

Boston home

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AWARD
WINNERS
INSIDE

BEST OF *Boston Home*

THE ULTIMATE RENOVATION GUIDE, FEATURING
DESIGNERS, BUILDERS, SHOPS, AND MORE

A Lynnfield living
area designed
by winner Ana
Donohue.
See page 64.

PLUS

**BACK BAY
BEAUTY**

A FRESH TAKE ON A
HISTORICAL CONDO

Winter 2021

INSPIRATIONAL INTERIORS, LUXURIOUS LANDSCAPES, AND PRETTY THINGS FOR LIVING



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A MARRIAGE OF STYLES
IN THE BACK BAY



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LUXE LAKESIDE LIVING
IN NEW HAMPSHIRE



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OUR ANNUAL BEST OF
BOSTON HOME GUIDE

BUILD A MUDROOM



We reckon there's not a household out there that wouldn't benefit from one of these storage-friendly beauts. Start planning this most critical of additions with pointers from **Colin Flavin**, founding principal of Flavin Architects.



Ponder the Path

To be used fully, the mudroom should be located on the daily path into the home. This is often off the garage or a secondary entry. Ideally if there are multiple paths from outside, they will converge in the mudroom.

Focus on Function

Think about how you will use the space, which will help you determine your needs. Is your home a full-time residence calling for the storage of office attire, for example, or is it a weekend house in Vermont that requires hiding spots for skis, boots, and bikes?

Survey Your Style

Open shelving is good for finding things quickly, but is better suited for those who are comfortable with clutter. Closed shelving or hanging space, on the other hand, is neat and tidy looking, but it's harder to know what lurks behind a door.

Have Fun with Finishes

Choose materials that can withstand moisture and take a beating. Painted finishes can work, since they can be readily touched up. I also recommend using exterior finishes like galvanized metal that look great inside and wear well.

CUSTOM WINDOW TREATMENTS

J&I CUSTOM DRAPES AND UPHOLSTERY

There's a reason this small workroom in Lynn, operated by a mother-daughter duo with decades of experience, is beloved by local homeowners and design pros alike. J&I's bespoke creations include classic valances with intricate pleating, quirkier numbers with fringe, and elegant panels in brilliant patterns—all sold alongside decorative rods and essential hardware to help complete the look. Plus, not only will the team design and craft any treatment your heart (or window) desires, they'll come to your home to install the one-of-a-kind piece, too. gotcustomdrapes.com.

DECORATIVE PAINTER

PATINA

For Pauline Curtiss, every facet of an interior is a canvas. She can add stenciled motifs, abstract graffiti explosions, and serene landscapes anywhere you let her (hello, two-story statement foyer). Working closely with her small team, this RISD grad turns bare floors into "rugs," walls into rich "suede," and wood into "tile." She'll even camouflage a bedside table to disappear against your bedroom wall. Extra points for her gorgeous porcelain dinnerware, adorned with delicate, hand-sketched patterns. patina-designs.com.

FABRICS

ZIMMAN'S

Overflowing with bins and never-ending displays,

this family-owned, 40,000-square-foot textile emporium will leave you swooning over the possibilities. About a million yards of fabric, all bought straight from mills, run the gamut: Unique cottons, sumptuous Belgian linens, rich leathers, and delicate silks, just to name a few, all have a place here—to say nothing of the treasure trove of trims, discount fabrics, and hardware you'll find in the shop's large basement. zimmans.com.

FIREPLACES

COMMONWEALTH FIREPLACE

Whether you're fired up about a wood-burning stove or would rather remote-click to set a gas model ablaze, these Norwood experts help up your flame game. Their 4,800-square-foot showroom is a creative hotbed of some 50 lit fireplace and stove displays from the likes of Mendota, HearthStone, and Pacific Energy. And service will make you feel warm and fuzzy, too: Once they convert your existing hearth with inserts or install a completely new unit, they'll explain the safest, most efficient way to run it to last. commonwealthfireplace.com.

