

design spotlight: ceilings



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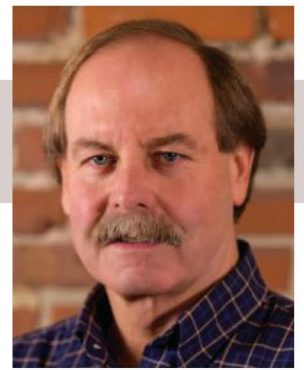
While beautifully designed ceilings can add a lot of interest to a room, most architects don't pay them enough attention, instead focusing more on the walls and on floor patterns. Ceilings not only lend scale to a room, they

can be dropped or raised to achieve the correct volume and are often the source of light. 1) RGB color panels can read as single or multicolored and can be altered to the rhythm of music. 2) The barrel ceiling divides this large kitchen into three panels to break down the scale of the room. 3) Curves in this basement recreation room enabled us to create lighting effects to counterbalance the angular exterior of this contemporary house.

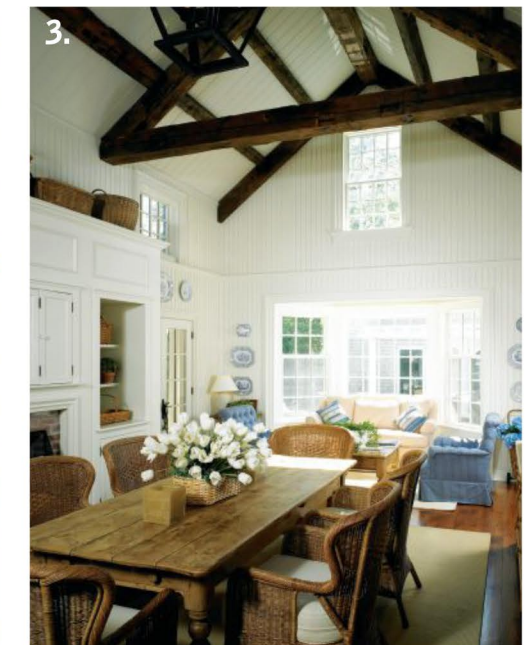


PHOTOS: ERHARD PFEIFFER

Patrick Ahearn, FAIA
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Reclaimed wood beams are a wonderful material to add warmth and character to a space. The imperfections of the wood tell a story of its previous journey, further enhancing the historical feel of the home. White beadboard provides texture and character versus a simple plastered ceiling. 1) These beams frame the shape of the ceiling for a structured appearance. 2) The antique beam inserted to the underside of a cased beam provides vertical depth. 3) The story-and-a-half space allows for design that appears to be more structural than decorative.



PHOTOS: GREG PREMURU



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We spend a lot of time considering how the ceiling plane sets the spirit of a space in motion; much of that task has to do with control of the scale. How high is it? Is it flat or sloped? Even a low, flat ceiling less than 8 feet high can have a grander feel if it has beams and wood paneling to express the structure. In our work, we always try to have a clearly defined ceiling between spaces. When logical and clear edges are given to the ceiling, it allows an open floor plan to feel far more under control. To accomplish this, we often add a wide cased opening between spaces to create the boundary of a room.



PHOTO: MORGAN SHEFF



PHOTO: PETER BASTIANELLI-KERZE



PHOTO: DANA WHEELLOCK