

Martha's Vineyard Construction Company, Inc: Mastering Craftsmanship and Quality

Colin Whyte, President of Martha's Vineyard
Construction Company, Inc.



PHOTOGRAPHER © CHARLENE DITZ

PROJECT: Martha's Vineyard, MA

ARCHITECT: Ike Kligerman Barkley

This house features three magnificent levels of architectural splendor and building mastery, replete with 25-foot-high concrete walls that are 2-feet thick, as well as an abundance of stone work, wood shingles, and authentic teak doors and windows.

"The architect on this project came to us, reviewed our process, looked over our portfolio and hired us," says Colin Whyte. "The home offers five bedrooms, an exercise room, a theater, a library, an outdoor grotto area with a built-in kitchen barbecue and fire pit, and a pool house. The magnificent stone barbecue, the pool and pool house were unplanned but incorporated well into the build. The heating and cooling is powered by geothermal technology, and a fiber optic cable network facilitates the home's telepresence room.

PHOTOGRAPHER © DREW KINGSMAN



PHOTOGRAPHER © GIL JACOBS





REVIEW ONLY
© 2014 TRUE NORTH CUSTOM MEDIA UNAUTHORIZED USE OF THIS DOCUMENT IS STRICTLY PROHIBITED.



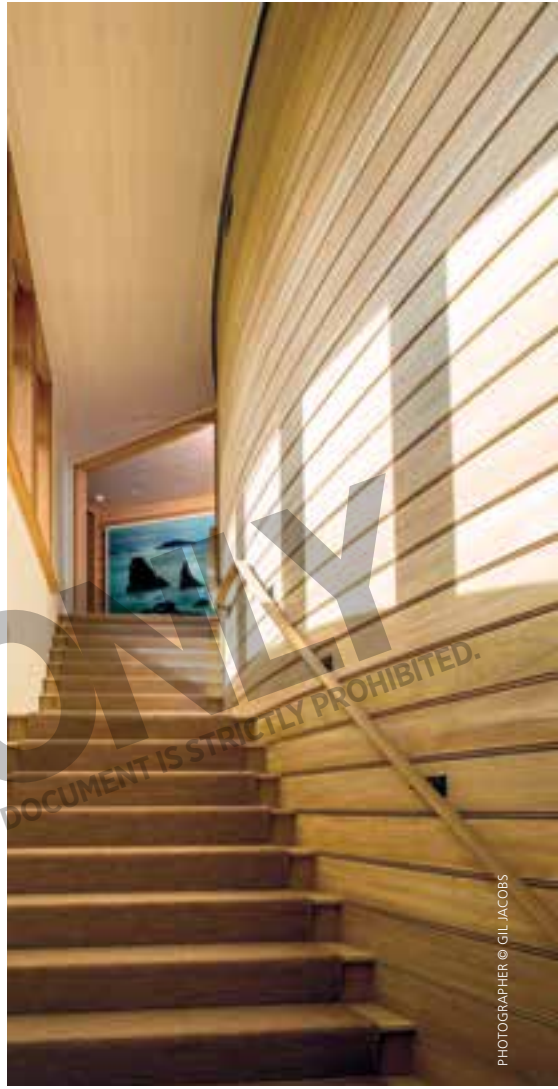
PHOTOGRAPHER © GIL JACOBS



PHOTOGRAPHER © GILJACOBS



