


New England HOME

Celebrating Fine Design, Architecture, and Building

20th
Anniversary
Issue

Celebrate!

A group portrait of five interior design professionals. On the left, a woman stands in a black dress with a wide belt. In the center, a woman sits on a wooden crate in a black dress. Behind her, a man stands in a black shirt. To the right, another woman sits on a wooden crate in a black blazer over a white top. The background features a wall with large, colorful geometric and floral patterns. The floor is covered with a large, light-colored rug.

Becky Garrity of Becky Garrity Interiors, Alison Hammatt of Alison Hammatt Home, Thomas J. Fraley of Gregory Lombardi Design, Jen Stephens of Matthew Cunningham Landscape Design, and Julien Jalbert of Knickerbocker Group.



The 2025 5 Under 40 Awards

With a discriminating eye on the future, *New England Home's* 5 Under 40 Awards celebrate the wealth of young design talent in New England.

This is the sixteenth year for the program, which honors excellence in residential architecture, interior design, and landscape design. Each year, our panel of judges selects five young professionals who embody that excellence in both the caliber of their work and in their contributions and dedication to New England's vibrant design community.

This year's awards ceremony will be held on September 18 at The Galleria at 333 Stuart Street in Boston. The festivities will include food, drink, and the chance to catch up with old friends while making new ones. The highlight of the evening is the auction of five unique rugs designed by our 2025 winners and produced by Landry & Arcari Rugs and Carpeting, with all proceeds supporting a nonprofit organization dedicated to educating women from South Asia. We can't wait to see you there!

Text by **MARIA LAPIANA**

Portraits by **BRUCE ROGOVIN**

JULIEN JALBERT

Growing up in rural New Hampshire

with a self-taught architect and builder for a dad and a teacher for a mom, Julien Jalbert learned how to design, construct, and fix just about anything. "My father imparted all his skills to me," says Jalbert, an architect with Knickerbocker Group, a design-build firm with offices in Portland and Boothbay, Maine.

Now thirty-eight, Jalbert was preparing for his vocation in every practical way, but it took a year as a computer science major at Northeastern University for him to realize his calling. He discovered coding



Julien Jalbert
of Knickerbocker
Group



really wasn't for him, so he changed his major to architecture and never looked back. "Immediately I had the sense that 'these are my people,'" he remembers.

In between earning his bachelor's and master's degrees, he took a job at Northeastern doing renovations on campus, then he designed restaurants for a small boutique firm. All the while he was sharpening his focus on sustainability. He obtained LEED certification and studied ways to



recycle, renew, and combat climate change.

At his Knickerbocker Group interview in 2017, Jalbert shared his thesis on modular construction; once hired, he put his passion for energy efficiency to work. In time, he was asked to study trajectories the firm might take to become more sustainable. That led to the development of the company's Prefab Pod division. "We figured out how to build homes faster and more efficiently with environmentally responsible, bio-based materials," he says.

Jalbert lives in a neighborhood of post-World War II homes in South Portland with his wife, Sarah, and their three young sons. Despite his expertise in sustainability, he believes he was chosen for the 5 Under 40 honor because his portfolio is fairly diverse. "I can do vernacular Maine as well as modern and sleek," he says. "I don't stay in one lane."



◀ "The hexagon is a true force of nature," explains Julien Jalbert, who admits a fascination with geometry and the "awe-inspiring" six-sided wonder of the world. Its prevalence in the natural world is remarkable—from turtle shells and insect eyes to honeycombs. The architect's rug pattern celebrates the hexagon, and the bee, a critical player in our ecosystem. We take the bee for granted, says Jalbert, so he wanted his rug to "pay homage to the small and busy worker that helps keep us all well-fed."

5 Under 40 Awards

The Announcement

Edited by CAMILLA TAZZI

This spring, as the 2025 5 Under 40 winners were officially revealed, friends, family, colleagues, and past recipients gathered at Landry & Arcari Rugs and Carpeting's Boston showroom to congratulate the winners and get an exclusive first look at their custom rug designs.



Two of the 2025 judges: Jennifer Palumbo of Jennifer Palumbo Interior Design and Michael Tartamella of Patrick Ahearn Architect



Julie Arcari Cook of Landry & Arcari Rugs and Carpeting and New England Home's Kathy Bush-Dutton



Back row: Cory Gans of Planeta Design Group and Troy Sober of Gregory Lombardi Design. Front row: Devin Hefferon of Matthew Cunningham Landscape Design, Ryan Alcaidinho of Hutker Architects, Kelly Taylor of Kelly Taylor Interior Design, Matthew Cunningham of Matthew Cunningham Landscape Design, and John Day of Blue Hour Design



Dean Sawyer of Blue Hour Design, Ryan Wampler of Matthew Cunningham Landscape Design, and Joel Port of Parterre Garden Services



Jill Adler, Jill Ostiguy, and Lisa Novak of DiscoverTile flank Alison Hammatt of Alison Hammatt Home (third from left)



Azra and Umut Yilmaz of Lazzoni with Julie Arcari Cook



Holly Charbonnier and Ryan Alcaidinho of Hutker Architects flank Thomas J. Fraley of Gregory Lombardi Landscape Design



Bob Marzilli of R.P. Marzilli & Co., Jen Stephens of Matthew Cunningham Landscape Design, and Sean Reynolds of Woodmeister Master Builders



Tara Haley-Park and Joe DiLazzaro of Opus Master Builders flank Becky Garrity of Becky Garrity Interiors



The Landry & Arcari Rugs and Carpeting team



Julien Jalbert of Knickerbocker Group (center) with the Gregory Lombardi Design team



New England Home's Jenna Talbott (fourth from left) with the 2025 winners

5 Under 40 Awards

The Process

FROM FANCIFUL IDEAS TO FABULOUS RUGS

The 5 Under 40 program does

more than attest to the talents of young professionals who are making a difference in New England's design community.

Unique rugs designed by the winners come to life under the guidance of the experts at Landry & Arcari Rugs and Carpeting. The custom rugs are fabricated, then auctioned, with proceeds benefiting a nonprofit organization dedicated to educating women from South Asia.

The rug-making process begins with a workshop that covers the basics of rug design and construction, according to Eric Brissette, who heads up custom rug production and inventory management at Landry & Arcari. He acts as a liaison between the designers and the arti-

sans in Nepal who weave the rugs.

"We meet in the spring to go over the process and look at different rugs, methods, and techniques," says Brissette. "We set parameters. For example, the rugs must measure forty square feet."

While most designers opt for traditional five-by-eight rugs, others will choose squares, runners, even circles. "Some designers will try to see how far boundaries can be pushed," he says. Once the



designs are set, the weaving is fast-tracked, typically taking two to three months.

"We really are always delighted to see what the designers will



do," says Brissette. "They're so creative. I have to say this year's rugs are some of the most interesting we've ever had."



The Judges

The judging panel for this year's 5 Under 40 Awards consisted of a group of seasoned design pros. We are grateful for their time, expertise, and dedication to the vetting process.



Jennifer Palumbo, Founder and Owner, Jennifer Palumbo Interior Design, Newton, Mass.



Justin Quinn, Principal, James Doyle Design Associates, Greenwich, Conn.



Mike Tartamella, Managing Principal, Patrick Ahearn Architect, Boston and Edgartown, Mass.