

New England HOME

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Architecture, and Building

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NEW ENGLAND DESIGN
HALL OF FAME



Architecture
PATRICK AHEARN
 PATRICK AHEARN ARCHITECT



GREG PREMURU (3)

If you stood in the middle of Edgartown Village on Martha's Vineyard and threw a rock in any direction, it would be nearly impossible not to hit a house designed by Patrick Ahearn. The village is practically a manifestation of the architect's creative vision: over the last twenty-three years, his firm, Patrick Ahearn Architect, has designed 109 homes there in just a twelve-block span.

Ahearn became the Vineyard's go-to architect fairly suddenly, as the result of a spur-of-the-moment decision. "I had a vacation house on the island, but I didn't do any work there," he recalls. "One year, I took out a small ad in the local *Vineyard Gazette*, and I got twenty-six projects that first summer. So I realized there was some real opportunity there." He opened a second office in Edgartown (home base is located in Boston's Back Bay neighborhood)

and has been busily beautifying the island ever since.

It's not surprising that the people of Martha's Vineyard—or his wider client base around New England—are so taken with Ahearn's designs. The basis of his work is something New Englanders hold very dear: history. "A lot of my work is a variation on the theme of historic architecture, updated for modern lifestyles," he says.

Of course, that's not to say Ahearn's aesthetic sphere of influence is limited to the Northeast. His in-demand style has won him projects as far away as Dubai and the southern coast of England, as well as across the United States.

It's also garnered him a lot of recognition, especially recently. In addition to being inducted to the NEDHOF, his firm recently won a Bulfinch Award, and Ahearn was named the 2013 Alumnus of the Year by his alma mater, Syracuse University—where he received both his undergraduate and graduate degrees in architecture. It's an impressive showing of praise, all well deserved.

