



Like it's always been there. Designed to integrate with the landscape, the new bath house gives an architectural nod to the 18th-century cedar barn located on the property.

The bath house

This 450-sq.-ft. bath house and entertainment lounge designed by architect Nicole Migeon didn't quite fit the best-energy-smart or best-small-home categories in our 2016 HOUSES awards. Still, its energy-smart strategies—along with its craftsmanship in design and construction—meant that it was too good not to share. The clients originally requested a second interior bath, but when they later decided not to alter their pre-Civil War farmhouse, Migeon designed the bath house.

With its cathedral ceiling and expansive interior, the bath house is both a welcoming spot for entertaining friends as well as the perfect place for enjoying quiet time alone. In addition to a sunken stone hot tub and a full bath with a spa shower inside the building, the bath house includes a second shower area outside, with removable screens for privacy. Lining the perimeter of the bath-house interior is a recessed fireplace, a custom bar, an entertainment center, and built-in seating.

Migeon took into consideration the shifting weather patterns of the western Massachusetts location in deciding upon the placement of clerestory windows and screens and the selection of solar panels and roof materials. The low-e glass, stone radiant floors, integrated roof gutters, and rainwater collection system were all vital components that helped shape the design. Most of the project materials were locally sourced, and the bath house was built in collaboration with local craftspeople.

Almost like being outdoors. A 10-ft. by 10-ft. counterbalance door lifts up and outward to connect the interior and exterior. The millwork is reclaimed chestnut, and the flooring is galaxy schist from a local quarry. The water in the hot tub is treated with natural enzymes, allowing it to be collected along with rainwater in a cistern and then used to water the lawn and gardens.



Blending new and old. The custom EcoSmart Fire fireplace burns ethanol. The interior walls are reclaimed maple floor planks. The cantilevered door is manually operated by a large wheel and gear.



In the still of the night. The sustainably grown cedar slats are reminiscent of old tobacco-drying barns. The zinc roof is covered with custom-fitted solar panels that heat the water for the bath house's hot tub and showers and also supply the hot water for the main house.

DESIGN Nicole Migeon Architect, New York, migeonarchitect.com **CONSTRUCTION** Cook Construction, Greenfield, Mass.

MILLWORK AND CABINERY Chuck Bayliss and Water Street Furniture, Leeds, Mass. **PHOTOGRAPHS** Paul Teeling, courtesy of Nicole Migeon