



Boston Architects Speak

BEANTOWN-BASED ARCHITECTS SHARE WHY THEY LOVE DESIGNING IN THEIR HOMETOWN

BY JASON M. RUBIN
PHOTO BY BOB O'CONNOR

FARM VILLA *Vermont*
ALBERT, RIGHTER AND TITTMAN



- 01 Paul Lukez
 - 02 Stani Iordanova of Peter Rose + Partners
 - 03 Jeffrey Ornstein of J/Brice
 - 04 John Tittman of Albert, Righter & Tittman
 - 05 Jacob Albert of Albert, Righter & Tittman
 - 06 Brad Nederhoff of Verner Johnson
 - 07 Vince Pan of Analogue Studios
- Not pictured: Butz & Klug



"We love the old things we see around us, but we want to be inspired by them rather than beholden to them. Our approach is to combine aesthetics and science, as well as the past and the present, in the same way we seek to blend the natural and the man-made. We want our houses to be of the place, that look like they've always been there, but fresh and alive."

—JACOB ALBERT, ALBERT, RIGHTER & TITTMAN

DESIGNING WITH A CONSCIENCE

The experts at Icor Associates, a New Jersey-based engineering consulting firm, teamed with Peter Rose on the Kripalu project and the East House. "Peter is very passionate in achieving the best possible building with maximum energy efficiency," says Icor principal Igor Bienstock. "[His] understanding and respect to MEP trades helps to build better buildings."

Farm Villa adapts high-style Neoclassical language to wood construction in an American rural setting. A sleek white kitchen and natural wood floors add warmth and modernity to the simplified ornament of the interior. Photos by Robert Benson Photography.

KRIPALU RESIDENCE *Stockbridge*
PETER ROSE + PARTNERS



“Boston has a lot of historic buildings, obviously. But for a long time there was a sense that newer buildings ought to look historic, so as to blend in. I think that was a mistake, and in recent years architects have had more freedom to do things that are new. Hopefully, people will come to see that the beloved, iconic look of ‘old Boston’ can accommodate a broader range of images and ideas, as European cities do.”

—PETER ROSE, PETER ROSE & PARTNERS

OTHER RESIDENTIAL WORK BY PETER ROSE:
 “East House was in many ways the most challenging residential construction project we have ever participated in,” says Gary Maynard of Holmes Hole Builders. He partnered with Rose on the project. The design juxtaposed materials like cast-in-place concrete with sophisticated windows, doors and woodwork, which demanded the team execute it to perfection. “There is no extraneous trim to ameliorate discrepancies, no finishes to hide imperfections, no ornament to distract the eye. Exacting layout, precise geometry and consistent reveals were the order of the day for all wood, stone and tile work.” But in the end, their pursuit of excellence helped to make the project a success.

“With Harvard and MIT nearby it’s very rich in resources, both human and informational. Work that I do in France, Turkey, or Cambodia is inevitably informed by the collaborative research I’m able to do here with engineers and scientists.”
 — Peter Rose, Peter Rose & Partners



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“Twenty years ago—even 10 years ago—the period of postwar modernism that was unsympathetic to history, and much of the city, had created a degree of mistrust of anything that didn't mimic 19th Century architecture. This is no longer the case; modernism has a much broader definition now...good design is valued over any kind of period preference.”

— JEFFREY KLUG, BUTZ & KLUG



PAYNE BOUCHIER FINE BUILDERS

Steve Payne of Payne Bouchier Fine Builders found working on a Newton Road residence with Butz + Klug to be challenging in a good way. “Not only do Butz + Klug ask us to do things we haven't done before, but they ask us to do things they haven't done before.” Out of their own wood shop, Payne Bouchier made kitchen cabinets, vanities, and unique pocket door assemblies whose top edges seamlessly reach to the height of the wall, giving an illusion of disappearing into the ceiling. Although sometimes these requests were difficult to maneuver, Payne found that he could find motivation in the excitement that both the clients and the architects brought to the site. “The central thing that made the house come together was that the design is exquisite and the clients realized it from early on and never lost sight of that during the project.”



