

# Clem Labine's **Period Homes**

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THE PROFESSIONAL'S RESOURCE FOR RESIDENTIAL ARCHITECTURE

## **THE INTERIORS ISSUE**





# BEST IN SHOW

**T**he New England Chapter of the Institute of Classical Architecture & Art announced its sixth annual Bulfinch Awards winners this past February. The award is named for Charles Bulfinch, America's first native-born architect, and designer of the Massachusetts State House. The award recognizes the best work of individuals who contribute to the creation of classical and traditional architecture in New England.

The following are three winners in the residential categories.



# RESIDENTIAL (RESTORATION, RENOVATION OR ADDITION)

“MORSE STREET COMPOUND” – PATRICK AHEARN ARCHITECT LLC





Images courtesy of Patrick Ahearn Architect

After owning the original cottage for a number of years, the homeowners acquired the property next door because they desired a much larger program for their expanding family. Morse Street Compound is an early 1800s Greek Revival cottage located within the Edgartown Village Historic District, therefore, the design had to go through a lengthy architectural review. Patrick Ahearn's challenge was to increase the square footage by 75 percent, while maintaining the spirit and charm of the original cottage and to gain approval from the Historic District and the neighbors at large.

The goal was for the finished home to read as a cohesive whole, as if it was originally designed for the larger program at the beginning of the 1800s. Although three-quarters of the house is new construction, it was crucial that the house still gave the impression of a restoration/renovation and remained appropriate in scale to the surrounding neighborhood. It was necessary that the new wing of the house emulate the character and scale of the old wing, however, the interior was re-designed to accommodate a modern lifestyle with open and flowing spaces that are oriented to the indoor/outdoor living opportunities.

The original cottage was lifted and floor joists were set into its new foundation in order to achieve a higher ceiling height, without changing the exterior imagery of the house. The firm preserved what appears to be a lower floor height on the first floor from the exterior, but in effect, it has a nine-foot ceiling height. The firm also matched the bookend of the new construction with the original perception of the house, while setting the new additions back from the original house to place emphasis on the original part of the cottage and to minimize the scale thus creating a balance to the corner lot that appeared naturally placed and historically correct.