

# New England HOME

Celebrating Fine Design, Architecture, and Building

*Plus:*  
The 2020  
5 Under 40  
Award  
Winners

SAVOR  
*the* SEASON



New England Home's

# 40 5 UNDER FORTY AWARDS

## The 2020 5 Under 40 Awards

**W**e never fail to be amazed at the wealth of young design talent that emerges year after year here in New England. Now in its eleventh year, *New England Home's 5 Under 40 Awards* program shines the spotlight on the hottest young professionals in the area's residential design community.

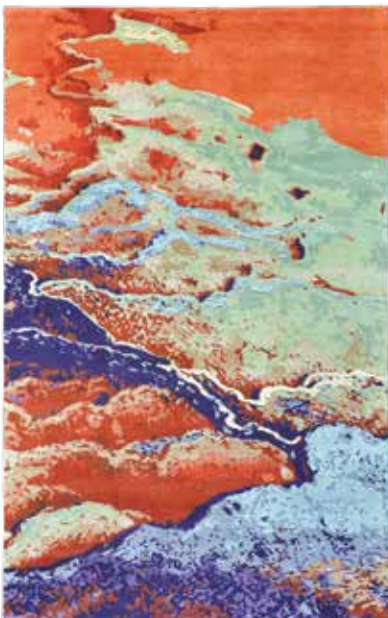
The annual program looks a little different this year. The COVID-19 pandemic forced us to postpone the awards gala to 2021 and take its corresponding live auction of the five rugs designed by the award recipients virtual. Proceeds from the auction, which happens November 9–13, once again benefit the nonprofit Barakat (see page 78 for details). The good news is that design lovers from across the country now have the opportunity to vie for these heirlooms while raising money for a worthy cause. For information, visit [32auctions.com/5Under40\\_OnlineAuction](https://32auctions.com/5Under40_OnlineAuction). Let the bidding begin!

*Text by* PAULA M. BODAH | *Portraits by* BRUCE ROGOVIN

## Architecture: JESSIE CARROLL

Jessie Carroll's clients often tell her she gives off the "vibes of a psychologist." That doesn't surprise her. "The most interesting part of architecture isn't the structures, but the people behind them," she says. "Working super closely with couples and families, listening to how they want to live, helping to see that through is what keeps it exciting for me."

Her clients undoubtedly benefit from Carroll's insight and empathy, but for architect Thomas Catalano and the other 5 Under 40 judges, it was



**ABOVE:** Jessie Carroll, an associate principal at Whitten Architects in Portland, Maine.

**LEFT:** Carroll's pattern was inspired by a photograph a friend took of a tidal dune, while her color choices—reminiscent of a 1960s lava lamp—were influenced by her own home, an authentically renovated midcentury house. "When I was playing with my rug design, I was inspired to go with this very fun, timeless, 1960s-throwback feel."

her eye for design and skill as an architect that stood out. "She displayed an uncanny understanding of place, and her architecture spoke to its context in a refreshing way," Catalano says. "She understands craftsmanship and building and the teamwork that

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goes into a successful project.”

Context is crucial says Carroll, associate principal at Portland, Maine-based Whitten Architects. Good architecture, she believes, has a light touch on the landscape. That doesn’t mean its presence isn’t felt, however. “The architecture may be simple and quiet and timeless, but all

the details are fleshed out,” she says. “How this trim turns the corner, how the drywall meets the window, the scale of that window—that attention to detail, that thoughtfulness runs through the work.”

Growing up in Westford, Massachusetts, Carroll was a competitive runner. The



discipline required for long-distance running extends to her career, she says. “As a runner, there’s always this moment when you don’t want to go on. The average length of time to become a licensed architect is twelve years, so it’s like a marathon.”

Carroll, who earned an MA in architecture from Northeastern University, has already garnered an impressive list of academic and professional awards. The 5 Under 40 award feels special, however. “Being acknowledged early in my career is one of the most exciting professional achievements I’ve had,” she says.

