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Andrew Flako
Receives
Lifetime
Achievement
Award

Essex Restoration/

Devro Custom Builders

Building
New Homes/
Restoring
Old Homes/
Sustainability/
Preservation





PROJECT: Weston, MA
BUILDING: Walter Butler Center, Stone Custom Builders
ARCHITECT: Fred L. Puchner, USA Architectural & Interiors
 Historic, beauty, and high-tech features combine to create a beautiful, sustainable, high-end home of Stone houses selected by the USMC 2010 House Award judges as a recipient of the Outstanding Green Family Project category.

In an U.S. Green Building Council (USGBC) GreenSource magazine, recognizing Single Family Project and 2010 Best Energy Ready Home 2010 Housing Innovation Awards Winner, Custom Builders of Stone, Walter Butler Center (left) of Stone, Stone Builders Development, Inc. and purchase of 100% insulation in Stone (right) with Stone's green goals in collaboration with the client and architect, Walter Butler Center of Stone Builders Development. Stone Builders Development of the opportunity to verify the home as a LEED Platinum and sustainable home. "This client has been exceptionally well-organized the entire construction allowing 90-hour building in the region here. "This project has been an... says Walter Butler Center... "I had a lot of experience with green, and I was looking for a contractor who was insured, highly skilled in quality, and able to support continuous monitoring. The client wanted a beautiful and functional home that was very low for the opportunity to collaborate with Stone Builders of Stone Builders Development. Stone wanted to create a project that was high performing, better looking and more functional than what is normally available. That's exactly the kind of work I like to do," says Walter Butler Center.

RESTORATION/RENOVATION



© 2010 Stone Builders Development, Inc.

The restoration of the featured home was so complete and exhaustive, it could be construed as a new build. It was this custom rebuild that inspired Walter to expand the firm's building permits to more regularly include custom builds like this one.

—DEVRO CUSTOM BUILDERS

Essex Restoration/ Devro Custom Builders

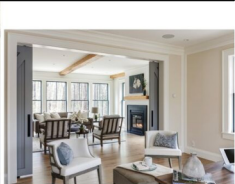
New Home Construction | Residential Remodeling | Historic Preservation

WANDERING SALEM'S ESSEX is a walkabout through time, through centuries of architectural and building history, depicted in both home and church. The journey, initiating in the late 1800s, spans four centuries of architectural style, encompassing Post Medieval, Georgian, Federal, Greek, Gothic, and Colonial Revivals, Italianate, Second Empire, Queen Anne, and eventually concluding with the contemporary New Englander. To glimpse any one of these is to provoke the mind; to examine these testaments to a different way of life, to wonder about the circumstances that brought them into being and to marvel at their longevity.



From a 100-year-old farmhouse to a beautiful, luxurious 1930s Colonial-style abode. The living room mantel and beams were created from salvaged timber.

PHOTOGRAPHY: JAMES PROSSER



Imperceptible to the typical onlooker, however, are the small details that, pieced together, begin to tell the house's protracted tale and endured hardship. Even the sturdiest of homes require upkeep and, most, over their lifespan, will require renovation in order to keep them viable by current standards. Atop that tall order, add a commitment to maintain the original aesthetic and the dexterity and skill and competency necessary to do so. This enterprise requires professionals well-versed in architectural and building history, practiced in building dissection, and experienced in their salvage, restoration and reconstruction. It was with that knowledge, when conceiving the sensible restoration of the namesake's birthplace, that the Abigail Adams Historical Society sought out Essex Restoration for the job.

Essex Restoration is a residential custom build and remodeling company, offering clients over 250 years of combined experience in carpentry, building, historic preservation and remodeling. "If we're going to build it, we should build it right. My team always considers that any one of their jobs should endure for a Century," offers Essex Owner Walter Berke. Center: "We want our houses to persevere; that is what sets us apart."

"Essex was a great choice as GC. I'd known Walter previously from a beautiful restoration he'd done on a mutual friend's older home. Then we ran into each other at a high-performance building workshop, and I realized his passion for both historic architecture and high-performance building made Essex a natural fit for this project. Walter was an enthusiastic supporter of my vision for the house, and clearly relished the challenges that come with a renovation of this scale and complexity. The entire Essex team—from project manager to office staff—pulled together to produce an extraordinary home." —Steve Holder

Walter has led his company Essex Restoration in highly successful renovations of historic properties for which Meadows, Torrey & Spencer, Inc. has served as architect. Our firms have collaborated to provide design-build capabilities to realize our client's dreams to transform and rehabilitate their homes. I will continue to recommend Walter as a capable and trustworthy builder who is a pleasure to work with.

