

Family gathering destination



Photos: Lindsay Raymondjack

By Kate Carter

The owners of this Stowe home, which they built 30 years ago, recently decided to make it their special family gathering destination, but felt more space was needed to comfortably house their entire clan. They chose Stowe-based architect Andrew Volansky to do the renovation design work, and he involved Sisler Builders early in the process to help brainstorm the complex construction required by a new roof system.

Provisions were made to include a timber package so that new construction would blend with the existing timber framing. The extensive renovation included a new and much larger kitchen, which meant relocating the septic tank. Off one end of the kitchen is a new



screened porch that also required structural framing to tie it in seamlessly to the rest of the building. Below the kitchen is a new gym/yoga room with access to an outdoor shower and a pondside yoga platform.

“The kitchen is one of our favorite rooms,” the homeowner noted. “It’s a nice size where we

can all cook together, and we love the custom cabinetry crafted by the Sisler Builders custom woodworking department and installed by Seth Allen. Seth really went above and beyond with his attention to detail. There’s an absolutely outstanding hidden pantry off the kitchen, and the kitchen has so many fun features, like pop-outs within drawers, and a pop-up KitchenAid Mix Master.”

The primary suite was relocated and is now above
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Gathering

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the new kitchen. Timber elements were added to tie it in with the main level timber framing. “Our bedroom is calm and serene,” the homeowner said. “We love all the large windows. Two beautiful windows are kitty-corner to each other and we can watch the sun rise in one window and the stars in the other. We also love the cathedral ceiling in the primary bathroom that’s adjacent to the bedroom.”

Whether it’s a new home build or a renovation like this project, Sisler Builders collaborates, as they have for decades, with their partners at Efficiency Vermont and Ekotrope to develop and refine detailing for a cost-effective, highly energy efficient and tight building envelope. The fruits of those collaborations allow Sisler



Cover: The enlarged dining room has strong visual connection with the site and landscaping; natural hemlock ceiling timbers are non-structural, while reinforcing the established aesthetic. Inset: The high white gables are the new primary suite with screened porch below, and the enlarged kitchen is the white element between screened porch and gray garage. Top to bottom: The stunning mosaic backsplash on the wall behind the gourmet range is complimented by the quartzite counters; a pot filler and industrial range hood enhance the cooking experience. The large natural-oak island houses a prep sink and dishwasher; perimeter cabinets are all painted. A porcelain farm sink with a view has an updated “antique” faucet. Clever ways to utilize space abound in this Sisler Builders custom-crafted kitchen.



Builders to regularly build new homes that outperform the national residential energy code by three to four times. In this case, it's difficult to get comparable data on the renovations they performed, because the new construction is joined with the old. However, Sisler Builders implements the same building envelope techniques on the new portions as they would with a new build, so that all the new spaces achieve the highest standards. This results in increased comfort, and reduced heating and cooling costs for all the new spaces.

The owners are very pleased with the outcome. "We were kept up-to-date through weekly Zoom meetings with the team, so we were able to stay informed along the way. We wanted to maintain the timber frame theme in the new additions and that happened seamlessly. The process was pleasant and we were really impressed with the woodworkers. They were accommodating and delivered beautiful cabinetry in the kitchen, pantry, and primary bath."

Most importantly, the homeowners achieved their goal of a family destination where everyone can come together in the same place.

The screened porch has IPE floors, Douglas fir timbers, and a pine ceiling consistent with other ceilings in the house; "Invisible" screens allow everyone to take full advantage of the view. The primary bath has a pine-clad cathedral ceiling and wonderful views in several directions. All photos by Lindsay Ramondjack.



Company News

And the "Best of the Best 2025 – EEN Partner of the Year Award" goes to ... Sisler Builders!

Every year, Efficiency Vermont recognizes a builder who promotes and embraces their energy efficiency policies. The builder must have positive customer feedback from EV's home and energy divisions and a demonstrated commitment to energy efficiency and best practices.

Sisler Builders is a proponent of investing in energy efficiency at the initial time of construction. They are dedicated to meeting and typically exceeding EV's Residential Building Energy Standards. "What you spend up front on good design, quality materials, and informed workmanship to achieve a tight envelope with optimized insulation values yields enormous operational savings. Those savings continue through the life of the home, dramatically exceeding the up-front costs," notes company owner Steve Sisler.

In the past 12 years Sisler Builders has not had an ACH50 blower door test rating over one air change per hour, and often significantly less for their new homes. The national standard is three. "We achieve our results

by testing the building envelope three times during construction. First, when the mechanicals are in, but before the interior paneling, so we can more easily fix any issues that show up. Second, after the drywall, appliances, and fireplaces are in. Third, at the finish, so we can give our customers their certificate and record it," explained Sisler.

Sisler Builders has been a member of EV's Efficiency Excellence Network (EEN) since its inception in 2015. Their collaboration with EV has helped promote efficiency in both new construction and existing homes. "During retrofits in existing homes, we almost always reduce air leakage by 40 to 50 percent," said Mike D'Muhala, Sisler Builders' Home Performance Division Manager.

EV is pleased to honor Sisler Builders with the "Best of the Best 2025 – EEN Partner of the Year Award" for their demonstrated engagement with EV programs and commitment to the principles and concepts needed to advance energy efficiency practices.



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Ask the craftsmen.

What is the best way to install a car charger?

You've decided to reduce your carbon footprint and invested in an electric vehicle. Congratulations! Now you need an EV charger for your home.

You probably already have an electrical panel, but what happens if your EV charger requires more electricity than your panel can handle? Load-shedding devices are the best way to prevent overloading the panel. They are cheaper than upgrading an entire panel which can cost tens of thousands of dollars, and they allow you to add an EV charger even if your panel is at its capacity.

Load-shedding devices monitor the total electrical load on the panel and can temporarily reduce the power supplied to the EV charger. Not only can they prevent overloading by managing the power flow, but these devices also ensure that the electrical panel doesn't exceed its capacity, preventing potential issues like blown breakers or equipment damage. So, say you are charging your car and then start the dryer. The car charging will stop and then resume when the dryer is done. The device continuously monitors the total power consumption of

your home, and when the load approaches the panel's limit, it reduces the power supplied to the EV charger.

Load-shedding devices range in price depending on the features that are included. The basics range from \$50 to \$200 depending on their simplicity and whether they are plug-in units or require more sophisticated installation. Advanced devices, or smart power management systems, have features such as smart phone apps for monitoring and control, and can range from \$200 to \$500. Home energy management systems, or smart meters, are integrated solutions that manage multiple appliances, including EV charges, and can cost anywhere from \$400 to \$2,000 or more, depending on the system's capacity and complexity.

It's best to check with specific EV charger manufacturers or energy management system providers for the exact pricing and compatibility with your EV charger and home's electrical setup. Sisler Builders can refer you to experts who can help you navigate this technology.