*“She displayed an uncanny understanding of place, and her architecture spoke to its context in a refreshing way.”*

—ARCHITECT THOMAS CATALANO



## *Landscape Design:* ELIZABETH HENDRICKSON

**P**erhaps Elizabeth Hendrickson's career choice was inevitable, given her upbringing in Basking Ridge, New Jersey, where she spent a lot of time at her grandparents' five-acre organic farm. "I was one with the land from an early age," she says with a laugh. What's more, a great aunt and uncle had a nearby nursery, so the farm held a wondrous variety of plants.

Hendrickson dreamed of being a florist in those days. "I was obsessed—I'm still obsessed—with flowers. They make me so happy." On the advice of a florist she worked



**ABOVE:** Elizabeth Hendrickson, senior landscape architect at Kathryn Herman Design in New Canaan, Connecticut.

**LEFT:** There is an aerial-view quality to Hendrickson's rug; its theme is a stylized landscape plan. "When I design a perennial garden, I design it in circles of colors," she says. She used one of her own garden plans, tweaking it to form a pleasing *mélange* of intersecting circles in shades of blue, green, and purple.



with, Hendrickson started studying plant science in college. "But it was like bio 101 and chem 101, and I thought, 'Why am I taking these classes if I just want to play with flowers?'" She switched her major to landscape architecture, and a career was born.

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Hendrickson, senior landscape architect at Kathryn Herman Design in New Canaan, Connecticut, says she doesn't have a signature style. "But I do have a philosophy. My job is to make the site in which the architecture sits seamless. It's meant to look like it was always there."

That viewpoint holds no matter where a project is, whether it be an apartment with multiple terraces in New York City, a home on the water in Connecticut, or a fifty-acre Westchester, New York, estate. While each project has a unique look and feel, as well as its own



palette of materials, all are equally timeless.

John Haven of Boston's LeBlanc Jones Landscape Architects, a member of the judging panel and a past 5 Under 40 winner himself, says Hendrickson's work excels in both its variety and its quality. "As a fellow plant person," he says, "I appreciated the sophistication of her planting designs. Her knowledge of plantings and composition really stood out."

*"I appreciated the sophistication of her planting designs. Her knowledge of plantings and composition really stood out."*

—LANDSCAPE ARCHITECT JOHN HAVEN



## Interior Design: STEPHANIE KING

**S**ome little girls spend their idle hours dreaming about their perfect wedding. Stephanie King spent that time looking at magazines and fantasizing about the house she would live in when she grew up. “I knew I wanted to be an interior designer,” she says. “What I love about it is that it’s art that you live in.”

Her parents—an engineer father who makes furniture and loves architecture, and a mother who loved entertaining and, says King, “had every Martha Stewart book”—were



**ABOVE:** Stephanie King, lead designer at Heather Wells in Boston. **LEFT:** King’s rug design brings to mind the tulip fields of the Netherlands as seen from an airplane. The pattern pays homage to the color field explorations of the German artist Josef Albers, and for King, a large part of the fun was playing with unexpected color combinations.

her earliest influences. “My parents took so much pride in where they lived. It fostered that understanding that the place you choose to spend time in can be art.”

King started her career with a bang, landing a job, right after graduation from

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Syracuse University, at Slifer Designs, an AD100 firm in Colorado. “I went for an interview, and I was hired on the spot,” she recalls. “That’s a proud thing for me: each job I’ve had I’ve been hired during the interview. I love what I do, and I think that passion, the love and

joy, come through in my interview.”

Eventually, the Princeton, Massachusetts, native made her way back east, working with Amy Lau Design in New York City and then, in 2012, joining Boston-based Heather Wells as her lead designer. King’s designs often begin with a



quiet, neutral palette featuring black and white, which she then layers with texture, subtle color, and a decidedly bespoke influence. “I don’t like buying off the shelf or machine-made,” she says. “I love to see the hand in the texture of a fabric or a piece of carved wood. Everything has to have that layer of artisan quality.”

King’s work has been widely acclaimed and has been featured in *Architectural Digest*, *Luxe*, and *New England Home*.



“I knew I wanted to be an interior designer. What I love about it is that it’s art that you live in.”