HARDWOOD FLOORING

APEX HARDWOOD FLOORS

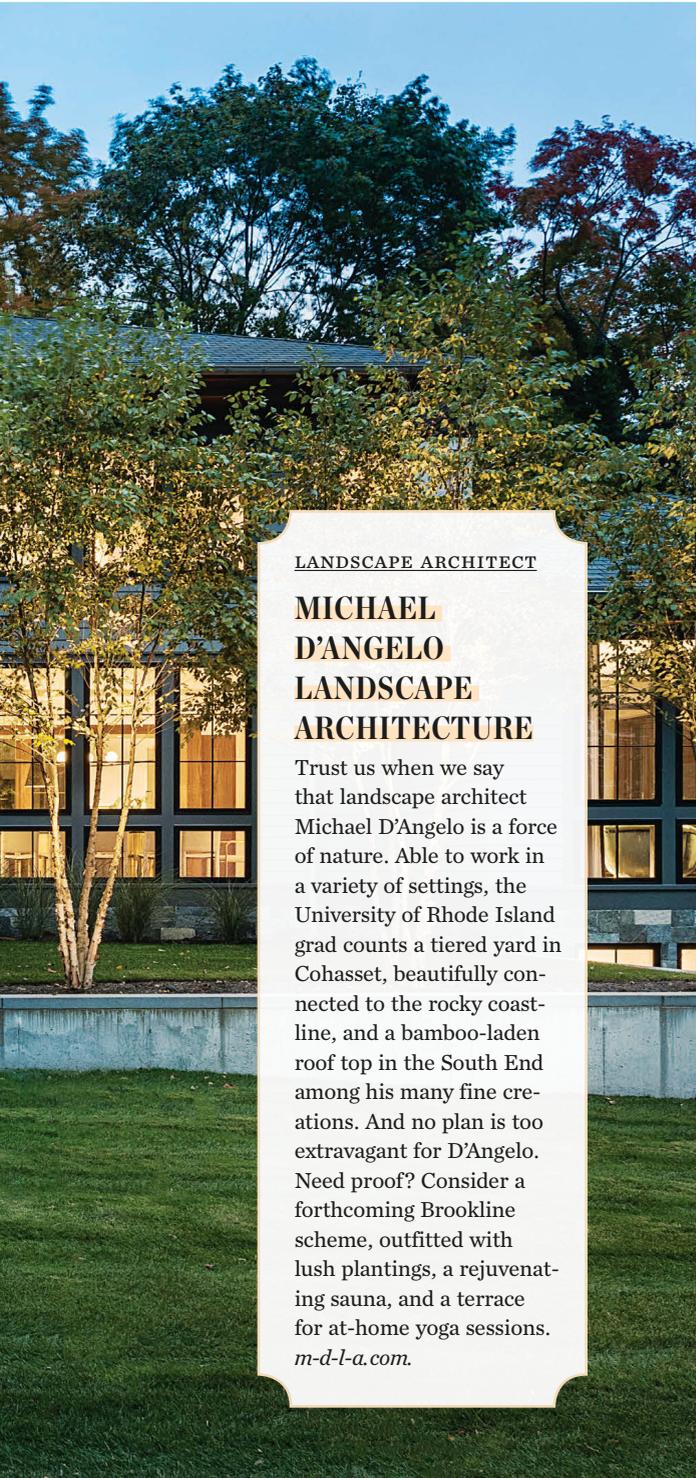
There's nothing quite like the gleam of hardwood floors—and no one quite like James Du and his team to sand, refinish, repair, or install them for you. Consistently praised by clients for their professionalism, craftsmanship, and top-notch



OUTDOORS



NAT. REA. ARCHITECTURE BY FLAVIN ARCHITECTS



LANDSCAPE ARCHITECT

**MICHAEL
D'ANGELO
LANDSCAPE
ARCHITECTURE**

Trust us when we say that landscape architect Michael D'Angelo is a force of nature. Able to work in a variety of settings, the University of Rhode Island grad counts a tiered yard in Cohasset, beautifully connected to the rocky coastline, and a bamboo-laden roof top in the South End among his many fine creations. And no plan is too extravagant for D'Angelo. Need proof? Consider a forthcoming Brookline scheme, outfitted with lush plantings, a rejuvenating sauna, and a terrace for at-home yoga sessions. m-d-l-a.com.