PHOTOGRAPHER © GIL JACOBS



PHOTOGRAPHER © GIL JACOBS



PHOTOGRAPHER © GIL JACOBS

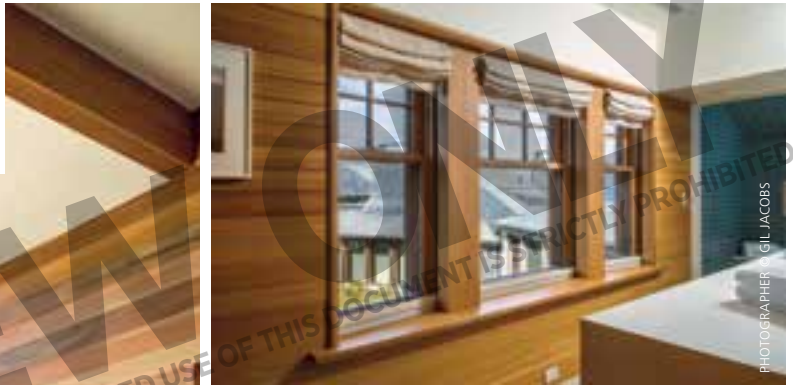


PHOTOGRAPHER © GIL JACOBS

Known for premier quality, unwavering consistency and meticulous craftsmanship, Martha's Vineyard Construction Company of West Tisbury represents one of the area's most renowned and sought-after custom homebuilders. In 1971, only two years after man first set foot on the moon and when the dawn of the information age was still over the horizon, the company's President, Colin Whyte, began laying the groundwork for a building firm whose formula for success is as unique as the magnificent projects it brings to a highly discerning, resolutely demanding client base.



PHOTOGRAPHER © GIL JACOBS



PHOTOGRAPHER © GIL JACOBS



PHOTOGRAPHER © GIL JACOBS



PHOTOGRAPHER © GIL JACOBS

FROM CLASSIC BEACH cottages and contemporary homes to sprawling colonials, traditional New England seashore homes and cutting-edge restorations, Martha's Vineyard Construction Company endeavors to fulfill the vision of architects and the lifestyle aspirations of clients through complex projects in exclusive locations.

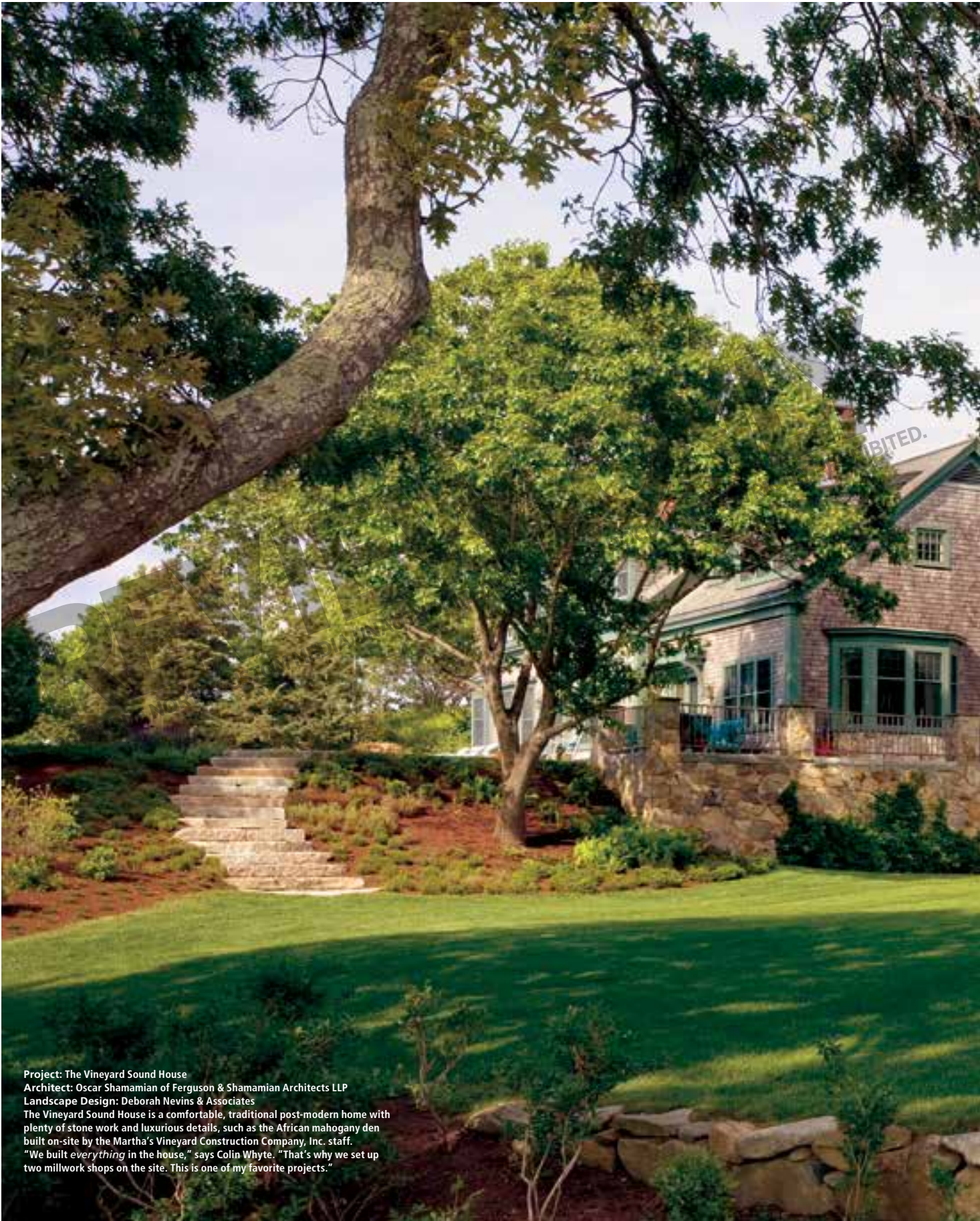
"As our projects have developed in character and complexity, so too have our client's expectations of how we manage those