—INTERIOR DESIGNER STEPHANIE KING



## Interior Design: EMILY PINNEY

**T**he entrepreneurial spirit runs in Emily Pinney's family. Her father had a design/build firm in New Hampshire, and she spent plenty of time at his work sites or in the workshop where he crafted millwork. So when she decided to start her own firm, Pinney Designs, in 2011, the idea wasn't at all scary. "It just sort of evolved organically," she says. Home base for the company is Belmont, Massachusetts, where Pinney's two young children often join their mom



**ABOVE:** Emily Pinney, principal at Pinney Designs in Belmont, Massachusetts. **LEFT:** Pinney says her rug, a design based on vintage textiles she was exploring at the time, has a soothing palette of mauve, taupe, and gray that is "quiet and subtle, more like my own personality."



in her workplace, just as she did with her dad.

The built environment was Pinney's first interest, she explains. "I was born and raised in residential design. It wasn't until much later that I realized interior design was a thing," Pinney says. A wise



high-school teacher suggested she take a CAD class, and she found she loved it and had a talent for design. Education at the Boston Architectural College suited her, with its emphasis on hands-on learning. "I really believe that design is something you learn by doing, not necessarily in a classroom," she says.

Helping younger designers get that firsthand experience is important to Pinney, and she enjoys hiring interns. "I really like to take them under my wing and teach them," she says. "One of my longest-running employees started as an intern."

Equally important is community involvement, such as last year's Room to Dream project her firm undertook, redesigning the basement and the three kids' bedrooms for a family whose home had been damaged by a flood.

Pinney also fulfills her entrepreneurial desires with Syd + Sam,



a Belmont-based home boutique (currently with online shopping only, thanks to COVID-19). Again, the philanthropic occasionally comes into play; last year Pinney created a pop-up Syd + Sam in Brooklyn, New York, to raise funds for the Global Autism Project, a nonprofit started by her sister, Molly Oly Pinney.

*"I was born and raised in residential design."*

—INTERIOR DESIGNER EMILY PINNEY

## Interior Design: ALINA WOLHARDT

**A**lina Wolhardt is the only one of this year's 5 Under 40 winners who isn't a native to the Northeast. The daughter of a Japanese mother and Danish father, she spent her first eighteen years in Tokyo then lived in Copenhagen for two and a half years before moving to the United States. Wolhardt, who earned an MA from the New England School of Art and Design in 2008, cut her design teeth at Duncan Hughes Interiors and then at Elkus Manfredi Architects before opening her



**ABOVE:** Alina Wolhardt, principal at Wolf in Sheep Design in Boston. **LEFT:** Wolhardt's rug references her own blended heritage. "I wanted to tap into my roots," she explains. The two intersecting circles "represent both of my identities pulling against each other," she says. "The shading shows that they're merging. There's something beautiful about that."

own Boston-based firm, Wolf in Sheep Design, in 2015.

Given her background, it's no surprise that Wolhardt's work incorporates elements of both Asian and Scandinavian design. "They both have a very clean aesthetic and are more on the contemporary side," she

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notes. “Japanese design is very minimal, and every detail matters. In Denmark, comfort is really valued because the winter months are long and dark.”

Those influences translate into interiors that are striking in their simplicity and elegance but imbued with a playfulness—a bold shot of color here, a delightful mix of textures there—that gives each space a unique personality.



Wolhardt isn't content to sit still, artistically. She enjoys residential, commercial, and hospitality design equally. And she is working to expand her reach nationally and internationally. “We have a place on the West Coast, so I've started taking projects out there,” she says. “My next goal is to take projects everywhere, especially with things going more

virtual anyway.”

Although she's a relative newcomer to our area, Wolhardt has found a true home in Boston. “The city resonated with me because of its very European feel. I didn't intend to stay as long as I have—I hate winter,” she says. “But I met my husband here, and that sort of sealed the deal. I think it's a great city.”

*“My next goal is to take projects everywhere, especially with things going more virtual anyway.”*

—INTERIOR DESIGNER ALINA WOLHARDT



## The Process: WEAVING BEAUTY

**F**or eleven years now, the experts at Landry & Arcari Rugs and Carpeting have acted as mentors, springboards, and facilitators to the 5 Under 40 winners as they work to design the one-of-a-kind rugs that have become such an important part of the annual awards program. It's a task that never gets old, says co-owner Jeff Arcari. "We always love doing this," he says. "I can never wait to see the rugs."



