

BEST

OF

BOSTON

HOME

2020

*As Bostonians, we're surrounded by some of the country's finest designers, builders, and makers. Here, we spotlight 35 of them, celebrating all the ways they make our homes—and lives—more beautiful.*

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PHOTOGRAPHS BY JOE ST. PIERRE

# THE BUILDERS

## CUSTOM HOME DESIGN/ BUILD. BOSTON

### **Hampden Design+Construction**

A house is simply not a home unless Hampden Design+Construction had something to do with it. Led by principal David Cohen, the Newton-based firm concentrates almost exclusively on residential projects, designing and building renovations, additions, and fully custom homes around Greater Boston. At the heart of Hampden's portfolio? A mastery of materials, from sun-filled rooms with large swaths of windows to houses where rich woods steal the show both inside and out. Designing a custom home is a feat the company doesn't take on lightly, either, tackling just one or two such projects a year with laser-like focus—making each of their homes a true rare gem. 617-969-1112, [hampdendesign.com](http://hampdendesign.com).

## CUSTOM HOME/DESIGN BUILD. NORTH

### **Carpenter & MacNeille**

Starting from scratch is what Carpenter & MacNeille does best. In fact, that's why the Essex-based firm frequently appears in these pages: It produces

gorgeous, wholly original designs. Founded in the late '90s by architect Robert MacNeille and the late builder Terry Carpenter, the firm has since established itself as a regional go-to for its craftsmanship. You need only to flip back to the Gloucester home featured in our Fall 2019 issue to appreciate it; dreamed up by senior architect Michael Gray, the newly built abode—complete with a striking glass curtain wall, plus custom furnishings constructed in Carpenter & MacNeille's woodworking shop—seamlessly integrates with its waterfront surroundings. Does that qualify the team for yet another Best Of nod? We're arguing "yes." 106 Western Ave., Essex, 978-768-7900, [carpentermacneille.com](http://carpentermacneille.com).

## CUSTOM HOME DESIGN/ BUILD. SOUTH

### **Polhemus Savery DaSilva Architects Builders**

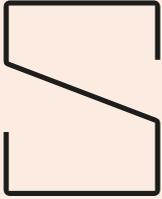
Building from the ground up can be intimidating: Why agonize over blueprints, floor plans, and material selections when you can leave all that to Polhemus Savery DaSilva? The East Harwich-based firm's designers, builders, and craftspeople have had their hands in harborside retreats, rustic farmhouses, beach escapes, and

luxé local resorts, which means they've pretty much seen—and done—it all. Consider the ocean-themed bedroom they devised for a sprawling waterfront house on the Cape: A prime example of the team's creativity and workmanship, the white-walled space holds a pair of ship ladders and a tugboat-inspired wall carving. 157 Rte. 137, East Harwich, 508-945-4500, [psdab.com](http://psdab.com).

## CUSTOM HOME DESIGN/ BUILD. WEST

### **Cutting Edge Homes**

Finance and economics may seem like an unlikely background for the president of a design-build firm, but that hasn't slowed down Sean Cutting of Cutting Edge Homes. He and his team boast a diverse portfolio of custom-home craftsmanship, but their expertise lies in blending the old with the new. Take the 1879 Victorian they revamped in Wellesley, where exposed-wood beams and wide-plank flooring complement Neolith countertops and whitewashed walls. There's also the modern kitchen the firm forged inside a nearly 200-year-old Lincoln manse, which seamlessly merges new cedar shingles with original stone walls. And Cutting Edge's community service record shines just as brightly as its designs: For every project



the team completes, they donate a portion of the proceeds to local charities, including Habitat for Humanity. Talk about building a better home. 100 Waverly St., Ashland, 508-435-1280, [thinkcuttingedge.com](http://thinkcuttingedge.com).

**HIGH-END REMODELING, BOSTON**

**Kevin Cradock Builders**

Take a peek at Kevin Cradock Builders' Instagram posts, and you'll notice something a little different about the photos: The team not only shares images of their shiny finished projects, but (unlike many other industry 'Grammers) plenty of work-in-progress shots, too. It's those glimpses behind the scenes—filled with exposed joists, visible PVC pipes, and bare drywall—that reveal their unadulterated love for the process of renovating a home. Led by Kevin Cradock, a former finish carpenter who also specializes in custom cabinetry and furniture, the Boston firm's skilled project managers, builders, and millworkers pour their passion into all manner of city spaces, whether it's a classic Back Bay abode with ornate wainscoting or an airy Victorian with rich woodwork in Cradock's native Jamaica Plain. 119 Business St., Boston, 617-524-2405, [cradockbuilders.com](http://cradockbuilders.com).



WINNER SPOTLIGHT

**NAME/TITLE**  
ROBERT MacNEILLE/  
DESIGN PRINCIPAL  
AND PRESIDENT

**COMPANY**  
CARPENTER &  
MacNEILLE

**YEARS IN THE INDUSTRY:** 36+

**How did you first discover your passion for design?**

Mostly, growing up in a historical home with a massive post-and-beam barn out back. Spending time in those structures made a strong impression on me during my childhood in rural Connecticut.

**Who are some of your design heroes?**

As a firm, we're often inspired by the origins of the homes we work on, [some of which trace back] to great Gilded Age masters who built in the New England coastal communities during the late 19th and early 20th centuries (Peabody & Stearns, Stanford White, Guy Lowell, and many more).

**What makes our local design community special?**

The wide range in architectural styles, the raw natural beauty of our region, and the diverse interests and needs of our clientele provide an endless font of inspiration for new and exciting projects. No two projects, clients, or sites are ever the same.

Pictured above, left to right: Site supervisor Mark Pellegrini and Robert MacNeille.

