BOSTONION

PATRICK DEMPSEY'S

WILD RIDE FROM MAINE TO SUPERSTANDOM

bostoncommon-magazine.com NICHE MEDIA HOLDINGS, LLC MARISA MILLER, VANESSA KERRY, DANIELA CORTE, STEPHANIE SOKOLOVE





John and Laura Brooks Meyer connect the past and the future with powerful design narratives.

CLIENTS WHO HIRE architect John Meyer and his wife, interior designer Laura Brooks Meyer, walk away with more than just a beautifully designed home. They often get a story-a limestone fireplace hand-carved in Hungary, for instance, or a railing morphed into a fairy-tale depiction of a dragon. They also often get frameworthy art: one of John's drawings of the property, bringing the homeowner's vision to life.

The team behind Meyer & Meyer Inc. pairs artistry with research expertise, looking back in time for authentic historical details and forward to innovative contemporary design. Their Newbury Street penthouse project, a former Jesuit headquarters, included exterior restoration elements as well as the addition of interior features like modern light fixtures and furnishings, rosy pearwood wall paneling and a sleek Poggenpohl kitchen. "We love contemporary touches," says Laura, "but we also want to be respectful of history. I like the blend."

The couple has also done some public projects, including the Boston Common Visitor's Center, now underway, and the Tool Shed in the Public Garden. "Public facilities were all the rage at the turn of the century," John says. "Builders put a lot into them. We wanted to capture that."

Their own history begins in St. Louis at John's father's architectural firm, where they both worked. "I was in architecture school, which was all about the rules," John says. Recalling a summer he worked on an ocean liner

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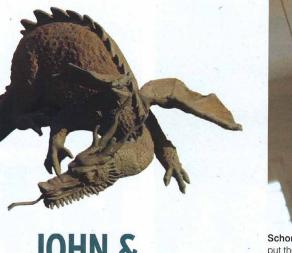
and visited Japan and Marrakesh, he says, "I saw stuff that broke every rule." It completely changed his vision. When he and Laura moved to Boston and established their own firm, they knew they wanted to do design that was about craft and quality of materials. "We figured we'd starve," John says. "But it didn't turn out that way."

They turned their talents on their own home, too, a Victorian in Newton retooled into a colonial revival. "Part of what we do with the drawings and details is get involved in creating the story of a home if there isn't one yet," says John. "Everyone wants to have a story." -JANICE O'LEARY





Custom metal work. "We love it when an artist or contractor can take an idea and turn it into a realistic feature, like this dragon made for a Hopkinton estate by statuary artist Bob Shure." Skylight Studios Inc., 105 Salem St., Woburn, 781-933-3822; skylightstudiosinc.com



JOHN & LAURA'S PICKS



Schonbek crystal-pendant lamps. "We opted to put these Swarovski crystal lights over a bed for reading and ambiance instead of the more expected swing-arm wall sconces. Every room needs something that sparkles." Wolfers Lighting, 1339 Main St., Waltham, 781-890-5995; wolfers.com





"Made in Italy, **Sicis** mosaic tiles in glass are colorful and put together by hand, so they add an artistic element to any space." *Tile Showcase, 1 Design Center Pl., Ste.* 639, 617-426-6515; tileshowcase.com





Fireplaces, both hand-carved and modern.

worked perfectly in the small space." Spark

Modern Fires, 99B Greenwood Ave., Bethel,

"We used this one in a beach hut and it

Architectural woodwork.
"We use the details
crafted by Architectural
Timber & Millwork in
so many of our projects.
These guys are the best in
the world at what they do."
49 Mount Warner Road,
Hadley, 413-586-3045;
atimber.com



Texas Loveseat by **Polaris**. "We love this piece for two reasons: It's completely made by hand, from cutting the leather and stitching the cushions to securing the components; and the old-world Italian workmanship juxtaposes the shapely modern silhouette." *D Scale Modern, 520 Harrison Ave., 617-426-1055; dscalemodern.com*





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