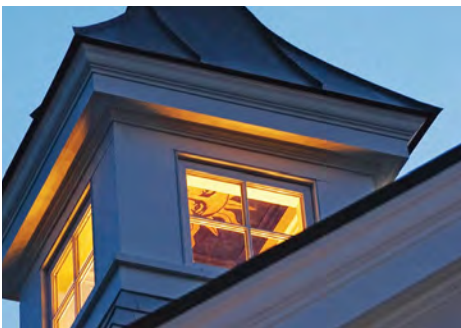


Captivating cupolas

Often seen on cathedrals, barns, stables, and houses, cupolas were originally added to rooftops for practical purposes, usually to provide a lookout, to admit natural light, or for ventilation. Very large cupolas accessible by an interior staircase are also called a belvedere or widow's walk. Smaller cupolas that can't be entered but do provide daylight are known as lanterns. Some cupolas do not serve a practical purpose, but rather are added as an extension of the home's design and to include a sense of charm or whimsy. Cupolas date back to the 8th century and can be found on buildings throughout the world. Here are a few that our contributing photographers discovered in their travels across New England. —*Maureen Friedman*



Inspired by tradition

This cupola enhances a new garage designed to look like a traditional barn. The second floor of the garage features an elegant home office. Located above the center of the office, the cupola lets in light that pours down to animate the space and highlight the custom cabinetry. Cedar shingles woven in a diamond pattern, a copper standing-seam roof, and a bronze finial complete the traditional look. A smiling painted sun on the cupola ceiling adds that element of fun.

Architect Elizabeth Herrmann, AIA, Elizabeth Herrmann Architecture + Design, Bristol, Vt., eharchitect.com

Builder Alex Macdonald Construction, Lincoln, Vt.

Photos Susan Teare, susanteare.com

Lakeside lantern

The visual metaphor of an old barn was used to guide the design for this vacation house in Maine. Natural light from the cupola cascades down the central staircase to brighten the interior. Warm air rises up the stairwell and exits through operable windows in the cupola, naturally ventilating the home and avoiding the cost of air conditioning.

Architect John Cole Architect, Arlington, Mass., and Fryeburg, Maine, johncolearchitect.com
Builder Island Cove Building and Development, Raymond, Maine, islandcovebuilding.com
Structural engineer Roome & Guarracino LLC, Somerville, Mass., rgeng.com
Photo Brian Vanden Brink, brianvandenbrink.com



Elegant and practical

This Victorian carriage house and barn in Rockport, Maine, was built in the mid-1800s to store grain. Its cupola provided ventilation to dissipate the heat generated by the stacked grain. Today the carriage house is used as a garage and workshop.

Photo Brian Vanden Brink, brianvandenbrink.com

Fool's paradise

The architects of this master-suite-tower addition to a 1930s colonial-revival Cape assert, "Wit and whimsy are important features of a casual home for fun-filled living." To add that playful element, they designed a fanciful weather vane based on "The Fool" Tarot card to top the octagonal cupola. Instead of a staff, the Fool clasps a golf club in one hand and martini glass in the other.

Design and construction Polhemus Savery DaSilva Architects Builders, East Harwich, Mass., psdab.com
Weather vane fabrication Tom Huckman, NorthCounty Metalcraft, West Ossipee, N.H.
Photo Brian Vanden Brink, brianvandenbrink.com