—DAVID M. TORREY, AIA, PRINCIPAL,
TORREY ARCHITECTURE, INC.

Finally, as the Essex team conceived the restoration of this edifice constructed in 1885, they took great care to understand the Society's needs and ambitions for the building, while performing a factitious assessment of its condition. Its present Norton Street address in Weymouth is its third location, having been moved twice previously, and cut clear in half for the purpose of the last move. The Essex Restoration team discovered a long leaking roof, which in addition to causing water damage, invited beetles and termites to feast on support beams. The team repaired the failing foundation, reinforced the roof and restored the windows and sills. They replaced the decade-old, unsynchronous siding with locally milled clapboard. Upon completion of the restoration, Walter had this to say: "This building can stay here for centuries as long as it's taken care of."

Chief designer Walter features gray and white marble island tops, Aquilone islands and a subtle pattern.



PHOTOGRAPHY: LINDSAY BROWN

It is that precision of care that likely caught the attention of Historic New England, a nonprofit historic preservation organization. HNE has called on the Essex Restoration team to assist in at least 20 different projects, of varying scope. Reciprocally, Walter values the work they do. "They're saving old buildings, and that's important to me," he asserts. "I value heritage."

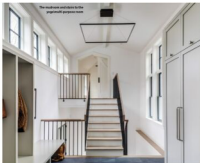
A quick survey of his formative years would have foretold Walter's proclivity for building restoration. He grew up in an 18th-century house in Harvard and recalls his mother's admiration for the home's authenticity. Respectful of history, he was nevertheless intrigued by invention, by the science of composition and construction. Still, as he embarked on his college career, he admits to having little resolve. Undecided about whether to pursue a broad liberal arts education or specific engineering degrees, he determined to acquire both consecutively. Upon graduating Columbia University with no clear plan in motion, Walter temporarily relocated to Newfoundland to renovate his parents' seaside shack. He was charged with plumbing the house and installing subsequent kitchen and bathroom. This undertaking would reveal to him what he previously could not see. "This was my calling."

We couldn't be happier with the work! You were super at keeping in touch and making recommendations that greatly improved on what we had otherwise thought we wanted. We are extremely pleased with the entire operation from start to finish. We can certainly attest to your flexibility, "can do" approach and innovative solutions. Thanks again for a great job that was on time, on budget and exceeded expectations!

—PHIL AND SUE, SALEM



Smart use of technology conserves water and energy.



The modern architecture in the programmatic program room

I have hired Walter and Essex Restoration three separate times for work on two different homes. Walter unflinchingly puts in the time and effort needed to ensure that I understand my options and can choose those that meet my needs best. Essex Restoration staff are true professionals, from their craftsmanship to their project management and communication with me as a client. I will not hesitate to use them for home improvements in the future.

—AMY, BROOKLINE



This area features shiplap, high ceilings, and a wet bar in a quiet and healthy yoga room.

PHOTO: JAMES W. HARRIS



Below ground level is a beautiful recreation room with 10-foot ceiling height.



Recreation glass case for the home gym.



The hot water distribution system is powered by EssexPro pumps with "lifetime warranty" to ensure full support to always quality maintain when necessary.

PROJECT Caswell, MA
BUILD Casa Reborn
ARCHITECT Moss Architects LLC, Malcolm N. Pankovitz, AIA
 This house was originally built in the '50s, then closed, sitting empty for three decades before being resurrected. Moss Architects worked with architect Malcolm Pankovitz. Moss worked closely with the new homeowner to understand her needs and design. Moss is responsible for interior design, construction and a full turnkey project. The new owner set the design in motion. Starting with a full renovation of the first floor, challenges like new wall placement in the living room and adding a fireplace. Starting with a full renovation of the first floor, challenges like new wall placement in the living room and adding a fireplace. Starting with a full renovation of the first floor, challenges like new wall placement in the living room and adding a fireplace.



Photo: © Moss Architects



A new space and natural light.



A new island with a wood-burning stove makes up a quiet, warm, open room.



The new kitchen features a new skylight to bring more natural light in.

Photo: © Moss Architects



A new bathroom also features a new skylight to bring in natural light.



The client, looking for a garage space, also requested that Moss team build a garage. In its entirety, the project was an exercise in the art and science of craftsmanship of Casa Reborn.

