

New England HOME

Celebrating Fine Design, Architecture, and Building

*Fearless
Chic*

VIBRANT NEW LOOKS
ENRICH NEW ENGLAND'S
HISTORIC STYLES



Solutions



Home construction and renovation can often entail a series of problem-solving exercises. Builder **Bob Ernst** shares a few instances in which good old-fashioned ingenuity, mixed with a heavy dose of experience, produced beautiful results.



1. Gracefully Grounded

"We were tasked with building a large house on the coast in Gloucester, Massachusetts. The site was one big rock, and we had to do a foundation on top of it. How to keep the house from looking like it was perched high above the landscape? We stepped the footings, drilling and pinning to the ledge stone, then formed, poured, and waterproofed everything to allow as much level 'basement' space as possible for utilities. The result is a home beautifully grounded in its stony surroundings."

2. City Slick

"Urban construction can pose special challenges because you are often working within the confines of a high-rise building. Our client wanted a traditional bathroom with a freestanding tub as its focal point. Claw-footed tubs combined with concrete slab construction are tricky, since you can't change the location of the drain or the pipes. We figured out a way to position the tub to take advantage of the views without major plumbing changes."

3. Detail Oriented

"It doesn't get more complicated than this amenity-packed shower, complete with multiple showerheads, fans, and lighting. We were faced with accommodating glass tiles of various sizes and thicknesses, dual sets of controls, and water supplies at both ends, as well as the constraint of working within the existing room structure. Precise coordination with all of the people and companies involved allowed us to pull off this symmetrical challenge, delivering framing, plumbing, and complex tile- and stonework that are all flush and perfectly aligned."

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