

Boston

home

BEST OF BOSTON HOME

The region's top architects, designers, builders, and showrooms

2016

CELEBRATING
OUR
50th
ISSUE

**CONTEMPORARY
CHARM**
IN THE SOUTH END

ECLECTIC
AND CHIC ON
BEACON HILL

BOSTONMAGAZINE.COM \$4.99
WINTER 2016 (DISPLAY UNTIL 02/22/16)



The Best of Boston Home

WINTER 2016

Whether you're planning your next renovation or building your house from scratch, you'll need a team you can depend on: We found the professionals who not only deliver top-quality service, but who also love what they do.

90

**ARCHITECTS
and
DESIGNERS**

100

**BUILDERS
and
CRAFTSPEOPLE**

110

**SHOPS
and
SHOWROOMS**



Architects & Designers

Every home is unique. Thankfully, the region's arbiters of taste run the gamut, from staunch traditionalists to die-hard modernists. Here, 16 remarkably creative firms to consider for your next project.

COASTAL ARCHITECT

Patrick Ahearn Architect

Patrick Ahearn's decades-spanning work has made him the go-to guy for those seeking a Camelot-style coastal retreat. And this year, he scored the buzzy assignment of creating HGTV's annual Dream Home on Martha's Vineyard. Harnessing time-honored Yankee craftsmanship (rough-hewn wooden beams, classic shutters), he unified a three-building estate. *160 Commonwealth Ave., Ste. L3, Boston, 617-266-1710, patrickahearn.com.*

CONTEMPORARY ARCHITECT

Anmahian Winton Architects

Anmahian Winton's strikingly modern works punctuate their

environments like exclamation points, from a zinc-paneled jewel box of a home dropped among the Cambridge Colonials to a Japanese teahouse-inspired retreat with angular copper roofs and wide glass windows set in the Maine woods. The firm's crown jewel, however, is Community Rowing's Harry Parker Boathouse, where louvered panels evoke waves—and offer ventilation for shell storage. *650 Cambridge St., Cambridge, 617-577-7400, aw-arch.com.*



CONTEMPORARY INTERIOR DESIGNER

Koo de Kir Architectural Interiors

Koo de Kir design principal (and MassArt grad) Kristine Irving draws inspiration from the unlikeliest of sources: early Renaissance paintings, a pint of beer, classic film. Less interested in trends, she brings an artist's



KRISTINE IRVING,
KOO DE KIR
ARCHITECTURAL INTERIORS
SOUTH END
For more, see page 116.

KITCHEN ARCHITECT **LDa Architecture & Interiors**

Kitchens are notoriously difficult to personalize (for proof, look no further than the cookie-cutter Formica countertops and wood-lipped cabinets of our parents' generation). LDa, however, brings an architect's eye to the problem. The same Cambridge firm responsible for an open-concept indoor/outdoor Vineyard kitchen swathed in sail-white millwork also expanded a 1920s Newton Tudor to accommodate a large prep-and-eating area and plenty of built-ins. Versatility, it seems, is the recipe for success. *222 Third St., Cambridge, 617-621-1455, lda-architects.com.*

LANDSCAPE ARCHITECT **Matthew Cunningham Landscape Design**

Growing up in coastal Maine, Matthew Cunningham learned that you can't tame New England's wilds; you can only adapt to them. Now his Stoneham landscape firm is bringing that philosophy to urban and suburban environments, delicately balancing the manmade with the natural: A Comm. Ave. rooftop garden overflows with vibrant perennials, grasses, and herbs, while a Newton yard juxtaposes reclaimed-stone retaining walls with modern stainless steel deck railings. *411 Main St., Stoneham, 617-905-2246, matthew-cunningham.com.*



NEW ENGLAND VERNACULAR ARCHITECT **Siemasko + Verbridge**

Siemasko + Verbridge understands the timeless New England aesthetic, refined to honor and reinvigorate our region's natural blessings. Imagine an 11-story Manchester lighthouse transformed into a nautically inspired, fully livable "vertical land yacht"; and an 1800s-inspired farmhouse set on a rambling 30-acre pasture in the North Shore, its great room constructed of 300-year-old barn wood. *126 Dodge St., Beverly, 978-927-3745, svdesign.com.*

TRADITIONAL ARCHITECT **Albert, Righter & Tittmann Architects**

The curious case of a three-generation Yale legacy—alum turned professor James Righter taught Jacob Albert, who later taught John Tittmann—resulted in this firm, which excels in classicism. But the trio can also reframe traditional

styles through a creative lens: Take the Lantern House, a Connecticut farmhouse named for the shape of its glazed entrance porch; or Rocksyde, a Cape Ann home inspired by Kraggsyde—the shingle-style property that once occupied a neighboring plot—but embellished with a staircase constructed of black and white boxes. *262 Washington St., Boston, 617-451-5740, alriti.com.*

TRADITIONAL INTERIOR DESIGNER **Kristin Paton Interiors**

Kristin Paton favors timeless over trendy and doesn't like "things that look too new." Translation: She relishes the hunt for fine antiques and exotic accessories (intricate wood pagodas, old maps, starfish, rare prints in gilded frames). Her own Cambridge home, featured in the fall 2015 issue of *Boston Home*, showcases dozens of brilliant design ideas, including a mirrored breakfast nook that feels like a Parisian café and a dining room papered in the most delightful custom chinoiserie pattern. *152 Mount Auburn St., Cambridge, 617-491-9000, kristinpatoninteriors.com.*