BUILDER Walter Bender Carver, Stone Restoration PROJECT: Deighton Cottage, Cape Cod/Massachusetts The house is named "Deighton" for the beautiful marshes seen from this private spot behind natural beauty overlooking the Atlantic Ocean. This is one of the first houses built by Walter Bender Carver.



This seaside cottage is located near "Deighton" and is owned by Walter Bender Carver and his family. Walter restored the cottage and built the little guesthouse. The tall pagoda was made by his brother Herb too, who built the house and collected the spars by hand, as well as learned during his career as a traditional sailing ship captain.

View of the site, not looking out.



I just wanted to say how much I enjoyed having them work here. I know it's a weird thing to say, but they are all perfectly delightful, as professional, very nice gentlemen, obviously very talented and knowledgeable.

—BARBARA, MEDFIELD



The master bedroom at the resort features a canopy with a custom-made wooden case with the owner's initials carved around it.



The family used all sorts of custom furniture in a different way.



The square windows open for ventilation and bring natural light into the room with built-in storage areas at the bottom.



PROJECT Abigail Adams Birthplace, Weymouth, MA
BUILDER: Guss Restoration
ARCHITECT: Spivey & Hoag
CLIENT: Abigail Adams Historical Society
Issue: Foundation in Rock
 An eight-foot piece of history under the eaves of the nation's second First Lady. She is presumed to have been a cabinet confidante for the young president, John Adams. The modest house was in tough condition when the Evans team was brought in to conduct the restoration project. "There are four specialists in every form the building takes a story and the work history of its occupants," says Mattie Bunker Corbin. "I think that truly has this word covered." The other was what and how foundations were done, following modern form, meet, abiding craftsmanship, and visible restoration.

PROJECT Boston Street, Boston, MA
 25,000 square-foot residence on Boston Street



Evans Restoration carefully removed, removed and reinstalled over 100 windows and doors on Village Row residential complex.

PROJECT Boston Hill
CLIENT: National Society of Nantucket
DESIGNER: Charles Beal
 This five-story single-family New England town had many restorations, stone masonry, copper gutters and flashing, and window restoration. Evans Restoration did and replaced parts of a lead core before trade to reestablish.



PHOTO COURTESY OF THE NATIONAL SOCIETY OF NANTUCKET



PROJECT South Elmwood House, Berkeley, MA (noting)
BUILDER: Guss Restoration
OWNER: JPMorgan Historical Preservation. Preservation threat for antique stone, architectural and historical.
Issue: 2015 Boston Preservation Alliance, Preservation Administration
Building Information: gets some life as an affordable housing. The large two-story Federal structure was built by the 18th-century wealthy merchant John Jay. "Every job building story starts with a meeting to establish..." says Walter Butler Corbin. Evans Restoration got the contract what is now Northeastern University College. Record for more than a decade. The building had fallen into serious disrepair. Mattie Corbin, the third Evans Restoration to tackle the exterior restoration. The Evans team removed and re-installed the windows and doors. They ran in the existing frame columns were able to be preserved, so the other four were taken out and re-erected by a large shop in Washington state, then back to the site and installed. They used a lot of the existing steel capital to create the new capital made of steel and bronze. "We'd discover loose and out of plumb."
 The major window 6'6" wide by 6'6" high, which Mattie Bunker Corbin is proud to be knowledge, "books gorgeous." That's a lot of glass in what I think like open air. Walter Corbin says for first day on the job, when starting after confirming the original floor framing columns, he saw four or five with a green cap. "I was the forgetful to see I had over seen. I was getting the window up, and for the window down, and we were in the middle." Fortunately, we have seen the structure.



Book capital and doors



Restoring the capital for the columns in Evans Restoration's Millbrook Street by bringing Evans Restoration's craftsmanship into Patrons



Project Manager Matt Watson puts the capital section on the scissor lift.



PHOTO COURTESY OF WALTER GUSS RESTORATION

PROJECT Merchant Carriage House, Somerville, MA
BUILDER: Evans Restoration
ARCHITECT: Edward Searle
 This project earned an award from the Commonwealth of Massachusetts and the Somerville Historical Commission for Best Historic Workmanship. When we began the building was falling down. The architect had replaced the foundation, straightened the lines, and had a fully modern apartment-style studio with a rear car garage only steps from Back Bay Square.



Spacious studio above the garage



PRISM shower - Bath/Water, Best Somerville/Restoration, MA



The scissor lift column section of the jobsite with Ryan Wilson representing Evans Restoration