LANDSCAPE DESIGN/BUILD,
BOSTON

**PERENNIAL
GARDENS**

These days, having access to a private green space is more of a luxury (or, dare we say, a necessity) than ever. That's where Perennial Gardens comes in. In addition to designing and installing plantings and patios at sprawling estates, the firm has a particular knack for revitalizing petite urban gardens and rooftops. Equipped with an eye for color and scale, an understanding of irrigation systems and environmental conditions, and, occasionally, a crane to help out on installation day, principal Ellen Abdow and team create lush oases with luxe features such as custom outdoor kitchens. perennialgardens.net.

LANDSCAPE DESIGN/BUILD,
NORTH

**ANDOVER LAND-
SCAPE DESIGN AND
CONSTRUCTION**

Tap the pros at Andover Landscape and you'll have it all: a garden blooming with perennials, a lap pool to keep you active, and a bluestone patio equipped with a fire pit for roasting marshmallows. Founder John Nardoza and architect Russell Stott—along with masons, arborists, and electricians—have a hand in every step of the transformation, from the first rendering drawn to the last shrub pruned. Plus, they'll plant an herb garden so you can spice up home-cooked meals. andoverlandscape.com.

LANDSCAPE DESIGN/BUILD,
SOUTH

**MAINSTAY
LANDSCAPE**

Everyone's idea of outdoor heaven looks a little different. Luckily, this Westwood-based team wields the know-how to create just about any open-air hangout you can imagine, from private but roomy urban patios to colorful wildflower meadows bordering beachfront pools. But the small firm, founded by green-industry vet Jay MacMullan in 2015, doesn't win our vote for its beautiful spaces alone; the crew's extensive horticultural knowledge—not to mention its first-rate maintenance services—are equally divine. mainstaylandscape.com.

LANDSCAPE DESIGN/BUILD,
WEST

A BLADE OF GRASS

You've got a beautiful home, but you're lacking the landscape to match it. It's a tale as old as time for the pros at a Blade of Grass, who know a thing or two about solving a predicament like this one. Take, for example, a stately home in Wayland that the crew enhanced with a series of patios, surrounded by manicured greenery and flowers. There's also the decidedly Instagrammable poolside in Carlisle, complete with a sculptural pergola. We'd call those success stories. abladeofgrass.com.

CUSTOM OUTDOOR
FURNITURE

JANUS ET CIE

For four-plus decades, Janus et Cie's creative, contemporary designs

STYLE SPOTLIGHT

Contemporary

CONTEMPORARY ARCHITECT

FLAVIN ARCHITECTS

Helmed by founding principal Colin Flavin, this Boston firm specializes in contemporary spaces that put the beauty of each site front and center, while creating a deep sense of calm for those lucky enough to step foot inside. For this team, it all comes down to materials. Glass, wood, metal, and concrete play recurring roles in their sophisticated designs, which vary from full-scale family homes to enviable additions (see: the open-air, steel-and-mahogany studio, complete with a rooftop garden, dreamed up for a home in Wellesley). flavinarchitects.com.

CONTEMPORARY INTERIOR DESIGNER

IDEATE DESIGN STUDIO

"Minimalistic" is one way to describe the homes engineered by Ideate Design Studio, but to summarize principal Sashya Thind's work in one buzzword wouldn't give you the full picture. Her rooms balance a mastery of restraint, often demonstrated in the designer's affinity for pared-down furnishings, with a keen attention to detail that shines through in surprising forms (an S-curve sofa) and alluring textures (penny-tiled walls)—a winning combination we'll be watching closely for years to come. id8designstudio.com.

