



Beacon Hill Beauty



TMS Architects had the opportunity to work with long-time clients on the renovation of their Beacon Hill pied-a-terre. The couple are owners of a successful inn on the Seacoast of New Hampshire and wanted a small apartment in Boston where they could decompress and enjoy the cultural opportunities offered by the city. Since their summers are very busy with their inn and related businesses, the Beacon Hill residence is used primarily in fall, winter and early spring.



The renovated space occupies part of the first floor in what was originally a single family home dating from the 1850's and was built for a Massachusetts governor and his family. The building was the first condominium conversion on Beacon Hill and was formerly occupied by students and direly in need of a total renovation when it was purchased by the current homeowners.

This unit is the only one in the building that does not have a separate bedroom but this was solved with a cleverly engineered queen-sized 'Murphy' bed built into one wall that easily folds down when needed. The 'dining room' has a table placed strategically in front of the two prominent windows overlooking the streetscape.

There is a careful layering of textures, colors, and materials woven throughout the home, making it appear more spacious than its 400 square foot size would indicate. Each space is delineated by its own flooring from the refinished quarter sawn original oak floors in the main living room, tile in the bathroom and new wood flooring in the kitchen area.

Building Information:

Location: Beacon Hill, Boston MA

Size: 400 square feet

Artwork: The homeowners located the distinctive oil paintings in New Orleans. The one over the fireplace was painted between 1588 and 1640 and is called "Rubens In His Studio". Another was painted by noted artist William Redmond Bigg in 1755-1828 and is entitled "Family Portrait".

History: Beacon Hill is one of the most historic neighborhoods in Boston and was originally laid out by Charles Bulfinch, architect of the Massachusetts State House.