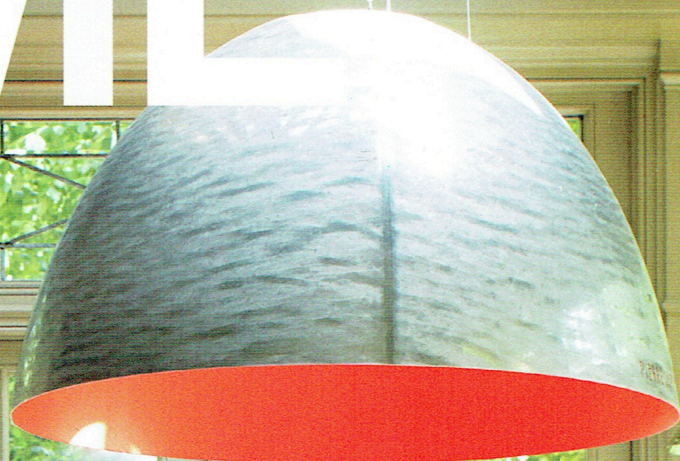


# New England HOME

Meet the 2017  
"5 Under 40"  
Award Winners

Kitchens and  
Baths to Die For

Celebrating Life, Design, Architecture, and Building



**AUTUMN  
ELEGANCE**

September–October 2017

\$6.95

10 >



Display until November 14, 2017  
nehomemag.com



A photograph of three women standing in front of a wall with a repeating geometric pattern in shades of gold, blue, and green. The woman on the left has dark hair and is wearing a black blazer over a white collared shirt. The woman in the middle has blonde wavy hair and is wearing a bright red top. The woman on the right has long blonde hair and is wearing a black blazer over a white top and teal pants. All three are smiling at the camera.

**ELLISHA  
ALEXINA**

SPECIALTY  
DESIGN

**MAGGIE  
MINK**  
ARCHITECTURE

**KRISTINA  
CRESTIN**

INTERIOR  
DESIGN



New England Home's

40

5 FIVE UNDER FORTY

## THE 2017 AWARD WINNERS

**ERIN  
GATES**  
INTERIOR  
DESIGN

**NINA  
FARMER**  
INTERIOR  
DESIGN

**Join Our  
Eighth  
Annual  
Celebration!**

Meet this year's  
winners at a  
special event on  
September 14.

SEE PAGE 178 FOR DETAILS.

- Text by Erin Marvin
- Portraits by Bruce Rogovin
- Rugs courtesy of Landry & Arcari Rugs and Carpeting



# This Season's Rising Stars

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all brings cooler weather, colorful foliage, and pumpkin-spice lattes, but there's no better sign of the season than New England Home's annual "5 Under 40" awards. Each September, the New England design community

comes together to honor five rising stars in residential design—all of whom are under the age of forty—and celebrate good taste in high style at autumn's most memorable soiree.

Style comes naturally to this year's winners, a group of talented women that includes an interior designer who is also a *New York Times* bestselling author; a textile designer whose tastefully elegant collections are created through a unique mixed-media technique; an interior designer with a strong focus on interior architecture and creative use of materials; an architect whose design inspiration sits at the confluence of art and science; and an interior designer who effortlessly mixes vintage and modern, an aesthetic mirrored in her line of custom furniture.

Congratulations to 2017's "5 Under 40" award winners: interior designer Erin Gates, textile designer Elisha Alexina, interior designer Kristina Crestin, architect Maggie Mink, and interior designer Nina Farmer. Read more about these gifted young creatives and see examples of their work starting on page 166.

Challenged with the task of selecting this year's winners from a large pool of impressive talent were J.B. Clancy of Albert, Righter & Tittmann Architects, Kristine Irving of Koo de Kir Architectural Interiors, Doug Jones of LeBlanc Jones Landscape Architects, and Gerald Pomeroy of Gerald Pomeroy Interiors, with *New England Home's* editor-in-chief, Kyle Hoepner, moderating the judging process.

The eighth annual "5 Under 40" awards celebra-

tion will take place on September 14, 2017, at Landry & Arcari Rugs & Carpeting in Boston's Back Bay. This chic space sets the tone for what will be an unforgettable evening with an awards ceremony, cocktail party, and always-lively auction. Up for bid are five bespoke wool-and-silk rugs designed by this year's winners and brought to life through the dexterous skill of Landry & Arcari's weavers in Nepal. Celebrity guest Jenny Johnson is back as auctioneer, and looking to top last year's record-setting bids. Proceeds from the auction will benefit the Cambridge, Massachusetts, charity Barakat, which provides educational opportunities to women and girls in Pakistan and Afghanistan.

