

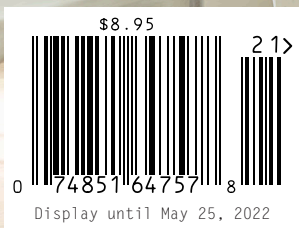
OUR FAVORITE COMFORT FOODS

SOUTH COAST ALMANAC

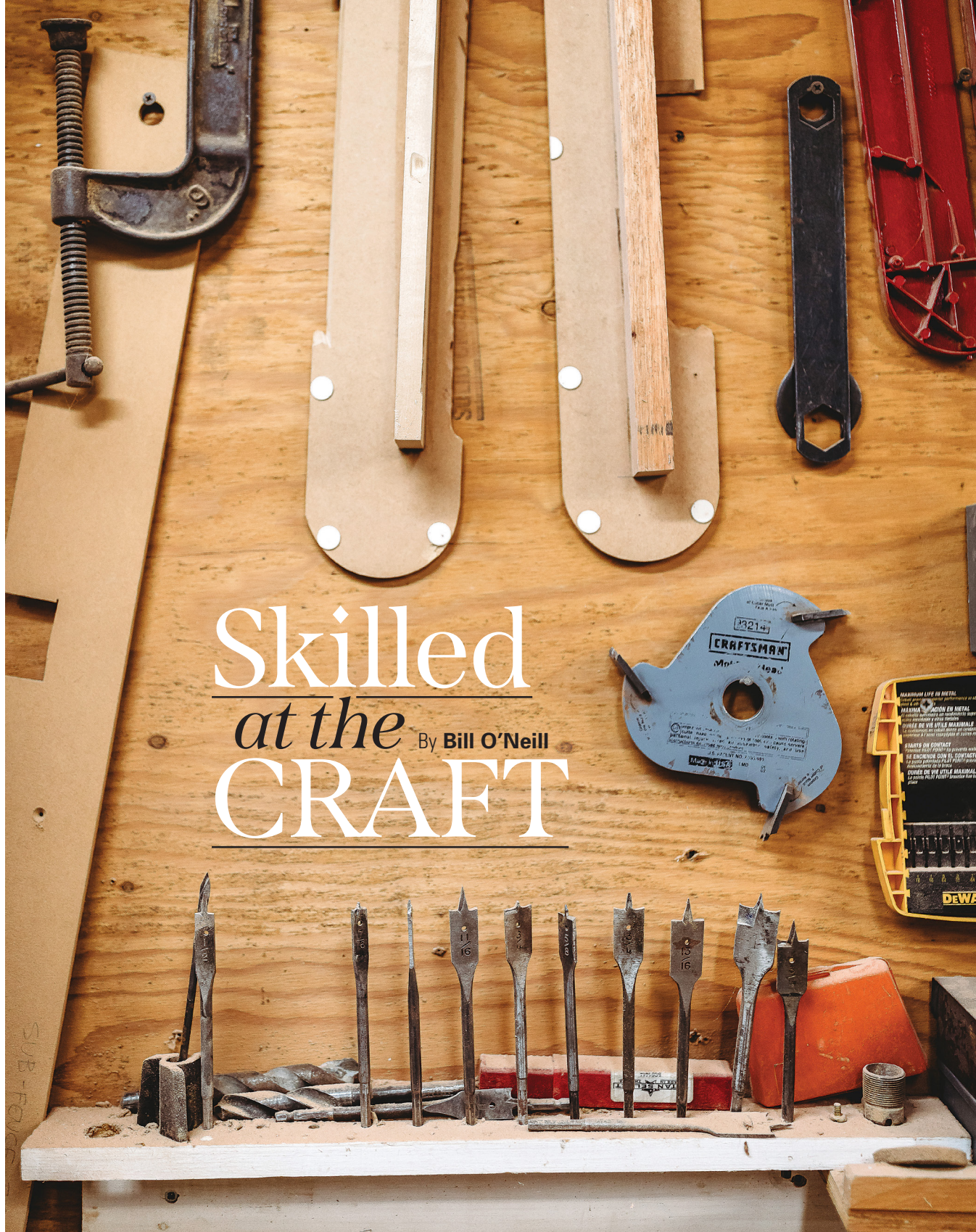
THE HOME ISSUE

A MODERN
PADANARAM RETREAT

A PEEK INSIDE A
DESIGNER'S OWN SPACE



BUZZARDS BAY • DARTMOUTH • FAIRHAVEN • FALL RIVER • LITTLE COMPTON • MARION
MATTAPOISETT • NEW BEDFORD • ONSET • TIVERTON • WAREHAM • WESTPORT • AND MORE



Skilled *at the* CRAFT

By Bill O'Neill

Tools adorn the wall at Colonial Shutterworks. Photo: Jannelle Connolly

The seven businesses spotlighted here have spent a combined two centuries doing the kind of high-end work that architects and general contractors seek and homeowners rave about.



Sperry Fabric Architecture

ROCHESTER

Steve Sperry started Sperry Sails in a loft adjacent to Sippican Harbor. With the help of his sons Tim and Matt, the business expanded to include Sperry Fabric Architecture and Sperry Tents.

