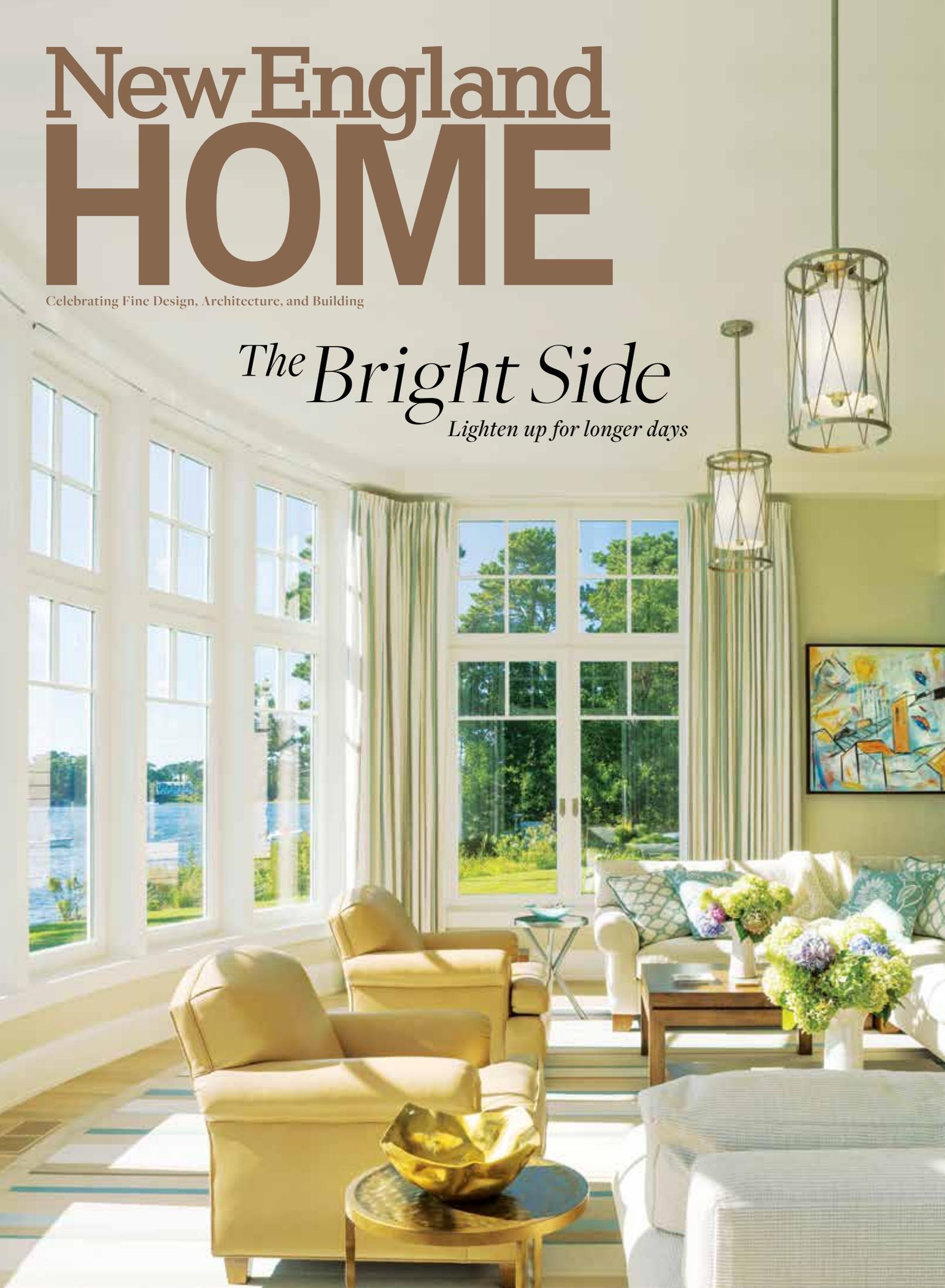


New England HOME

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Here & There

DESIGN DISCOVERIES FROM AROUND NEW ENGLAND

SCALE FACTOR

A contemporary house finds its place on island farmland.

BY MEAGHAN O'NEILL



Architect Peter Twombly designed a space-efficient, modern home for a client who works in the marine industry. A glass hallway connects the living area and a two-story structure with the bedrooms and office.



In the western edge of Jamestown, Rhode Island, sits a modern field house on five acres abutting conserved land. The parcel, originally part of a 300-year-old farm, is tucked into a bucolic setting,

with chirping birds, expansive fields, and ocean breezes. It's surprising then, that stepping into the house, designed by architect Peter Twombly, feels like a breath of fresh air.

The sloping roofline opens upward to the southern-facing backyard, allowing copious light into the interiors. Cedar shingles reference the local vernacular of nearby barns and houses; board-formed concrete was used on the facade and for the chimney to add a modern element that will also blend with the weathering patina of the cladding.



“THE BUILDING WAS DESIGNED AS A SERIES OF STRUCTURES WITH VIEWS THROUGH EACH SPACE.”—ARCHITECT PETER TWOMBLY

LEFT: In the open-plan living area, white oak floors and streamlined surfaces create a focused, calming space. Throughout the house, built-in cabinetry was stained a subdued cocoa hue, bringing continuity to various rooms. **BELOW:** It was the homeowner's idea to locate the main bedroom on the second floor to capture views of the harbor.



ARCHITECTURE AND INTERIOR DESIGN: Peter Twombly, Estes Twombly + Titrington Architects

BUILDER: Wade K. Paquin, WKP Construction

LANDSCAPE DESIGN: Robyn Reed, Studio Cosmo

To take advantage of the location, Twombly sited the 2,000-square-foot house with an angled roofline that's low on the north side and rises upward to the south, flooding the space with natural light. As a result, interiors are comfortable and spacious, with floor-to-ceiling windows that provide beautiful views and dampen outside noise.

Twombly, a partner at Estes Twombly + Titrington Architects in Newport, Rhode Island, was determined to keep the house compact. "The building was designed as a series of structures with views through each space," says Twombly. For example, the building's open-plan kitchen-dining-living area is connected by a glass hallway to a two-story mass. Here, perched above a



An existing fieldstone wall demarcates the spacious backyard, which abuts conserved land. The thoughtful landscape design includes low-maintenance plantings, a vegetable garden, and a rain garden that captures runoff from the house.



study and guest room, the main suite offers northern views of the harbor. It was the homeowner's idea, says the architect, and "I have to admit, he was right."

The client, who works in yacht construction management, wanted superb craftsmanship and efficient spaces, much like those found on boats. Twombly also designed the unfussy interiors, hiding drapery tracks in ceilings, for example, and using cove lighting to replace overhead cans. The client wanted to avoid ceiling lights "that looked like a machine gun spit them out," he says. Repeated elements throughout rooms, such as oak cabinetry and flooring and sleek countertops, further minimize distraction.

Achieving such precision began

with plans that dictated a carefully constructed envelope. "We treated the framing of the building like finish work," says builder Wade K. Paquin, principal of WKP Construction. Paquin's team also painstakingly poured the board-formed concrete siding and chimney, which adds contemporary character to the facade and living area.

Just as the house's distinct spaces are thoughtfully connected to one another, so is the building itself to its surroundings, which include a handful of antique farm buildings. The scale, height, and cedar shingling reference the local vernacular, but it's a modernist sensibility—along with superior materials and methods—that blends the site's past with a vision for the future.

EDITOR'S NOTE: For details, see Resources.

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LIKE FINISH
WORK."*

*—BUILDER
WADE K. PAQUIN*