[Continued on P. 25]





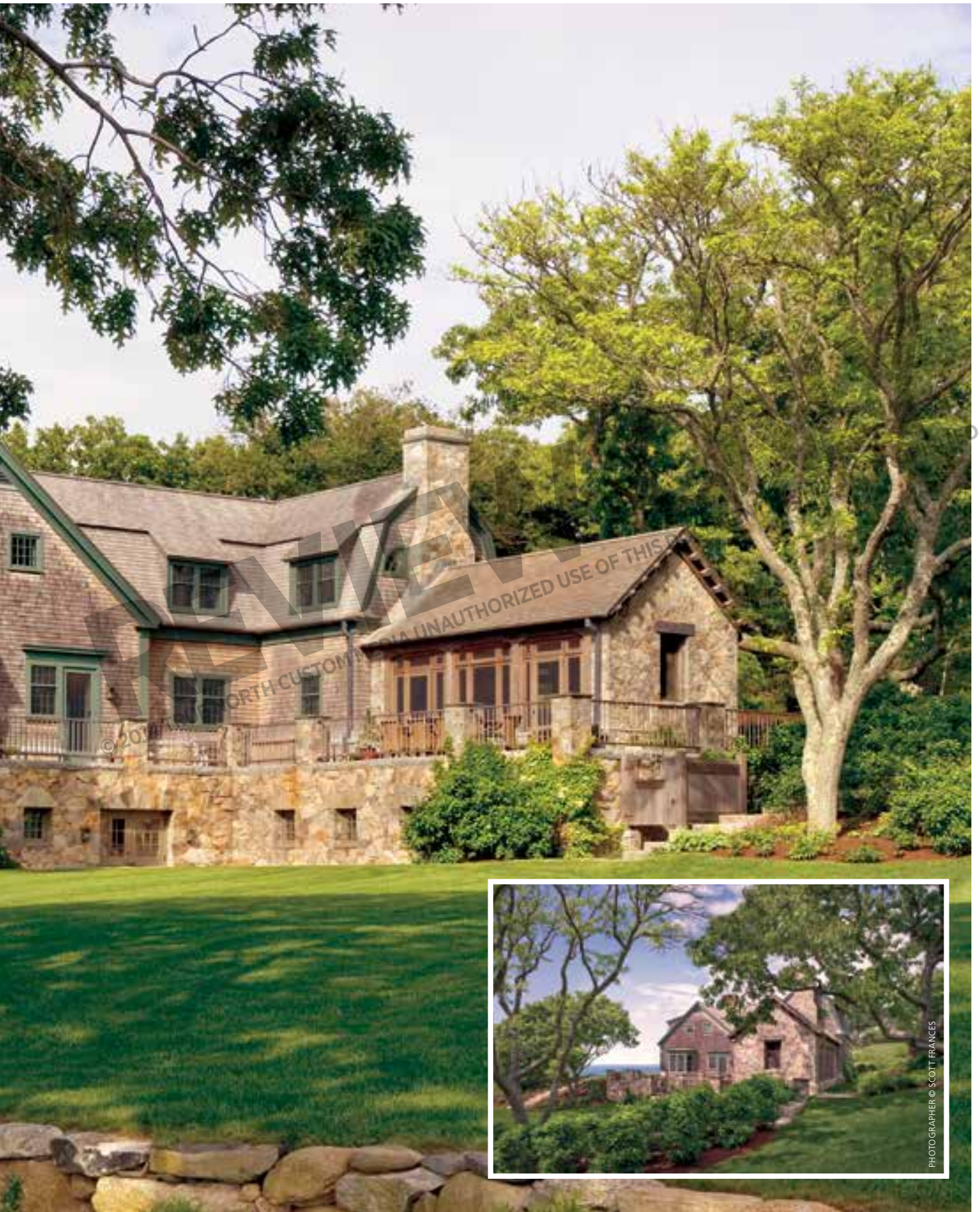




PROHIBITED.