Sperry Fabric Architecture creates custom canopies, awnings and other shelters. It also creates about 50 tent designs, which can be rented from Sperry Tents for weddings and other events.

The Sperry family has kept boats moving and people sheltered for four decades.

Seth Worcester, who's worked for Sperry Fabric Architecture for six years, says people love the nautical feel of the company's products, which are utilized in homes throughout the South Coast to provide shade and shelter from blowing winds.

"If you can imagine on your mainsail, which is basically a triangle, the corners where you're pulling hard on the sail are built up with layers of fabric," he said. "Your typical house awning has two connection points on the house and two columns off the deck. At these four connection points, we build up fabric the same way."

Sperry also designs canted columns: "We use mahogany, taper it, bend it," says Worcester. There are no guidelines or tripping hazards going down into the lawn. It's sculpture, an art form." sperryfabricarchitecture.com

Photo: Corinna Raznikov





Owner Matt Sperry holding a Sperry Tent on the loft floor. Sperry Fabric Architecture handcrafts all Sperry Tents, which are available for rent via 50+ licensed rental partners around the world, as well as awnings, canopies, and other custom fabric structures.

Photo: **Corinna Raznikov**



Colonial Shutterworks

MATTAPOISETT



Colonial Shutterworks started as a part-time venture in 1996 and in less than a year grew into a full-time business, according to owner Daniel Bungert.

“My father was a contractor who had a cabinet shop,” said Bungert. “We worked with the equipment that he had and researched the shutter industry. He built a Williamsburg replication house with some raised panel interior shutters and that had planted the seed that there must be a market out there for this.”

Over the years they added other products, including exterior raised panel shutters, louvered shutters and custom wooden storm screen doors.

“Customization is the big thing that sets us apart,” said Bungert. “Most of our customers don’t want something that looks like you got it from a big box store. We really try to stay true to the historic nature of the products that we make.”
colonialshutterworks.com





Photo: Jannelle Connolly

Southcoast Kitchen Designs

CARVER



When Matt Arguin was a student at Greater New Bedford Regional Vocational-Technical High School, he found a co-op job working for a custom cabinet maker. “I was there for five years and I worked my way from the floor up to the office, doing estimates and managing the residential accounts,” he says. “Then I felt like I was at a point where I could branch off on my own.”

In 2005, he started his own business, initially focusing on countertop replacements. Over time, his business grew and evolved. In 2016, Southcoast Kitchen Designs in Carver began offering in-house labor services that include cabinet installations and renovation work.

“What sets us apart from most other kitchen showrooms is that we do ‘design build.’ Customers don’t have to go back and forth between a contractor who might be blaming the kitchen showroom and the kitchen showroom blaming the contractor. They’ve got one person to call who is responsible for getting the job done.” southcoastkitchens.com



Photos: **Sarah Arguin**





Specialty Millwork

FALL RIVER

Specialty Millwork combines old world craftsmanship, and state-of-the-art manufacturing equipment to create woodwork for residences and retail spaces. Projects include staircases, fireplace mantels, closet doors and kitchen cabinets. Gil Gabriel launched the company in 1992. specialty-millwork.com



Dartmouth Stone

FAIRHAVEN AND TAUNTON

For over 20 years, Greg DeMello has built stone walls that echo traditional New England styles throughout the South Coast and beyond. In addition to constructing fire pits, patios and walkways, DeMello repairs stone foundations and existing walls. dartmouthstone.com

Garcia Imported Tile Company

FAIRHAVEN AND TAUNTON





Garcia Imported Tile Company is a three-generation family business. Fairhaven store manager Manny Garcia Jr.'s grandfather started the company more than 30 years ago, after immigrating here from the Azores and operating a grocery store, bakery and wine business. "The tile company is the business that stuck," says Garcia.

"We offer the largest selection of tile in New England for residential and commercial projects," he said. "We don't offer any carpet or any hardwood. We just have a huge selection of tile, granite and quartz. That's our niche."

The company is more than a showroom, as it also can handle design and installation. "That way everything stays in house," said Garcia.

Residential projects range from luxury bathroom to kitchen back splashes. "We strive to get the right design for your bathroom or kitchen remodel." garciatile.com

Photo: Jannelle Connolly



Cape Cod Roofing and Siding

WAREHAM



His company has done jobs all over New England. While most roofers usually focus on asphalt shingles, Skip Schiappa, who founded the company in 1978, shortly before graduating from high school, also excels at cedar shingle, metal, clay, and slate roofs, as well as intricate copper gutter work. He has even gone as far as putting an entirely synthetic plastic roof on a multi-million dollar house in Onset. “We’ve done everything and anything. You name it, I’ve done it,” he says. “We spend a lot of time educating ourselves about the products that we install. We’ve stood behind them for 44 years.”

“I grew from fixing screens and picnic tables to waterproofing some of the finest architecture in New England,” said Schiappa. “I started out putting ads in papers because there was no Google, and I got a few jobs. I was smart enough to copy some of the most successful people in the roofing industry.”

Business is booming, he says. “If I was an octopus with 30 tentacles, I still couldn’t answer the phone fast enough.” capecodroof.com