

Custom Home

The Art and Craft of Custom Home Building / May/June 2012

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2012 Custom Home Design Awards

HK Associates' Barrio Historico House in Tucson, Ariz.,
wins the 2012 Custom Home of the Year award

hanley wood

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Grand Award

Custom Home / More Than 5,000 Square Feet
Hillside Farmhouse, Boston



"This house is both serious and fun," a judge noted appreciatively. "It's the country house style done right, playful without being careless." For clients described as both sophisticated and informal, architect John B. Tittmann designed a country house that flirts with farmhouse typology. The light-colored entryway mixes classical portico with farmhouse porch, and the front court suggests a working dooryard. "The garage is analogous to a barn in the way it connects to the mudroom," Tittmann says. "It's easy to live there with children and messy things."

To harness the sun in this cold climate, living and sleeping areas in the room-width house are lined up like a train along the rear southern exposure. That bumped the stairwell to the front of the house, inspiring a tower that marks the entryway. The staircase spirals around a tall lantern column that's visible through a band of clerestory windows as you arrive. "The wife's family spends summers on the Maine coast, so the tower seems like a lighthouse," Tittmann says. Above, a tentlike ceiling provides a light and airy canopy.

This hybrid house combines elements of a workmanlike farmhouse with the classical imagery prevalent in New England architecture. "It's trying to reflect those aspects of the owners' character," Tittmann says. "We always think of our houses as portraits of our clients."—C.W.

Entrant/Architect: Albert, Righter & Tittmann Architects, Boston; Builder: Robert Lawrence Builders, Westwood, Mass.; Landscape designer: Richard Burck Associates, Somerville, Mass.; Interior designer: Su Casa Designs, Newton, Mass.; Living space: 6,127 square feet; Site: Withheld; Construction cost: Withheld; Photographers: Robert Benson Photography (top and far left) and Hooper Tetrault Studios (left). / Visit www.customhomeonline.com for additional images and products.

A stair tower and portico announce the entrance. The home's light-colored entryway combines classical portico with farmhouse porch, and the arrival court, enclosed by the garage wing, suggests a working dooryard. Living areas in the room-width house align along the rear southern exposure.

