

Boston

## home

BEST OF BOSTON  
HOME 2009

OVER 25 PAGES OF TOP LOCAL  
DESIGNERS, BUILDERS, DÉCOR STORES, HANDYMEN,  
ART GALLERIES, LIGHTING PROS, PAINTERS,  
PLUMBERS, ARCHITECTS, FURNITURE SHOWROOMS,  
LANDSCAPERS, ELECTRICIANS, AND MORE!

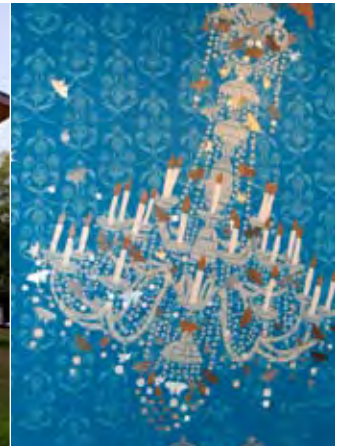
PLUS: THE SECRETS TO GREAT DESIGN IN A DOWNTURN

Winter 2009 (Display until 3.09.09)





# Boston



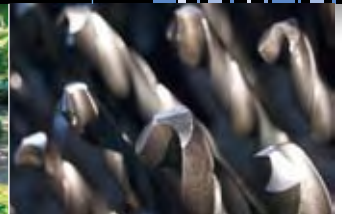
# BEST OF BOSTON HOME

2009

## CATEGORIES

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ILLUSTRATIONS BY  
ANTONY HARE





An indoor oasis  
by Sanford  
Custom Builders.

WEST	WINNERS	SANFORD CUSTOM BUILDERS	HUSBANDS FOR HIRE	
		HILLCREST ELECTRIC		
		ROBINSONS ACE HARDWARE		
		MACDOWELL COMPANY		
		TLC PAINTING		
		ASSOCIATED PAINTERS		
		RELIABLE PIPES		
'09				



## Builder

### SANFORD CUSTOM BUILDERS

310 WASHINGTON ST., STE. 202, WELLESLEY HILLS, 781-416-7007, SANFORDCUSTOM.COM. It's not often you find a dedication to a builder's parents on his website: "Dad, everything I know about building comes from you... Mom, you [taught] me to set very high standards." Sanford president Marc Kaplan credits his developer father and interior designer mother for his 30 years of success in the business of constructing high-end custom homes—and understanding homeowners' emotional investments.

## Electrician

### HILLCREST ELECTRIC

214 GARDEN ST. #8, NEEDHAM, 781-444-5200.

What do you look for in an electrician? Most likely it's that he or she gets the job done at a reasonable price. Hillcrest fits that bill but also gets an A-plus on a half-dozen other important criteria—from the ability to perform triage over the phone, to showing up at your home in record time, to being patient when you don't know the right words to explain what's wrong.

## Hardware store

### ROBINSONS ACE HARDWARE

ONE NICHOLAS RD., FRAMINGHAM, 508-877-1888; 31 WASHINGTON ST. (RTE. 85), HUDSON, 978-562-7316; ROBINSONSACE.COM.

Can you judge a hardware store by the number of trucks parked out front? Hell, yeah. From dawn to dusk, both locations are bustling with local contractors purchasing everything from valves to fixtures to fittings, plus regular folk in search of grills, snowblowers, and screws. A family-owned business since 1874, Robinsons exudes kindness and a helpful attitude—and its huge inventory keeps customers coming back for generations.

## Landscaper

### MACDOWELL COMPANY

21 CENTER ST., WESTON, 781-899-9393, MACDOWELL.COM.

For three all-too-brief months a year, our backyards become an extension of our living rooms: Screen doors are propped open, charcoal grills are fired up, neighborhood children play hide-and-seek in the shrubbery. So it makes sense that your yard be as thoughtfully

designed as your home's interior. Enter the MacDowell Company, whose 38 years of landscaping experience can turn a treeless pasture into a flowering garden, multilevel terrace, or lake-shaped pool with a bluestone deck.

## Painter, exterior

### TLC PAINTING

7 ERIE DR., NATICK, 800-905-1993, TLCPAINT.COM.

TLC Painting's goal is one all companies should adopt: to achieve success by doing what is in the customer's best interest. Seems obvious, but owner John Mulvaney has figured out the key to accomplishing this: The painters who show up on your doorstep promptly every morning are well-groomed, uniformed, full-time employees with an average of five years' experience. Their work is superior, and past clients have said they're polite, unobtrusive, and "truly nice guys."

## Painter, interior

### ASSOCIATED PAINTERS

365 BOSTON POST RD., STE. 353, SUDBURY, 781-235-8887, ASSOCIATEDPAINTERS.COM. Luckily, most housepainters don't take years to complete a job (or dispense philosophy) like Murphy Brown's Eldin. But for the intense period of time they're in your home, you still want someone you can trust implicitly. Stephen Oldach and his crew are not only top-notch painters who pride themselves on creating as little disruption as possible—including using HEPA-filtered vacuums to eliminate dust—but they're also expert craftspeople who'll repair plaster and woodwork before they pick up a paintbrush.

## Plumber

### RELIABLE PIPES PLUMBING & HEATING

44 EVERIT AVE., FRAMINGHAM, 508-889-6003, RELIABLEPIPESPH.COM. With so many homeowners installing thousand-dollar toilets and steam showers these days, busy plumbers don't have time to return calls—let alone answer their phones. Eric Powers is a rarity: a plumber who takes calls after dark. Hence the name of his two-year-old company, which has succeeded solely by word of mouth. He and co-owner Roy Oller offer professional know-how with a personal touch.



### WINNER TELLS ALL

## IF YOUR HOUSE WERE BURNING, WHAT THREE THINGS WOULD YOU GRAB?

I'd get anything related to my kids, like photo albums and videos. I'd save the cats—but only two of the three, since I don't like the third. And I'd try to rescue a sculpture that my sister made for me. It comes in three sections, and it's pretty heavy. If it were a slow fire, I'd call a moving company to help me get it out.

MARC KAPLAN, PRESIDENT, SANFORD CUSTOM BUILDERS; WINNER, BUILDER, WEST

## Small repairs

### HUSBANDS FOR HIRE HOME IMPROVEMENT SERVICES

44 VIOLETTE CIR., NORTHBRIDGE, 508-234-2162, HUBBIESFORHIRE.COM. Yes, the logo (a '50s housewife worshipping a handyman) raises our feminist eyebrows, but the truth is, sometimes you *need* a guy with some brawn to clean your gutters or take out your air conditioner. Ed Mansfield will do anything a burly spouse might (except *that*). ■