

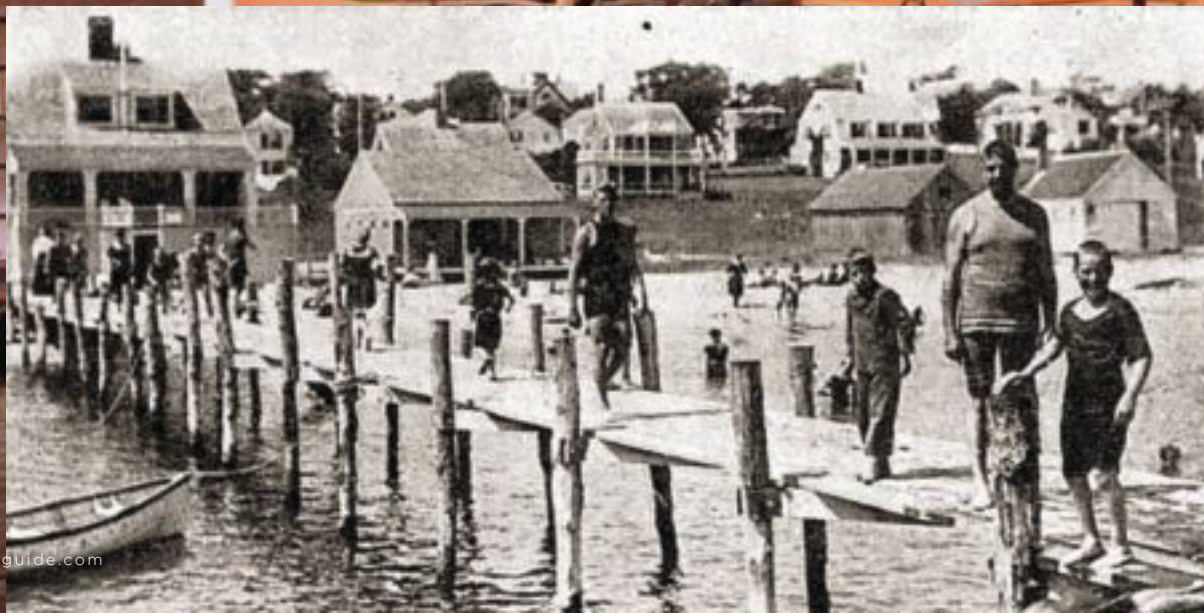
BOSTON DESIGN

A guide to fine home furnishings, products and services

NINETEENTH ANNUAL EDITION

Cottage Style

PATRICK AHEARN BEAUTIFIES
EDGARTOWN, ONE HOME AT A TIME





A RCHITECT PATRICK AHEARN OFTEN SCRIPTS STORY LINES for his new homes and renovations. For his own Martha's Vineyard home on Davis Lane, a hedge-lined pedestrian-oriented thoroughfare just a few blocks from Edgartown Harbor, he pretended that he was designing a 1790s home that once belonged to a midshipman. In his tale, he imagined that the property owners added a barn in the rear of the home early in the 1800s and a shingle-clad livery stable a generation later.

Creating a fictional backstory based on fact aids Ahearn in creating new settings that “live beautifully” today yet “blend in seamlessly with the existing fabric” in Edgartown, a village where “captains’ houses, midshipmen’s houses, working people’s small cottages all blend together in a wonderful, wonderful collage of architectural history.” Because, given his druthers, Ahearn would steep every new construction in the island’s rich architectural tradition and design every Vineyard home to the standards of the historic district.



Left: Ahearn is known for his open layouts and plans that incorporate outdoor living.

Above: A home blends portions of the original 1832 house with a grand new construction program that includes an addition, enclosed porch and garage-turned-cabana. The home is 90-percent new.

“In Edgartown, there are Greek Revivals, Federal Colonials, Shingle Styles; it’s a very rich background to create timeless architecture.”



Clearly, it’s a method that works for him. You might call him the Vineyard king; he’s designed over 200 houses on the island alone, including HGTV’s celebrated 2015 Dream Home, and 147 residences in the 12-block village core. Homes that, like his own, forward the historical narrative intrinsic to the seaport all the while playing up natural amenities like the dunes and vistas and responding to the client’s unique programs. He’s proud of his mantle and of the work

that has allowed him to preserve the “essence and integrity of the older homes” as he builds seamless new ones among them, and of his commercial endeavors and public buildings as well, like The Boathouse, The Field Club and the Atlantic restaurant, which catalyzed the revitalization of the harbor. His touch isn’t just felt on constructs. Ahearn has created public access to the waterway and is mindful of the streetscapes, view corridors and the “spaces between the homes” that make the village the destination it is.

At the end of the day, Ahearn is doing justice to “why you want to be in Edgartown.”



What is it about Edgartown that so appeals to the Long Island native? “What calls out to me,” says Ahearn, “is that it’s a real place.” New urbanism and developing pedestrian-oriented town plans that address how people live and interact is a hot topic among architects and urban designers, “but here we have a 300-and-some-year-old town that’s been doing it for years.”

While the historic district does not regulate all of Edgartown village, Ahearn considers every project as if it does. It’s his own code, so to speak, “a design vernacular that responds to the greater good,” he says. At the end of the day, Ahearn is doing justice to “why you want to be in Edgartown in the first place.” The village’s “sensibility and walkability, the history of the white picket fences and the layering of the soft architecture” is its allure.



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The Boathouse Field Club and Restaurant in Edgartown