Project: The Vineyard Sound House
Architect: Oscar Shamamian of Ferguson & Shamamian Architects LLP
Landscape Design: Deborah Nevins & Associates
The Vineyard Sound House is a comfortable, traditional post-modern home with plenty of stone work and luxurious details, such as the African mahogany den built on-site by the Martha's Vineyard Construction Company, Inc. staff. "We built *everything* in the house," says Colin Whyte. "That's why we set up two millwork shops on the site. This is one of my favorite projects."

PHOTOGRAPHER © SCOTT FRANCES



© 2018 NORTH CUSTOM MEDIA UNAUTHORIZED USE OF THIS PHOTOGRAPHY

PHOTOGRAPHER © SCOTT FRANCES





PHOTOGRAPHER © SCOTT FRANCES



© 2014 TRUE NORTH CUSTOM MEDIA UNAUTHORISED USE OF THIS DOCUMENT IS

PHOTOGRAPHER © SCOTT FRANCES



PHOTOGRAPHER © SCOTT FRANCES

Project: Spring Point
Architect: Architecture Research Office
Landscape Architect: Michael Boucher
With decidedly contemporary styling, this home involved tearing down a home built by Martha's Vineyard Construction Company, Inc. for the same homeowner, whose lifestyle had changed over time. The home is owned by a rabbi, whose wife is a museum curator. Among the more distinct characteristics of the house is that its interior boards line up perfectly with the Alaskan yellow cedar exterior siding to provide a striking continuity slicing through the structure, bringing the wood detailing inside. "The layout and nature of this house is not that different from the original, except for the addition of a full basement and appointments and technology updates," says Colin Whyte.



