



THE THIRD ANNUAL NEW ENGLAND DESIGN HALL OF FAME

INDUCTEES

PETER FORBES
Peter Forbes, F.A.I.A., Architects

CHERYL AND JEFFREY KATZ
C & J Katz Studio

GARY McBournie Gary McBournie, Inc.

DOUGLAS REED AND GARY HILDERBRAND Reed Hilderbrand Associates

STEPHEN STIMSON, RICHARD JOHNSON AND EDWARD MARSHALL Stephen Stimson Associates

Dalia Tamari Dalia Kitchen Design

MARYANN THOMPSON

Maryann Thompson Architects



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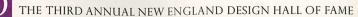
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ARCHITECTURE

Maryann Thompson Maryann Thompson Architects

Clients can tell architect Maryann Thompson the number of bedrooms they need, how big a kitchen they want and all the other details that go into making a house a home, but more often than not it is the landscape itself that dictates her building design—how a floor plan might follow the path of the sun; where windows could be placed to maximize solar orientation or outdoor views; how wood, steel and glass can co-exist with the topography rather than overtake it.

Thompson, who holds

118 New England Home November/December 2009

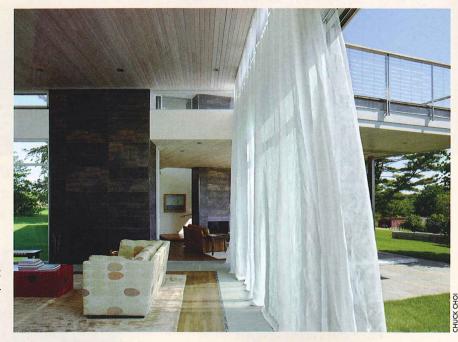
degrees in both architecture and landscape architecture, is the founder of Cambridge-based Maryann Thompson Architects. When she began practicing twenty years ago, site-specific work was far less common. "It was all very beautiful but object oriented," she explains. "An approach to the way space can be made that is open and flowing and unfolding—I think that's why a lot of people in New England like the work I do. It ends up feeling like it's reminiscent of a region but it's modern."

"Sense of place is extremely important to

Maryann," says former client Will Makris. "Touching the ground lightly and expressing the true connection between inside and out is a natural occurrence in Maryann's work."

"Maryann brings a joy and an enthusiasm to her work that we really valued," adds Ray Powrie, another of Thompson's clients. "She brought the outdoors indoors for us and filled our 100-year-old cottage with light, seamlessly blending the old and the new."

Sustainability is another hallmark of Thompson's work; she was doing passive solar projects long before sustainable design was the cultural norm it's become today. Thompson's work has been honored with three American Institute of Architects (AIA) National Honor Awards and numerous AIA New England Design Honor Awards and Boston Society of Architects Honor Awards for Design Excellence. Her projects have been published in magazines



such as Landscape Architecture Magazine, Art in New England, Progressive Architecture, Architectural Digest, Architectural Record and New England Home, as well as in various architectural books including Norton's A Guide to 250 Key Twentieth-Century American Buildings, 40 Under 40 and Contemporary American Architects. Thompson has taught design as a visiting faculty member at Massachusetts Institute of Technology, Rhode Island School of Design, University of Virginia, Michigan and Rice; she is currently a faculty member at Harvard University's



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Graduate School of Design.

"I do a lot of projects that are in beautiful sites," says Thompson. "When I can make a human awareness of the beauty of the site and how it's working and the different natural cycles that are happening, it's really satisfying. The satisfaction for me comes in creating architecture that heightens the perception of the site and the user."

"Maryann sited our house exercising tremendous respect for the land without compromising our views," says client Bonnie Weiss. "We have received many compliments from local sailors about how they enjoy viewing our home from the outer harbor."

Thompson may tread lightly on the New England landscape, but her very sensitivity to the land ensures she'll forever be a part of it.