Don't miss your chance to celebrate our community's rising young stars and start the fall season off in style!



Above: The 2016 winners. Left: A rapt crowd gathers for the rug auction. Below, left: Auctioneer Jenny Johnson. Below, right: Bidding was fast and furious.



## THE 2017 JUDGES



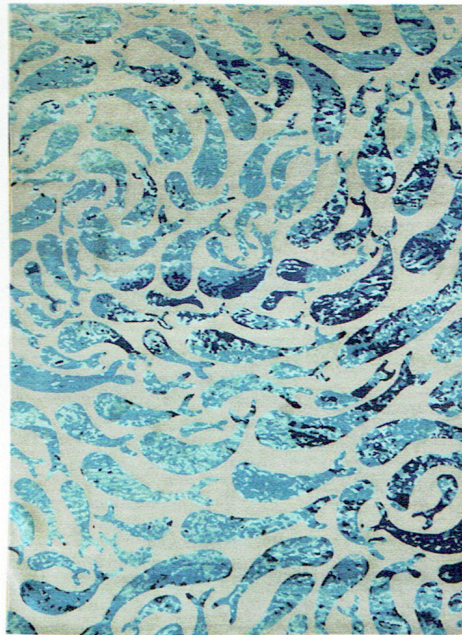
The 2017 selection committee members (from left to right): J.B. Clancy, Gerald Pomeroy, Kristine Irving, and Doug Jones with *New England Home's* editor-in-chief Kyle Hoepner, who coordinated the judging.



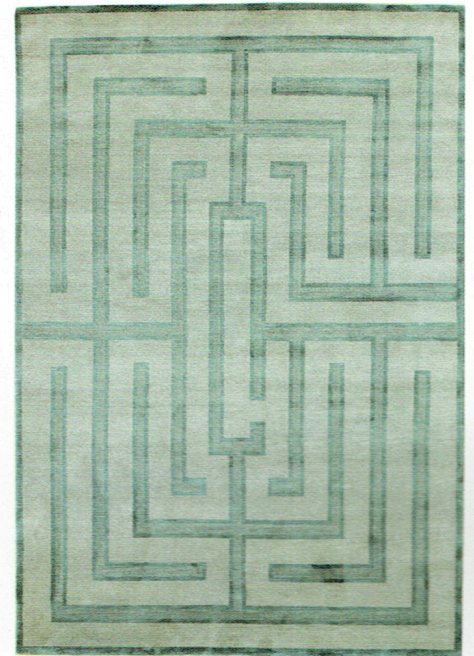
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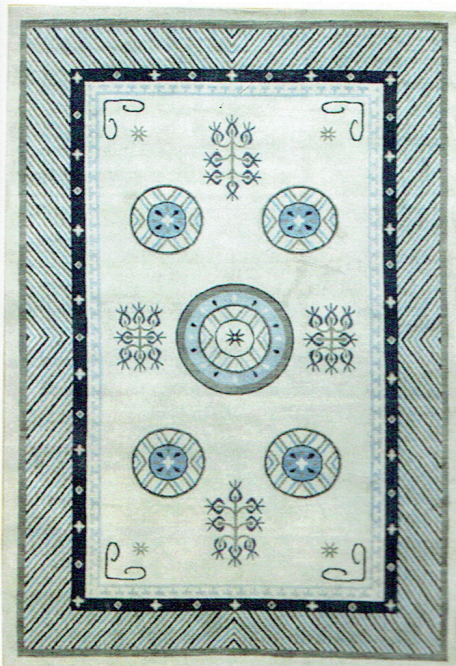
what these industry professionals discovered as the eighth annual 5Under40 winners – *your vision, your rug.* Ask about our custom rug program!