RENEWED
2014 TRUE NORTH CUSTOM MEDIA UNALASKA



TRUE NORTH CUSHING

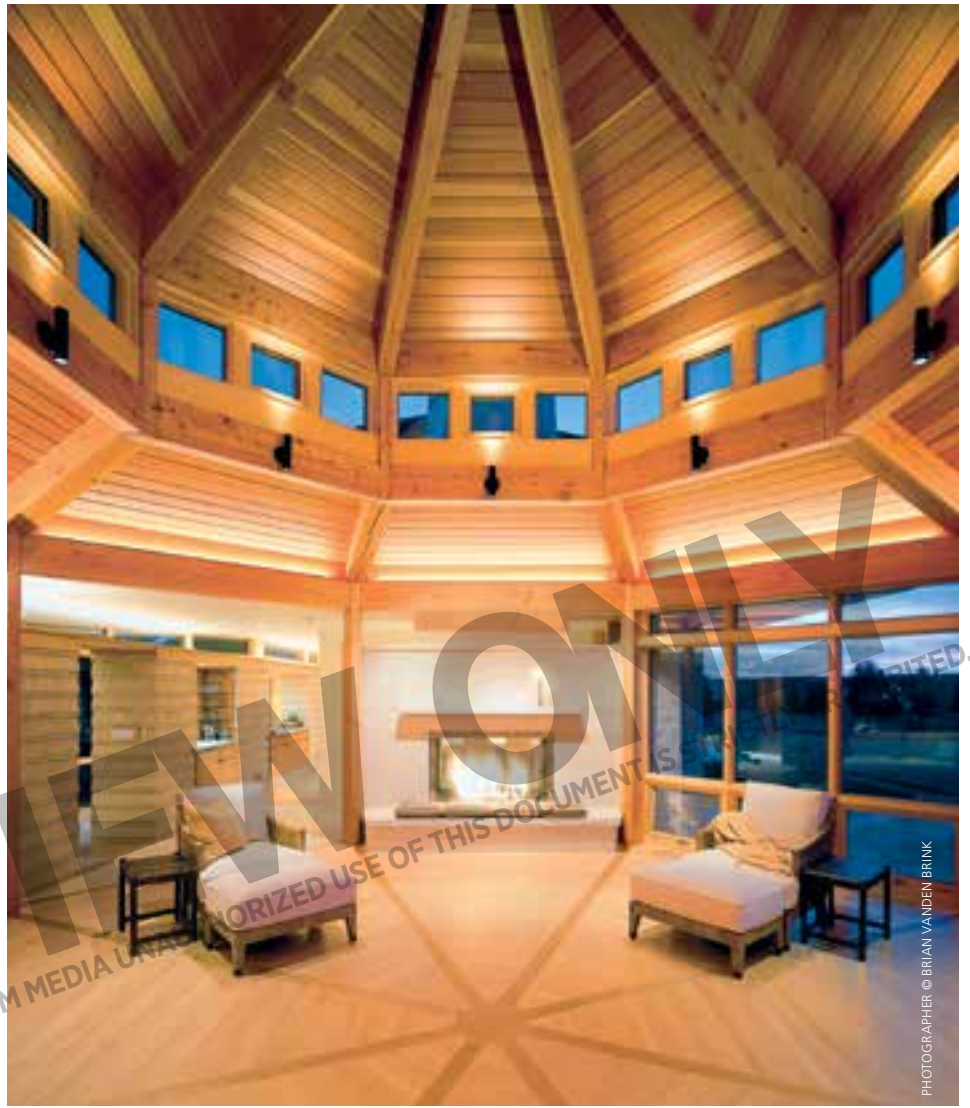






Project: Aerie House
Architect: Hutker Architects

With 360-degree views of the meadows, an inland bay and natural vegetation, this award-winning contemporary/traditional-designed home built by Martha's Vineyard Construction Company, Inc. earned a Merit Award. Many of the materials, such as limestone and cedar shingles used for flooring and walls, are used both inside and outside. Building the octagonal room comprised of a timber-frame ceiling, with each facet facing a view or another space, was a challenge for the Martha's Vineyard Construction Company team, but they completed the project precisely following the plan. They built the upper layers on the ground, and then raised the structure into the air, assembling the posts and beams underneath. A cherry inlay in the beech floor reflects the pattern of posts and rafters. "The homeowner requested a home deserving of the views, and this is it," says Colin Whyte.



PHOTOGRAPHER © BRIAN VANDEN BRINK

PHOTOGRAPHER © BRIAN VANDEN BRINK



Project: Head of Pond Home
Original Architect: Richard Tremaglio
A many-windowed turret and open kitchen with views down the length of Lagoon Pond and the ocean beyond highlight this beautiful renovation, a project required because of water damage and a change of ownership.
"For this job, the new owners contacted the original architect, and the architect suggested they call me so as to replicate, as closely as possible, the original architectural vision," says Colin Whyte.



PHOTOGRAPHER © GIL JACOBS

PHOTOGRAPHER © GIL JACOBS





PHOTOGRAPHER © GIL JACOBS

[Continued from P. 8]

projects,” Colin says. “What is extremely valuable to us in that regard is our ability to translate a decades-long familiarity with construction management into the language of today’s building environment.”

The company takes great pride in its ability to offer the coveted trio of superior skill, sophisticated business administration and project management methods.

By employing the most advanced technology, Martha’s Vineyard Construction Company has created a proprietary building-process formula, ensuring increased productivity, time-sensitive project completion, reduced errors and omissions, tighter budgeting and scheduling, and consistent communication throughout project duration.

“Our dedicated approach to process and control means that all aspects of the building process — from construction analysis, engineering plans, retention of subcontractors and assignment of project supervisors — can take place more seamlessly and cost efficiently,” Colin explains.

Additionally, Martha’s Vineyard Construction Company has developed

[Continued on P. 31]



PHOTOGRAPHER © GIL JACOBS



PHOTOGRAPHER © GIL JACOBS



PHOTOGRAPHER © GIL JACOBS

Project: The Pink House
Architect: Alex Adkins, DiMella Shaffer Architects
 This renovation project is owned by an architectural preservationist who has restored seven other homes, including the famous Kaufmann House in Palm Springs, California. Martha's Vineyard Construction Company, Inc. was charged with rejuvenating mechanicals and lifestyle components while maintaining the original character of the house. The kitchen and bathrooms were updated with changes that, to the unappreciative eye, might go unnoticed. They also added a new garage to the existing house via the basement, complying with conservation and local codes that do not allow more than one outbuilding on the property.