188 WEST BROOKLINE *Boston*
BUTZ & KLUG



ARCHITECTURAL OPENINGS

Steve Kearns, owner of custom window and door company Architectural Openings, knows that not every architect will give windows and doors the attention they might need. "Jeff Klug is extremely sensitive to and clever with the use of light, so fenestration design is key to a Butz + Klug projects overall success," Kearns says. Seeing as how 100 percent of AO's windows and doors are custom-made, they have to be willing and able to adapt to the needs of each residence's unique style. "Butz + Klug tests our ingenuity to create new designs while holding fast to our extremely high standards of craftsmanship, durability, and weather-tightness. We enjoy the collaboration and the creative push."

TIMBERWOLF

David Berry from Timberwolf Inc. Architectural Builders was the contractor who worked on the Brookline and 57 Folly Point Rd. homes. He says that working with Butz + Klug is a "constant challenge, they raise the bar on a regular basis and somehow draw you into the challenge of producing, creating amazing projects."

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Caption here Photos by Eric Roth

Martha's Vineyard

“More important than where our office is, is where our brains are. We view our projects from a multinational perspective, bringing in ideas from everything we’ve done and seen through our work and our travels. Currently we have about six or seven nationalities represented in our office. To some extent that’s intentional, but it also points out the diversity of architects and architectural students that Boston attracts.”

— PAUL LUKEZ, PAUL LUKEZ ARCHITECTURE

IRON BEAR FORGE

With a background in blacksmithing and industrial design, Roger Chudzik of Iron Bear Forge gladly took on the challenge creating the stairway and railings of the Truro residence. “Because of the design and the way the stairwell is built, the entire stairway is filled with light,” Chudzik says. It wasn’t an easy task, though. “It was a challenge to make the stairs appear very light while still maintaining the structural integrity and adhering to building codes.” When any real difficulties came up, Chudzik found that he could collaborate with Lukez to think of a solution. “Working on other peoples’ designs is interesting because you get to see how other people think and solve problems. Working with an architect like Paul is an educational exercise and a really great stretch.”



ALPERS/JANETTA *Dover*
PAUL LUKEZ ARCHITECTURE



These three firms are based in Boston, but with projects all over the US, they're showing the rest of us their hometown clout.



VINCE PAN ANALOGUE STUDIO

Second Skin project
Los Angeles

"There have been a lot of very interesting new buildings erected in Boston over a short span of time, such as the renovation of Harvard's Fogg Museum by Renzo Piano, and the Gardner Museum extension. The ICA is pretty daring for Boston, and though MIT's Stata Center tends to get mixed reviews, it at least has spawned conversations about architecture, which is a good thing.

I think of myself as a polyglot. I like to blend different perspectives and disciplines, such as graphic design, industrial design, fine art, and art history. In graduate school, by necessity, you have diverse interests and experiences. But as you grow in your career, architects tend to specialize in one area. I don't want to limit my focus."



BRAD NEDERHOFF VERNER JOHNSON

Tampa Bay History Center
Tampa Bay

"Design trends have had an early start here, especially in the top universities. I particularly enjoy seeing new examples of student and faculty work on display. There are always interesting free lectures on architecture and the arts. In my time here, I have seen Postmodernism come and go, star architects rise and fall, the green-building movement grow, socially conscious architecture take hold, along with many other trends.

While some people view museums as somewhat elitist, they have a very important social and educational role to play in our culture. I am confident that many youth visit museums and come away inspired to become scientists, artists, historians, or possibly even architects."



JEFF ORNSTEIN J/BRICE DESIGN

Helmsley Hotel
New York

"I think Boston will always have a European aesthetic, whether in its traditional or contemporary integrations.

Bostonians are clever, not gregarious. Sophisticated, but not showy. Academic, but not pedantic. Conservative, but not old-fashioned. A spirit engulfs Boston which is very different than any other US city.

With Georges Bank supporting one of the finest fisheries in the world, first-class dining establishments are always packed and act as a center for socializing in Boston circles. Also a music center, with the vibrancy of a lot of fresh energy from the universities, adds a creative soundtrack to the lifestyle."



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"As an art person working in a history museum, I knew immediately that the creative process, use of materials, design and the desire to be a 'green building' would be both original and professionally met."

- Elizabeth L. Dunham
 VP for Programs
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