

It's back! After a yearlong hiatus, we're thrilled to be able to gather again to celebrate the professionals joining the New England Design Hall of Fame.

In the years since the 2007 launch of the Hall of Fame, we've been proud to celebrate many talented architects, interior designers, landscape designers and contractors,

specialty builders, and other professionals who have made an indelible mark on New England's residential design scene.

This year's inductees represent the mix of art and science, inspiration and craft behind good design.

We're pleased to introduce the class of 2021: architects

David Scott Parker and Adolfo Perez; interior designers Jean Verbridge and Lisa Tharp; structural engineer Steven Siegel; and F.H. Perry Builder, represented by company owner Allison Iantosca.

Please join us as we raise a glass to this impressive group of design pros in honor of their considerable accomplish-

ments. This year's gala, which will benefit Household Goods, a Boston-area nonprofit that provides donated household items to families in need, will be held on November 11 at the InterContinental Boston. Visit *nehomemag.com* for details.

Text by PAULA M. BODAH | Portraits by BRUCE ROGOVIN

78

## Jean Verbridge

SV DESIGN



ean Verbridge's career
has hardly been a straight
line. "I feel like I've lived
my life by having lightning strike, in a
positive way," she says. Her first career
as a plant shop owner came about when
she walked into a greenhouse and fell
in love. "I was overcome," she recalls.
"I thought, 'This is what I want to do

with my life."

When her upstate New York plant shop began working with companies like Kodak and Xerox, providing greenery to decorate their corporate offices, she found herself thinking about interior design. Without further ado, she sold her shop and enrolled in a design program at Rochester

Institute of Technology.

Since 1980, Verbridge has been an interior designer in the Boston area, working initially for others, then operating her own business from 1985 to 1999. In 1999, she teamed up with architect Thaddeus Siemasko to form SV Design with offices in Beverly and Chatham.

Her design career satisfies her craving to keep her life fresh and interesting. "Every project is different, every client is different, every economic cycle is different," she says. "I never feel like I'm doing the same thing twice."

While most of SV's clients are in New England, Verbridge says a number of them have enlisted her to design second







"I'm passionate about educating the public about the capabilities of interior designers."—Interior designer Jean Verbridge

homes in other parts of the country. "There's a challenge to putting our mind into a whole different environment," she says, citing recent projects in Florida and Colorado.

Verbridge is especially proud of the work her firm does, a fair share of it pro bono, for nonprofit organizations and affordable housing developments. "I'm passionate about educating the public about the capabilities of interior designers," she says. "Client by client, and by being involved in the community, I educate."