"I decided to hire preservation architect Alex Adkins from DiMella Shaffer Architects in Boston because he had stayed several times at the house and understood my thinking about preserving modern buildings," says homeowner Beth Harris. "I also hired Colin Whyte because he was known to be meticulous, had an appreciation for maintaining the historic nature of the house — even though it was atypical of most island construction and materials — and he seemed patient enough to cope with me."





PHOTOGRAPHER © GIL JACOBS



PHOTOGRAPHER © GIL JACOBS



NEW ONLY
MEDIA UNAUTHORIZED USE OF THIS DOCUMENT IS STRICTLY PROHIBITED.

PHOTOGRAPHER © GIL JACOBS



PHOTOGRAPHER © GIL JACOBS



PHOTOGRAPHER © GIL JACOBS



Project: Renovation at the Chop
 Architect: Ferguson & Shamamian LP
 A prominent Landmark since 1906, this residence — considered the “Crown Jewel of West Chop” — rests above the dip in the road and overlooking the West Chop pier.
 “We had to raise the original home in order to build a foundation and eventually rebuild everything else,” says Colin Whyte. The home retains the original façade and charm but with additional wings and rooms. An office was set up in the garage, and two site supervisors ran the project. The renovation brought the 11-bedroom house up to today’s standards. The living room was updated with built-in bookcases and a fireplace. Several original doors were restored, maintaining the home’s historical character. With its fireplace and vaulted roof beams, the screened porch off the formal dining room is a cozy place to entertain and view the water. This home was featured in a documentary film titled, “House of Bones.”

PHOTOGRAPHER © LISA ROMEREN



PHOTOGRAPHER © LISA ROMEREN



PHOTOGRAPHER © LISA ROMEREN



PHOTOGRAPHER © LISA ROMEREN



PHOTOGRAPHER © LISA ROWEREIN



Project: Turtle Pond Farm
Designer: Margaret Curtin

Built 23 years ago, this home belongs to Colin Whyte. An elegant farmhouse and guest house sit on sixteen secluded acres near Lambert's Cove Beach. The property abuts Land Bank properties on two sides, which have miles of walking trails. It's a classic center-entry cape with a fireplace situated against the stairway and features bookcases on either side. Highlighting the enormously space-efficient floor plan, the stairway to the basement is tucked behind the bookcases, under the main staircase leading to the second level. Upstairs, every nook and cranny of the living area is effectively utilized, with bookcases built into the restrictive knee walls, replacing what would have been cumbersome furniture. The house has four bedrooms and three baths. The guesthouse has a private bath and kitchenette. Turtle Pond Farm House is quaint, with exceptional detail, and is an ideal setting for family gatherings.

Several people have used the house for weddings during the summer months, when Colin rents the property and lives on his sailboat. More weddings are planned for next summer.



Twelve-year-old Colin built this soapbox car, raced in the local derby and won his heat — all with a broken arm.



[Continued from P. 25]

web-enabled programs to render more effective collaboration with the builder/architect/owner team, as well as a budget and scheduling format, offering clients the transparent accountability Colin insists upon.

“We know our clients entrust us with the fiduciary responsibility to manage their projects in a logical, organized and precise manner,” he says.

“We believe our accounting process is the most comprehensive of any construction company on Martha’s Vineyard.”

While his building career began unusually early at age 12, when Colin constructed a soapbox derby car, his love of art would ultimately dictate his educational achievements.

“I was born in Miami and attended grammar and junior high school there,” Colin says. “I attended a military school in Tennessee and then Brown University, where I minored in art. After graduation, I went to law school for one semester, but then I went back to Brown Graduate School to study art.”

Forming his company was equally interesting, Colin recalls.