Kristina Crestin



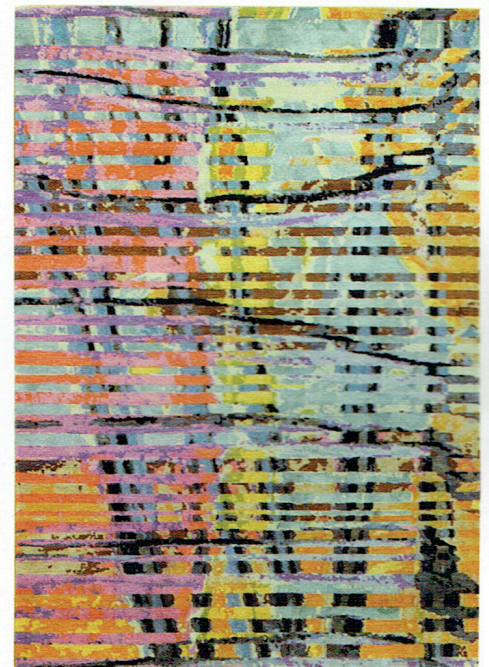
Nina Farmer



Erin Gates



Elisha Alexina



Maggie Mink

**Landry & Arcari**  
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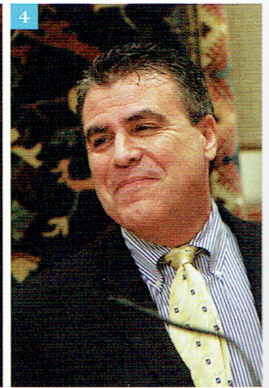


# Winners' Night Out

New England Home's  
**40**  
**5**  
UNDER  
FORTY  
AWARDS



The 2017 winners of New England Home's "5 Under 40" honor stepped out with their families, friends, and sponsors for an evening in Landry & Arcari's Boston showroom, where they were introduced and their rug designs were revealed.



(1) A crowd of previous winners, judges, sponsors, family, and friends gathers to watch as the winners are announced (2) 2017 winners Maggie Mink and Kristina Crestin, *New England Home's* Stacy Kunstel, and 2017 winners Elisha Alexina and Erin Gates (3) Ken Gurley of Landry & Arcari and Mia Buchsbaum of Barakat, the charity that benefits from the proceeds of the September 14 rug auction (4) Courtney Jones of sponsor Karastan (5) Sponsor Gary Rousseau of Herrick & White with Lindsey Nardolillo and Isabel Brewster of Nina Farmer Interiors (6) Kristina Crestin of Kristina Crestin Design stands proudly with her rug inspiration (7) 2017 winner Elisha Alexina with sponsor Mark Hutker of Hutker Architects (8) Katie Bundy and 2017 winner Erin Gates of Erin Gates Design with sponsor Nancy Sorensen of Back Bay Shutter (9) Sponsor Jim Youngblood of Youngblood Builders with 2017 winner Maggie Mink of Marcus Gleysteen Architects (10) 2017 judge J.B. Clancy of Albert, Righter & Tittmann Architects, *New England Home's* Stacy Kunstel, and Kristina Crestin





## Kristina Crestin

Interior Design

New England Home's  
**40**  
 UNDER  
**5**  
 FORTY  
 FIVE

Interior designer Kristina Crestin's effervescent personality—most recently seen on season thirty-five of *This Old House*—betrays a serious focus on creating holistic spaces that best fit her clients' lifestyles. "I don't

just decorate and figure out the flow and function and furnishings," she says. "I think about how to pull the entire project together."

The thoughtful use of millwork is one of the elements she employs for a finished, integrated effect. This strong

focus on interior architecture was honed during a number of years at Siemasko + Verbridge. The renowned firm's project-driven approach spoke to Crestin's innate sense of organization and linear way of thinking, and she quickly worked her way up from intern to senior interior project manager/designer.

Armed with technical acumen and an eye for detail, Crestin started her own firm in 2009 and now manages a team of four. Her work has already been recognized by more than a dozen industry awards and has been featured in a number of media outlets including *Better Homes & Gardens - Kitchen & Bath Ideas*, *New England Home*, *Boston Magazine Home*, *Northshore Magazine*, *elledecor.com*, and *houzz.com*.

In addition to her continuing focus on interior architecture, the other major hallmark of Crestin's work can be seen in her creative use of materials: vintage screen doors repurposed for the kitchen pantry; large retro bottles wired for lighting; black pipe fittings reimagined as safety rails for a loft bed. (She also admits to an obsession with turquoise, though assures her clients they don't have to live in a sea of blue—unless they want to, of course.)

"Even until five years ago I was still finding myself as a designer," she says. "Now I know who I am and what I can do."





Rugs to be auctioned at the awards celebration



Elisha Alexina



Kristina Crestin



Nina Farmer



## New Twists on Tradition



Landry & Arcari's Jeffrey Arcari and son Oliver offered support and guidance as the 2017 honorees worked on their rug designs.

These "5 Under 40" winners may be the future of New England's design community, but that doesn't mean they don't value the past. In fact, many of this year's winners drew inspiration from history when designing their custom rugs. "It was surprising to see this year's designs lean more toward the traditional and transitional," says Landry & Arcari's in-house designer Eric Brissette, who has worked closely with each year's "5 Under 40" winners on their rug designs since the event's inception in 2010. "In the past, the rugs have been very modern."

