

New England HOME

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Older homes get a
stunning new life

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Year's Picks
For The
New England
Design Hall
Of Fame

Premier Properties

BY MARIA LAPIANA



Cape Cod Charmer



Character-filled Craftsman

Cape Cod Charmer

Lovers of vintage homes often find themselves in a quandary: they're drawn to historic properties for a host of reasons—from authenticity to architectural detail—but at the end of the day, they'd really rather not live in the past. This beautifully restored gem in Osterville, Massachusetts, is, according to listing agent Maggie Fearn, a “heritage home with none of the hassles.” The Federal-style house was built in 1829; even as bits and pieces were updated over the years, it had fallen into disrepair by the time the current owners purchased it in late 2007. They spearheaded a major restoration and reconstruction project designed to bring it into the twenty-first century. The original part of the house was completely refurbished, the rear demolished, and a brand new wing added on. The



Georgian Gentility

transition between old and new construction is seamless. On the first floor, the original wing features a formal entry, formal library, and living and dining rooms—each with a working fireplace. The new wing houses a spectacular kitchen, an informal dining area, a mudroom and powder room to the rear, and a full caterer's pantry (with dishwasher, refrigerator, sink, microwave oven,

and in-counter steamer). The second floor holds a spacious master suite with three closets and a sitting area, and four bright guest bedrooms, each with access to a full bathroom. A romantic little reading nook overlooks the landing. Beyond hassle-free living, this home offers a prime location, too—city-style amenities in an elegant seaside community.

Duly Noted: A little history: the home was built by schooler captain Shubael

ROOMS: 9
5 BEDROOMS
4 FULL BATHS
1 HALF BATH
3,755 SQ. FT.
\$1,799,000



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Premier Properties

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Baxter, and was later owned by a Union Army surgeon, Dr. Thomas R. Clement. In the early 1900s, then-owner J.S. Twombly was the first to make substantial structural changes to the house, including the extension of two bays and construction of a portico. The house served for a time as a convent; pews from the chapel (now the library) are still stored in the basement.

Contact: Maggie Fearn, Sotheby's International Realty, Osterville Brokerage, Osterville, Mass., (508) 957-5517, 9eastbayroad.com, Property ID# 21710208

Georgian Gentility

It's hard not to wax poetic about this picture-perfect property. Windfield (an appropriately lyrical name) is perfectly proportioned, with heart-stopping views and interiors that take your breath away. The antique-brick Georgian home was built in 1997; it sits on fifty-four acres in the Litchfield County town of Washington, Connecticut. The estate was designed for "genteel country living" by Fairfax & Sammons of New York and Palm Beach. The home is new, yet faithful to the period that inspired it. The architects were clearly influenced by classic Palladian design, as its influences are everywhere. Handmade brick, stone cornices, chimney caps, and finials were chosen for texture and authenticity.

Boston ivy growing on the facade gives the impression the place is older than it is. At just over 4,000 square feet, the three-bedroom residence is spacious, but not vast. There are architectural details worth noting throughout. The living room, whose three sets of arched French doors open to a terrace, features detailed millwork and

dentil molding below an acanthus frieze. The elegant octagonal dining room is capped with a domed ceiling. Climb the grand staircase to an intimate den, a guest suite, or a landing with two windows for a perfect vantage

point from which to view the parterre garden. Step up to a vestibule and the master suite clad in rich wood paneling; it has a fireplace, striking master bath, and windows on three sides framing the manicured property. Three more rooms on the lower level offer a variety of uses: home theater, gym, wine storage, art studio, or home office.

Duly Noted: With its neat hedges and pristine pathways, the parterre garden courtyard is nothing short of magical. It's been described as "landscape architecture elevated to an art form." Trained boxwood, barberry,

and juniper are woven into a classic knot pattern that surrounds a limestone fountain with an architect-designed armillary sundial at its center.

Contact: Rick Distel, William Pitt Sotheby's International Realty, Washington Depot, Conn., (646) 417-2720, windfieldct.com, MLS# 170010715

Character-filled Craftsman

The beauty of this iconic Craftsman home is truly in the details—but it has plenty of curb appeal, too. It was built in 1902 and sits on a 1.4-acre parcel in the Lexington, Massachusetts, neighborhood of Merriam Hill. Designed by noted architect Willard D. Brown for the Whiting family of Whiting Dairy Farm fame, the house has character worth noting both inside and out. It looks and feels like an inviting estate—sophisticated but not showy—with its wide front yard, circular drive, granite steps, and covered entry with natural bead-board ceiling. The home has been updated and renovated, its mechanicals upgraded, and a third-story master bedroom suite was added by a previous owner. There

are seven bedrooms, so it's suitable for a large family (or a small family with lots of guests). At one time, a family with twelve children lived there, according to listing agent Lester Savage. The interior features mahogany and oak trim, quarter-sawn

oak and southern yellow-pine flooring, bay windows, coffered ceilings, built-in cabinets with leaded glass, five fireplaces, and original Grueby-tiled fireplace surrounds. The dining room opens to a lovely semi-circular veranda that offers privacy and an extension of living space. A plus for an enterprising prospective homeowner: a preliminary plan has been submitted under the site sensitive development by-law for a second lot on the parcel.

Duly Noted: Merriam Hill is one of several distinctive residential neighborhoods developed in Lexington in the late nineteenth century; it was an appealing location for professionals who worked in Boston. The pre-Revolutionary Merriam family owned much of the land, but when they subdivided, Matthew P. Merriam (no relation) purchased several lots and established the Merriam Shoe Factory there, which is listed on the National Register of Historic Places. Many of Merriam Hill's architect-designed homes are noteworthy examples of Queen Anne, Shingle-style, Colonial Revival, and English Revival architecture.

Contact: Lester E. Savage, Century 21 Commonwealth, Lexington, (781) 504-6856, lexingtonre.com, MLS# 72194051 ■■■



ROOMS: 11
7 BEDROOMS
4 FULL BATHS
1 HALF BATH
5,588 SQ. FT.
\$2,985,000



ROOMS: 7
3 BEDROOMS
3 FULL BATHS
1 HALF BATH
4,112 SQ. FT.
\$6,500,000