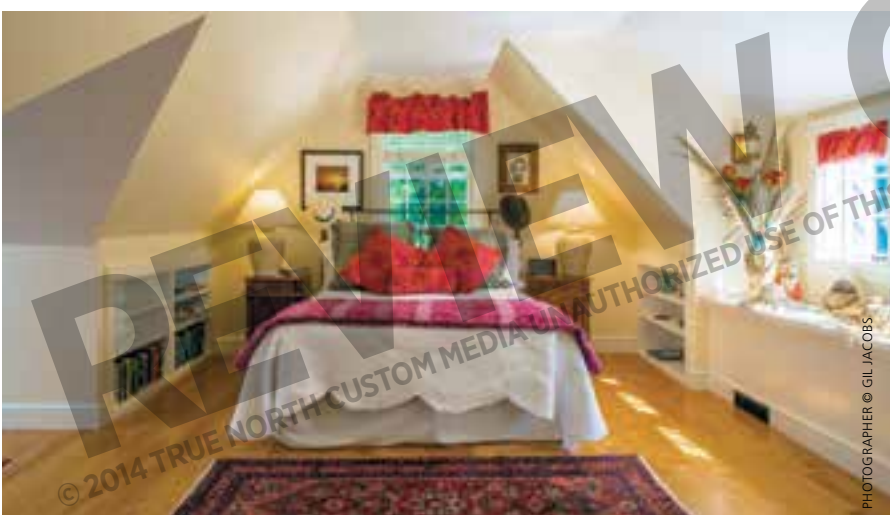
“Our very first project was a trailer we built to move the cabin I lived in at the time,” he says. “After moving the cabin, we put sides on the trailer and used it to clean up construction sites. There were no dumpsters back then, which tells you how long ago I started the business.”



REVIEW ONLY
UNAUTHORIZED SALE OF THIS DOCUMENT IS STRICTLY PROHIBITED.



