

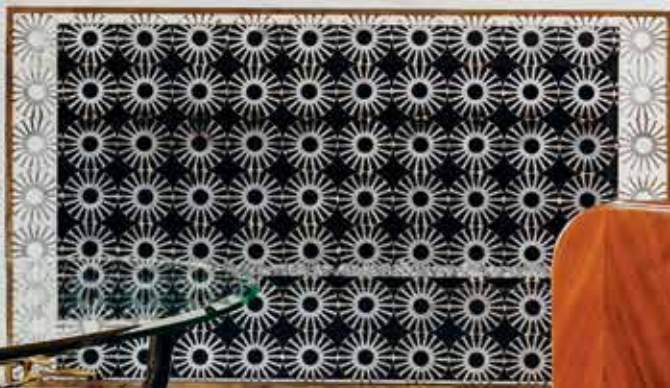
# New England HOME

Celebrating Fine Design, Architecture, and Building



## *Artful Rest*

AN ODE TO  
THE OASIS





## STAIRWAY TO HEAVEN

When it comes to the success of a roof deck, it's all about easy access. "A comfortable set of stairs makes all the difference in how much a roof deck is used," architect Colin Flavin says. "It should enable the roof to be just one more floor of the house."

Usability was not the only factor that Flavin and architect Howard



**CLOCKWISE FROM ABOVE:**

"Sometimes you want an open rail, but here the design—solid boards with thin gaps between them—makes you feel comfortably contained," architect Colin Flavin says about the guardrails. LED pendant lights with red cords balance minimalism with color in the stairwell that leads to the roof deck. To enable proper drainage, adjustable pedestals hold the ipe deck sections above a waterproof membrane that sits on the sloped roof.



Raley considered when designing the white-oak switchback stair in this modern rowhouse in historic Charlestown, Massachusetts. They used the vertical passageway to illuminate the home's core, too. "It's a beautiful lightwell with an eight-by-eight-foot

skylight that brings light from the roof to the ground level," Raley says.

Sunlight (or moonlight) leads one up three stories to the roof deck, where the views are worth the trip. Within the horizontal cedar fencing that encloses the 655-square-foot outdoor space, designer Erica Darnall created a lounge environment with low-slung sofas and a linear fire table. She tucked a dining area behind glowing, oversized floor lamps. An enviable view of the Bunker Hill Monument completes the space. "A roof deck is the cherry on top," Darnall says.

**EDITOR'S NOTE:** For details, see Resources.



**ARCHITECTURE:** Colin Flavin, Howard Raley, Flavin Architects

**INTERIOR DESIGN:** Erica Darnall, Erica Darnall Design

**BUILDER AND LANDSCAPE DESIGN:** Arthur Massaro, Columbia Contracting Corporation

**PHOTOGRAPHY:** Nat Rea