Interior designer Erin Gates looked to the intricacy of vintage Khotan rugs as well as a variety of antique figures such as medallions, pomegranate vines, and Chinese patterns. Greek myths spoke to interior designer Nina Farmer, who based her labyrinth design around the legend of King Minos and the Minotaur. Textile designer Elisha Alexina found her

muse in a phoenix motif and the life lessons often woven into oriental rugs. "The phoenix is about growth and moving forward, and I liked what that stood for," says Alexina. (The phoenix also inspired a print in her new collection, Gobi, which debuted on May 1.)

Interior designer Kristina Crestin found the task of designing a rug with no specific space or client in mind an interesting challenge. Ultimately, she looked inward for inspiration, infusing her personal passions for being near the water, fishing, and the color turquoise into a design that is meant to reflect a sense of tranquility in today's chaotic world.

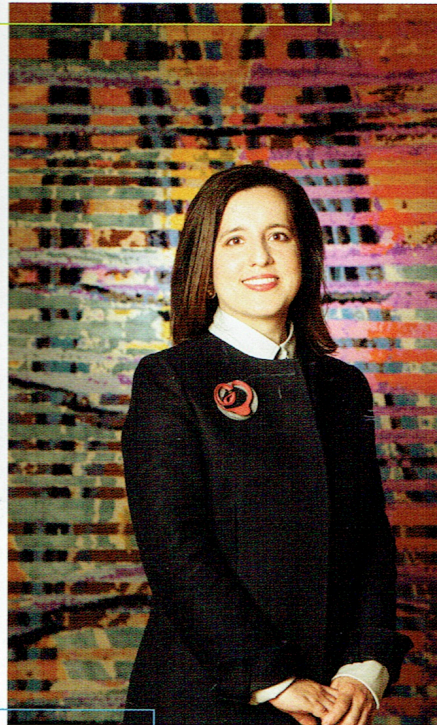
Architect Maggie Mink began her rug design with research, exploring both the natural world and the textiles of Anni Albers to help inform her decisions around composition,



# Creativity for a Cause



Erin Gates



Maggie Mink



The custom rugs designed by the “5 Under 40” award winners are more than a challenge in creativity: each year the rugs are auctioned off to raise funds for Barakat, an organization dedicated to providing exemplary basic education in Afghanistan and Pakistan, particularly for girls and women. To date, the New England design community has raised more than \$107,000 for the charity by bidding on these beautiful, one-of-a-kind creations.

This year, funds from the “5 Under 40” rug auction will go toward a new scholarship that allows Afghan girls the opportunity to pursue higher education. “We’ve seen that, even when parents are supportive of their girls finishing high school, oftentimes that’s about as far as it goes because they can’t afford to send the girls to college or university,” says Barakat’s Mia Buchsbaum. “The idea of the scholarship fund is to help make going to university less cost-prohibitive so that girls can get closer to reaching their dreams.”

And these girls are dreaming big: the current recipients are two young women studying to be doctors at Kabul University.

Each year, Barakat serves more than 3,000 women and children through traditional schools, at-home literacy programs, and evening classes. For more information, please visit [barakatworld.org](http://barakatworld.org).



Landry & Arcari works with weavers in Nepal, who translate the designs into rugs of silk and wool. It takes two weavers about three months, hand-tying every knot, to finish each rug.



proportion, and color. “This was the first rug I’d ever designed, so I wanted to make an impact,” she says.

“I enjoy working with the winners—especially the ones who do not have much experience with rugs—and watching how their designs evolve throughout the process,” says Brissette. “It can be difficult to start with a blank canvas and not have a specific concept in mind, but the results are never disappointing.”

The winners were given two weeks to design their rugs—a timeframe Mink called “both thrilling and agonizing”—and the designs were then brought to life, knot by knot, by Landry & Arcari’s skilled Tibetan weavers in Kathmandu, Nepal. This year’s rugs are handwoven with wool yarns that are blended with silk, and some feature areas of 100 percent silk pile. Each five-foot-by-eight-foot rug takes two weavers approximately three months to produce.

The completed rugs will be unveiled at our “5 Under 40” awards ceremony in Boston on September 14, and auctioned off to benefit the Cambridge-based charity Barakat. Don’t miss your chance to own a piece of modern history.

**Barakat**  
Helping Communities Through Education