

VERSE OF THE WEEK

"Except the Lord build the house, they labour in vain that build it." — PSALM 127:1

A note from the studio — what we're watching in the trade, what's moving onto our boards this June, and an honest word about what happens once the walls come open.

01

INSIDE THE STUDIO



Our Melrose showroom is where design decisions get easy — full stone slabs, tile walls, cabinetry, and fixtures under one roof, so you can touch everything before you commit a dollar. It is the difference between guessing and knowing.

02

FROM THE FIELD

The energy code is now a town-by-town

conversation

The Stretch energy code now governs the large majority of Massachusetts, and a growing list of communities has layered on the stricter Specialized opt-in code. The practical effect for homeowners: two identical renovations in neighboring towns can carry different insulation, air-sealing, and electrification requirements. We read the code for your exact address before a line is drawn — so the permit set is right the first time and your timeline holds.

2026, in a word: warmth

The national reports all point the same way: natural stone with soft, organic veining over high contrast, flat-panel and wood-grain cabinetry, wall-mounted faucets that keep counters clear, and tile carried floor to ceiling for a quiet, enveloping effect. Restraint, executed precisely — the language our studio already speaks.

03

ON THE BOARDS · IN DESIGN

Four bathrooms taking shape on our drawing boards this month. Renderings shown — progress photos to follow as each moves to build.



Brimmer Street

E. WATERTOWN

A light-filled attic bath — a curbless walk-in shower behind a frameless glass panel, a crisp white vanity with a marble top, and a skylight that opens the sloped ceiling to the sky.



Salem Street

ANDOVER ·

PRIMARY

A serene primary bath in soft cream — a double floating vanity with matte-black fittings, a backlit niche, full-height large-format tile, and a sculptural freestanding tub beneath the window.



Salem Street

ANDOVER ·

FAMILY

The third bath in the same Salem Street home, studied from above — a deep soaking tub-shower, a double vanity on wall-mounted fittings, and warm large-format stone carried across the floor.



Wildwood Road

ANDOVER

Warm minimalism in cream and oak — a stone-topped floating vanity with a vessel basin, an arched backlit mirror, a lit niche column, and a frameless walk-in shower with brushed-gold rainfall fittings.

04

ON SITE · IN BUILD

Live from the field — a project currently under our hands.



Hovey Street

WATERTOWN

Demolition complete and the kitchen is opened to the studs — old finishes out, the layout reset, and rough plumbing and electrical staged for inspection. The unglamorous stage that makes a clean install possible. We document every day on site, so you always know exactly where things stand.

05

IN DEMAND · FROM OUR VENDORS

What's moving fastest this month — specify early to protect your schedule.

Quartzite & soft-veined quartz slabs

LEAD 3-5 WKS

Greens, taupes and golds — subtle movement, not high contrast.

Flat-panel & wood-grain cabinetry

LEAD 6-10 WKS

Warm, authentic grain is outpacing painted finishes.

Wall-mounted faucets & brushed-gold fittings

LEAD 4-8 WKS

A clean counter; rough-in must be set at framing.

Full-height & checkerboard tile

LEAD 2-6 WKS

Material-drenched walls; order overage on patterned runs.

06

IN THE NEWS · THE MARKET

What the cabinet market means for your project

8–18wksTYPICAL CABINET
LEAD TIME**4.6%**FURNITURE PRICES,
YEAR OVER YEAR

Cabinet delivery commonly adds **8 to 18 weeks** of lead time before work can begin, and over the past year kitchen and dining furniture rose **4.6%** against **2.7%** for overall inflation. We share this so your planning is grounded in the real market, not surprises — the clients who lock selections early are the ones who hold both their budget and their schedule.

Source: [CBS News & U.S. Bureau of Labor Statistics](#)

07

WHAT TO EXPECT · THE ROUGH PHASE

Every renovation has a moment of truth: the day the walls come open. Demolition and the rough phase are when a home finally tells you what is really behind the surface — and that truth is not always on the original drawings. A pipe quietly failing behind tile. Moisture or mold in a wall cavity. A subfloor a half-inch out of level after decades of settling. Wiring that no longer meets today's code. None of this surprises us; it is the nature of working on real, lived-in homes. But it does mean the plan can shift once we can see.

HOW WE HANDLE IT

- We document every condition with dated site photos — before and after we open a wall.
- If we find a hidden condition, we pause, show you exactly what we found, and put a written change order in front of you before any added work proceeds.
- Change orders are normal in this phase, and they protect you: nothing is billed or built without your written approval first.
- We recommend keeping a 10–15% contingency in your budget so these moments stay easy, not stressful.

Our promise: no surprises in the dark. You see what we see — and you decide.

08

ASKED & ANSWERED

“How early should we make our finish selections?”

Earlier than most people expect — ideally before demolition. The finishes set the schedule: a stone slab, a custom vanity, or a wall-mounted faucet can carry weeks of lead time, and several decisions must be made at framing, not at the end. Locking selections up front lets us order ahead, sequence the trades cleanly, and hold your completion date. When selections arrive late, the calendar moves with them — so the kindest thing we can do for your timeline is help you decide early, with confidence. It is exactly what your design phase with us is for.

09

THE STUDIO · OUR PARTNERS

We build with the best – partners chosen for quality, warranty, and consistency, so what we specify is what you receive:



TAP ANY LOGO TO VISIT THE BRAND

STAND WITH OUR FAMILY

Supporting the Carrasco Family

Our Project Manager and friend **Alvaro Carrasco** is walking through a hard season – his father is in need of care and support. If you are able, even a small gift or a quiet prayer means the world to him and to our whole team. Thank you for standing with the Carrasco family.

SUPPORT THE CARRASCO FAMILY

BOOK A STUDIO CONSULTATION

Planning a fall start? Our design calendar is filling now.

Thank you for trusting us with your project.



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