The five award winners worked with Arcari and Eric Brissette, the company's manager of custom rug design and inventory, to bring their ideas to life, a process made a bit more complicated this year because of COVID-19 and social distancing requirements. "In the past, I'd say to a designer, 'Why don't you come in and look at this sample,'" Arcari explains. "We couldn't really do that this year."



Meanwhile, in Nepal, where the rugs are woven, the whole country was on lockdown during a good part of the time the weavers would normally be working on the designs.

Despite the obstacles, the five rugs created by this year's crop of winners are as varied—and as impressive—as the designers themselves.

The rugs use a combination of wool, silk, and, in some cases, aloe, to create movement and texture. It takes two weavers several months to bring each of the bespoke five-by-eight-foot treasures to life. A virtual auction of the designs will raise money for Barakat. The auction takes place November 9–13. Visit [32auctions.com/5Under40-Online Auction](https://32auctions.com/5Under40-OnlineAuction) to bid.

## What's at Stake

**Over the past two and a half decades**, some 71,000 young people in Pakistan and Afghanistan were able to go to school, thanks to Barakat. In any given year, the Cambridge, Massachusetts, organization provides education to more than 3,000 children and women in south and central Asia. *New England Home* is proud to have been associated with Barakat since the inception of the 5 Under 40 Awards. Each year, the rugs designed by the winners are auctioned off, with the money raised going to Barakat. To date, the New England design community has come together to raise more than \$234,562 for the charity. "It's pretty amazing," says Arti Pandey, Barakat's executive



director. "I was impressed to see how generously people gave at last year's auction."

Like so many nonprofits, Barakat has been affected by COVID-19. In Pakistan, only the elementary schools have been allowed to open, while in Afghanistan, only the high schools are open. "We continue to pay all the staff, though," Pandey says.

"I'm hoping when it's time to bid, people will keep a mental picture of the strains of a nonprofit like ours."

For more information about Barakat, visit [barakatworld.org](https://barakatworld.org).

**Barakat**  
Helping Communities Through Education

## Online Auction: BID FOR BARAKAT!

[32auctions.com/5Under40\\_OnlineAuction](https://32auctions.com/5Under40_OnlineAuction)

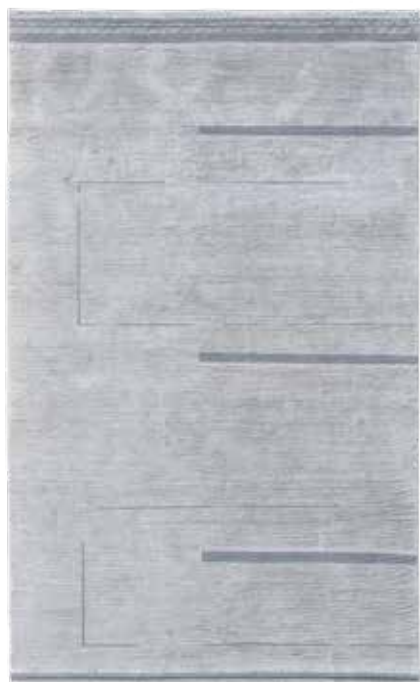


Jessie Carroll

Though we can't all be together this year to celebrate the 2020 5 Under 40 winners, you can still support emerging talent and make a difference in the lives of young people living in Pakistan and Afghanistan—even if you don't live in New England. Bid on these five one-of-a-kind rugs during a virtual auction, happening November 9–13.



Elizabeth Hendrickson



Emily Pinney



Stephanie King



Alina Wolhardt

## The Judges: MEET OUR 2020 PANEL

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.

CLOCKWISE FROM TOP RIGHT:

**Thomas P. Catalano**, principal, Catalano Architects, Boston

**John Haven**, senior associate, LeBlanc Jones Landscape Architects, Boston

**Clinton Smith**, editor at large, *New England Home*

**Michelle Morgan Harrison**, principal, Morgan Harrison Home, New Canaan, Connecticut



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