PHOTOGRAPHER © DREW KINSMAN



PHOTOGRAPHER © GIL JACOBS



PHOTOGRAPHER © GIL JACOBS

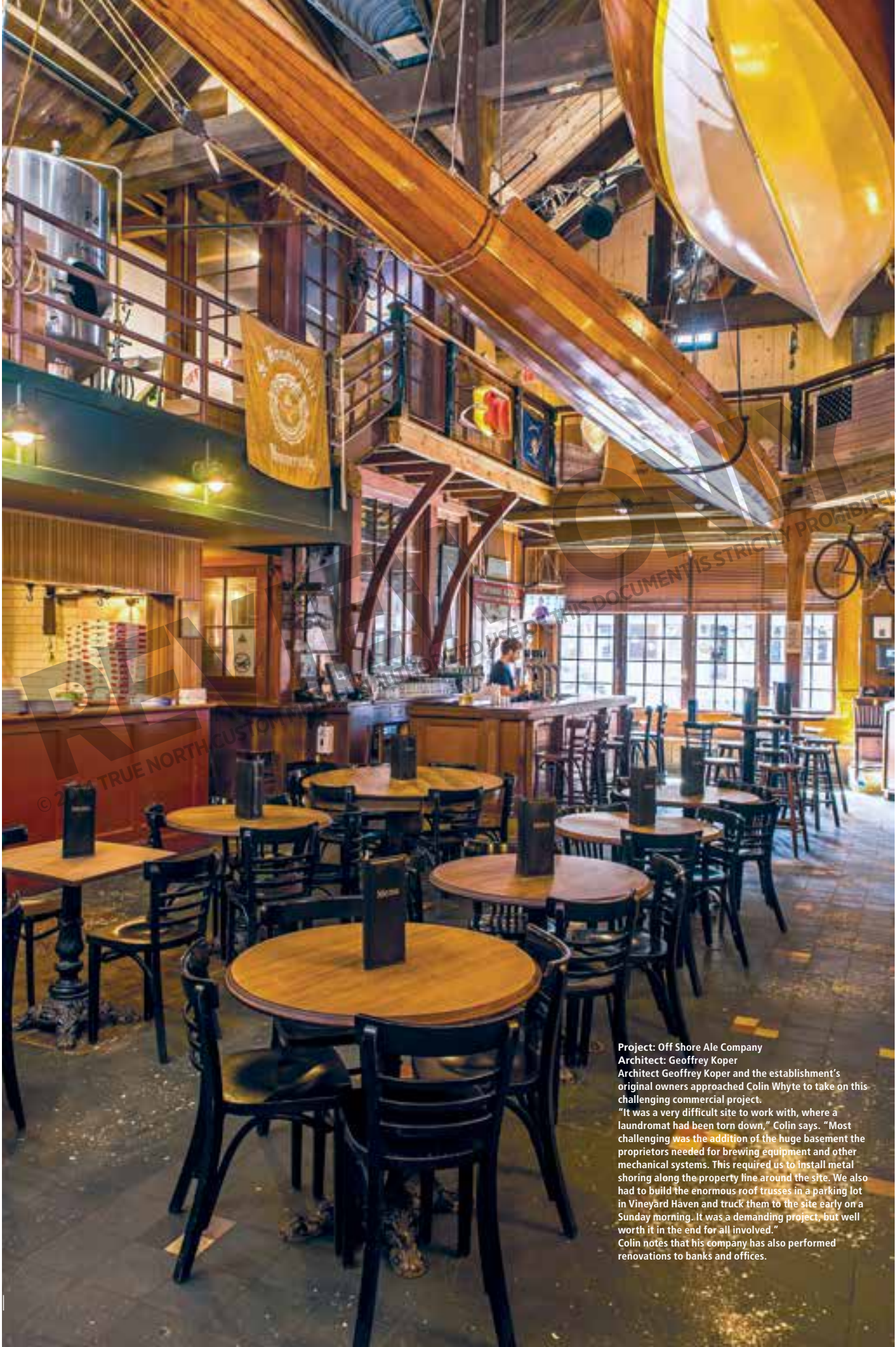
Guest house



PHOTOGRAPHER © GIL JACOBS

A penchant for quality has remained the cornerstone of Martha's Vineyard Construction Company. The company has accomplished excellent results by retaining staff members and using only the best subcontractors and suppliers — in some cases, such relationships have spanned as many as 20 years. The quality of the construction has been affirmed by a number of repeat clients.

A routine project outline begins when a property owner or architect contacts Colin. Once plans have been finalized and budgets established, Martha's Vineyard Construction Company sets the building process in motion, first designating a site-specific project manager to the job. He will remain on that project through its completion, monitoring every component of the building process. As an added job facilitator, the company installs video cameras on most project sites in order to monitor progress directly from the home office.



Project: Off Shore Ale Company
Architect: Geoffrey Koper
Architect Geoffrey Koper and the establishment's original owners approached Colin Whyte to take on this challenging commercial project. "It was a very difficult site to work with, where a laundromat had been torn down," Colin says. "Most challenging was the addition of the huge basement the proprietors needed for brewing equipment and other mechanical systems. This required us to install metal shoring along the property line around the site. We also had to build the enormous roof trusses in a parking lot in Vineyard Haven and truck them to the site early on a Sunday morning. It was a demanding project, but well worth it in the end for all involved." Colin notes that his company has also performed renovations to banks and offices.



“In this way,” Colin says, “if anything is needed at the site at any time, we can more quickly act upon it.”

Martha’s Vineyard Construction Company operates multiple millwork shops, in some cases, directly on the job site.

“Since attention to detail is a crucial step in attaining the results our clients have come to expect, producing built-ins, cabinetry and other essentials is often best done in-house by our own personnel who are familiar with



PHOTOGRAPHER © ANDREW KINSMAN

Project: North Shore House
Builder: Martha's Vineyard Construction Company, Inc.



PHOTOGRAPHER © GILL JACOBS

Pool house and pool
Builder: Martha's Vineyard Construction Company, Inc.



PHOTOGRAPHER © GILL JACOBS

the entire project and can see first-hand how the products they are creating will interact with the structure,” Colin says.

Today, *Builder+Architect* can be added to the list of dozens of publications in which Martha's Vineyard Construction Company has appeared over the years.

“I think what has really caught the industry's attention is the complex nature of the projects we are asked to complete and our ability to exercise our proven construction management techniques so consistently,” Colin says. “On a more human level, I just can't get enough of stepping up to the difficult challenges presented to us by our clients. When we finish an exacting project on time, on budget

and, most of all, to the architect's and homeowner's liking, I feel a tremendous personal satisfaction and thankfulness for working with the dedicated professionals within our company.”

This issue of *Builder+Architect* proudly exhibits the finished products that have played such a large role in cementing Martha's Vineyard Construction Company's reputation as an elite builder among elite builders on one of America's most challenging coastlines.

For more information about Martha's Vineyard Construction Company, call 508-693-2300 or visit marthasvineyardconstruction.com or email: info@marthasvineyardconstruction.com. ■