

VOLUME TEN · SPRING 2018

IDEAS IN BOSTON

MAGAZINE



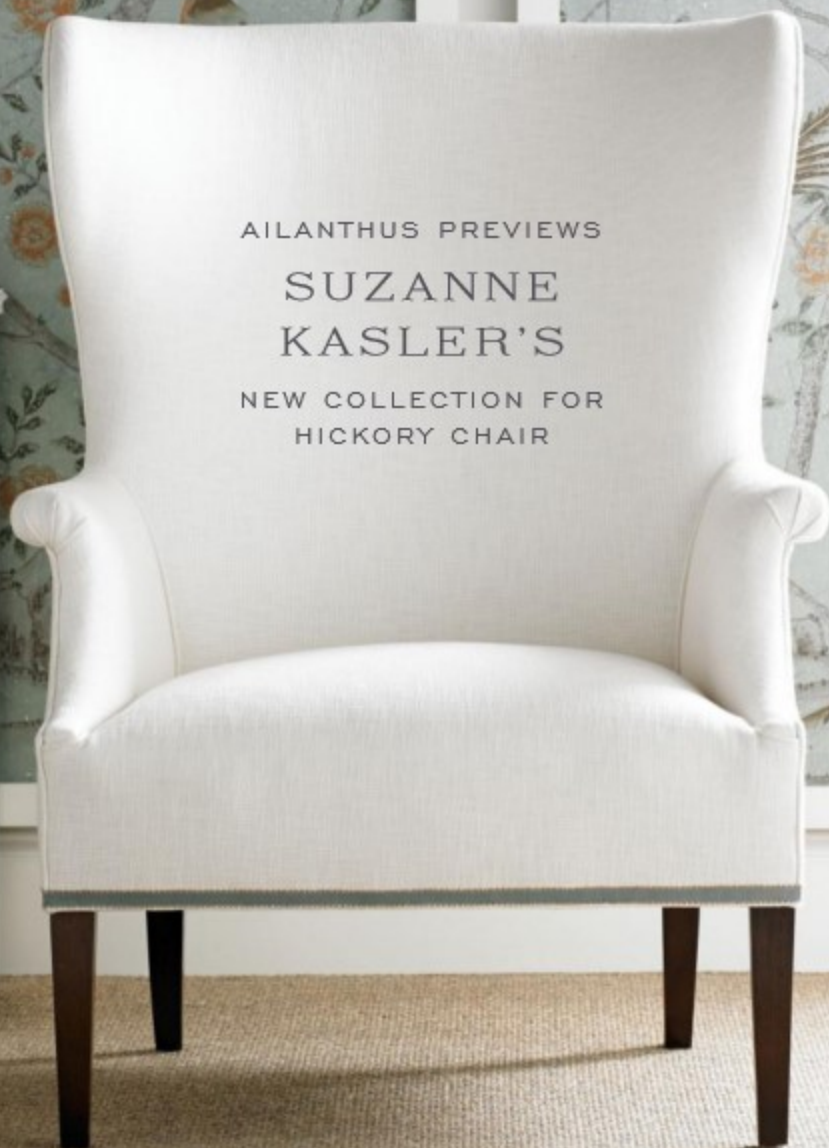
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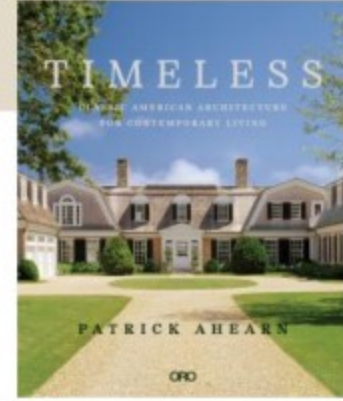


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VINEYARD ESCAPE



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NEW TO THE BOOKSHELF

TIMELESS: CLASSIC AMERICAN ARCHITECTURE FOR CONTEMPORARY LIVING

By Patrick Ahearn

To leaf through Patrick Ahearn's recently published book, *Timeless: Classic American Architecture for Contemporary Living*, is to visually experience the narrative arc of a true New England architect. Raised in New York, Ahearn began his career with adaptive-reuse public projects. For the past four decades, he has lived in Boston, focusing primarily on historically motivated, site-sensitive private residences in the New England area.

Today, Ahearn is celebrated as one of America's top classical architects, overseeing a firm of 12 designers in Boston's Back Bay and in Edgartown on Martha's Vineyard. He has designed over 500 private residences, including HGTV's 2015 Dream Home. When approaching a project, he uses a practice he calls "narrative-driven architecture," creating a storyline for each home he restores, renovates, or builds from the ground up.

Each building is cleverly scaled and smartly styled, with each detail revealing the eye of a seasoned architect. Ahearn, a Fellow of the American Institute of Architects with degrees in Architecture and Urban Design from Syracuse, constructs the negative space in his projects just as thoughtfully as the structure itself.

In his introduction, Ahearn writes: "Of all the charming little towns I visited, it was Marblehead, Massachusetts, that most opened my eyes to the romance and ingenuity of the region's architecture." The regional expertise he has since cultivated, his passion for history, and his love of the classical tradition have made him a standout in his field, and are showcased in the 18 projects highlighted in this book.

From carefully restored, centuries-old landmarked townhouses in Boston's Back Bay, to new homes that freshly reimagine the traditional local vernacular of Martha's Vineyard, this book illustrates Ahearn's role in some of America's most affluent and renowned neighborhoods. For anyone who has ever dreamed of creating a home with a true sense of place, this book is the ultimate inspiration.

The key to Ahearn's sustained career is his take on classical architecture: he highlights the romance of traditionalism but accentuates the ideals of modernism. By balancing innovation with the sense of historic preservation that is essential to the storied homes he works on, his projects immediately become timeless.

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