that blocked southern light exposure and opening the space up to the outdoors. 741 Mt. Auburn St., Watertown, 617-744-5187, maryannthompson.com.

CONTEMPORARY INTERIOR DESIGNER

Wolf in Sheep Design

Perhaps you've admired Wolf in Sheep Design's work without

even realizing it: Founder Alina Wolhardt's striking schemes are cropping up all over town, from the playful tile tangrams and custom succulent arrangements festooning Flour's caf  s to the custom live-edge-walnut-and-metal counter at buzzy new wine bar Nath  lie. Wolhardt translates her vision to residential interiors by seamlessly blending the fun and the functional. *59 Wareham St., Boston, 617-482-0517, wolfinsheepdesign.com.*

KITCHEN DESIGNER

Metropolitan Cabinets & Countertops

When you trust Metropolitan to design your kitchen, you won't just get a custom layout with cabinetry crafted in the firm's Norwood workshop—you'll see your space transformed with personalized accent pieces and cutting-edge fixtures (think: designer Bridget O'Neil's PRISM Award-winning quartz sink complete with a pop-up outlet). This family business excels at everything and the kitchen sink. *505 University Ave., Norwood, 781-949-8900; 450 Arsenal St., Watertown, 617-926-8900; and other locations; metcabinet.com.*

LANDSCAPE ARCHITECT

SiteCreative

The modern green spaces envisioned by SiteCreative's Stephanie Hubbard speak volumes about the landscape architect's mastery of material selection and scale. And she's not limited by setting, either: Her design prowess, cultivated over the past two decades, shows whether she's creating an intimate patio anchored by ceramic pavers, Jacquemontii birches, and soft lighting on Beacon Hill or a zoned yard in the 'burbs with

separate areas for lounging and dining. *535 Albany St., Boston, 617-390-5663, site-creative.com.*

SUSTAINABLE ARCHITECT

Jill Neubauer Architects

Some designers use "sustainable" as a keyword; others use it as a guiding light. A founding member of the Cape & Islands Green initiative, architect Jill Neubauer has a commitment to green building that runs deep, opting for low-footprint materials (FSC-certified lumber, no-VOC paint) and incorporating such alternative energy systems as solar electricity and even residential wind turbines. With highlights including a modern Truro summer home boasting geothermal heating and cooling, Neubauer's work proves that sustainable design can be far more than merely virtuous—it can be a thing of beauty. *15 Depot Ave., Falmouth, 508-548-0909, jnarchitects.com.*

TRADITIONAL ARCHITECT

Catalano Architects

Leave it to Catalano Architects to perfect the art of timeless design. Eschewing the culture of sameness that seems to pervade American architecture (looking at you, McMansions), principal Thomas Catalano expertly executes traditional beauty in both his classic renovations and newly built single-family homes. Take, for example, a manor in Weston, where Catalano's use of materials—including Wissahickon schist, Vermont slate, copper, and sustainably harvested wood—results in a stunning display that will dazzle visitors for years to come. *115 Broad St., Boston, 617-338-7447, catalanoarchitects.com.*

TRADITIONAL INTERIOR DESIGNER

Daher Interior Design

Say what you will about the Boston Brahmins, they sure knew how to build things meant to last—whether endowing the BSO or erecting the brownstones of Beacon Hill. Perhaps channeling the spirit of the Cabots and the Lowells, Paula Daher taps into a timeless aesthetic: Though she's no stranger to modern sensibilities, her judiciously chosen antique furnishings and artfully hung chandeliers prove that sometimes the best way to take a space to grand new heights is to look to the past. *224 Clarendon St., Boston, 617-236-0355, daherinteriordesign.com.*

TRANSITIONAL ARCHITECT

Catherine Truman Architects

Balancing her understanding of the necessities of modern living with a deep appreciation for historical details and environments, Catherine Truman masterminds artful spaces that combine the best traits of contemporary and classic design. To wit: the gut-renovated Back Bay home where glass handrails, a double-height atrium, and a hidden climbing room stun within the envelope of a 19th-century townhouse. *29 Warren St., Cambridge, 857-285-2500, truman-architects.com.*

TRANSITIONAL INTERIOR DESIGNER

Elms Interior Design

There's so much more to interior design than simply filling a space with beautiful things. Thankfully, Dee Elms adopts a more holistic



LEFT
SITECREATIVE
LANDSCAPE
ARCHITECT

RIGHT
CATHERINE TRUMAN
ARCHITECTS
TRANSITIONAL
ARCHITECT

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approach, carefully considering each design element to craft cohesive homes that marry old-school glamour with contemporary functionality. Take, for example, the Boston abode that the designer—along with fellow Best of Boston Home honoree JW Construction—transformed with custom furnishings, graphic wallcoverings, new ceiling trim work, and (most important) a unifying gray palette. *535 Albany St., Boston, 617-451-1555, elmsid.com.*

URBAN ARCHITECT

Butz + Klug Architecture

Cofounders Pamela Butz and Jeffrey Klug hold beauty and utility in equally high regard, using natural materials to foster a connection to a home's surroundings. Their outlook is especially valuable in creating one-of-a-kind city living spaces. Who else could so masterfully carve a strikingly modern home—complete with sandblasted glass floors in its courtyard—out of a historical Beacon Hill townhouse? *157 W. Newton St., Boston, 617-536-7399, bkarch.com.*

VERNACULAR ARCHITECT

Patrick Ahearn Architect

Patrick Ahearn's work feels so distinctly New England—and that's exactly what we love about it. From new builds that play well with their historical neighbors to lovingly renovated farmhouses, Greek Revivals, and seaside cottages, the team's inspired projects—replete with antique flooring, classic beadboard paneling, and majestic double-height great rooms—honor the region and design traditions we're proud to call our own. *160 Commonwealth Ave., Boston, 617-266-1710, patrickahearn.com.*