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BLOG



NEW ENGLAND CLASSICS: A COLONIAL REIMAGINED

APRIL 11, 2017 | SANDY GIARDI



Constructed by [Kistler & Knapp Builders](https://bostondesignguide.com/directory/stub/kistler-knapp-builders-inc) (<https://bostondesignguide.com/directory/stub/kistler-knapp-builders-inc>) and designed by [Battle Associates Architects](https://bostondesignguide.com/directory/stub/battle-associates-architects) (<https://bostondesignguide.com/directory/stub/battle-associates-architects>), this stunning Shingle Style home in Wellesley (<https://bostondesignguide.com/directory/stub/kistler-knapp-builders-inc>) is 10 years old, but it looks as if it could have been completed yesterday. That, of course, is exactly the point of timeless architecture; its design is as alluring today as it will be tomorrow.



This particular home actually extends back beyond 10 years, and was a standard early [1900s Colonial](https://bostondesignguide.com/directory/stub/kistler-knapp-builders-inc) (<https://bostondesignguide.com/directory/stub/kistler-knapp-builders-inc>) in its past life. The homeowners “wanted to preserve some of what was there,” explains Doug Stevenson, president of Kistler & Knapp Builders; they didn’t want a full teardown. In part to preserve the scale of the home in the scenic neighborhood, the construction team saved much of the front façade but added two large gables on either side. A Shingle Style was born.



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Kistler & Knapp also kept the interior entry stair “and then everything else was built on and around that,” says Stevenson. While the exterior exudes a [traditional style](https://bostondesignguide.com/directory/stub/battle-associates-architects) (<https://bostondesignguide.com/directory/stub/battle-associates-architects>), the interior was crafted for more [modern-day living](https://bostondesignguide.com/directory/stub/battle-associates-architects) (<https://bostondesignguide.com/directory/stub/battle-associates-architects>), with bigger, open spaces that are harmonious and interconnected. The dual-sided stone fireplace, shown above, illustrates the design philosophy well; the peek-through wall and hearth give the family room a kinship with the kitchen, as well as a partition.

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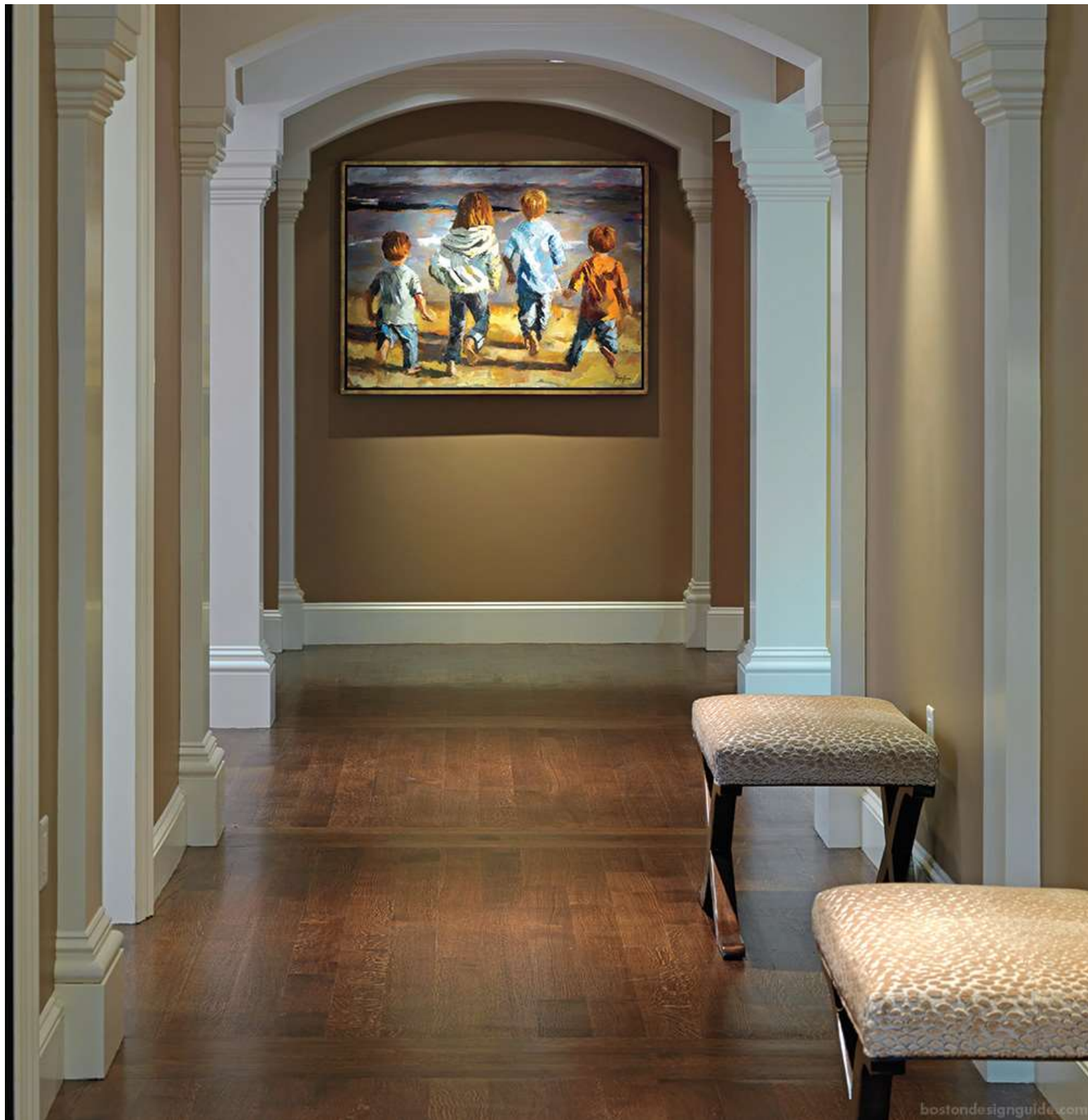
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While open and current, the [all-new millwork \(https://bostondesignguide.com/directory/stub/kistler-knapp-builders-inc\)](https://bostondesignguide.com/directory/stub/kistler-knapp-builders-inc) is also a nod to the past. The architect called for archways at openings and windows throughout the home, bringing grace as well as a hint of ceremony to how the layout unfolds.

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It's the sum of the parts of this inspired home that is truly a tour de force. The hope is that "decades or even centuries from now, we'll still say, 'Wow, this is a nice place,'" muses Stevenson. We think he can bank on that.

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