

BOSTON COMMON

A man with short dark hair and a friendly smile is wearing a light grey zip-up jacket over a white t-shirt. He has his hands in his pockets and is looking towards the camera. The background is a plain, light grey.

Matthew Fox

THE DEERFIELD ALUM
CONQUERS THE SILVER SCREEN

BOSTON'S GLAMOROUS GAME CHANGERS

PLUS JIM CALHOUN,
MARK WAHLBERG, AND
NEW ENGLAND'S
DEADLIEST CATCH

BOSTON COMMON

Late Spring 2013

haute property

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Competition trumps nostalgia as alums from the area's 60-plus colleges and universities stampede into town for reunion season.



ON THE COVER

MATTHEW FOX

Photography by Brian Bowen Smith
Styling by Julie Matos at cloutierremix.com
Grooming by Frankie Payne using Chanel
at Opus Beauty

Biker jacket, **Canali** (\$3,350). *Saks Fifth Avenue, The Shops at Prudential Center, 617-262-8500; saks.com.* Crew-neck shirt, **Vince** (\$45). *Copley Place, 617-236-5535; vince.com.* Jeans, **Ralph Lauren** (\$85). *93-95 Newbury St., 617-424-1124; ralphlauren.com.* Necklace, Fox's own

117 A Landmark, Reimagined
Restoration Hardware makes history.



Gary Friedman (LEFT), Restoration Hardware's chairman emeritus, creator, and curator, and Carlos Alberini, the company's CEO, attend the Berkeley Street flagship store's grand opening.



ABOVE: Steve Weiner and Mary Kakas at the RH bash. LEFT: With Emily Lohrman and Antonio Corral Calero of MoroccanOil and Renee Shakour at a dinner for the brand and Dress for Success Boston at Menton.



With Mark Wahlberg and Nick Varano at the local premiere of *Broken City* at Wahlburgers in Hingham.

Warm weather has finally returned

to Boston and with it a slew of fantastic events in the city and on the islands. The winter didn't end without a bang, though, and we were surprised by a blizzard in February that closed the city but couldn't prevent Grace Potter & the Nocturnals from performing during Big Night 2013 at the House of Blues. Big Brothers Big Sisters of Massachusetts Bay raised more than \$1.4 million on that snowy night. On the heels of all this generosity, The Lenny Zakim Fund Young Leaders held its fourth annual Casino Night at the Four Seasons Hotel, and it was a sell-out success for cochair Sam Slater, Josh Zakim, and Amy Belkin.

We welcomed former *Boston Common* cover star Mark Wahlberg back to town when we teamed up with the Mark Wahlberg Youth Foundation and Mohegan Sun for the local premiere of his movie *Broken City* at Wahlburgers in Hingham. Mark was as gracious as ever and excited to be back in Boston. *Boston Common* was also thrilled to welcome to the city Antonio Corral Calero and Emily Lohrman from MoroccanOil for a special day partnering with Dress for Success Boston. After Kim Todd, executive director of the organization, and Diana Wong-Pellegrino, one of its beneficiaries, received beautiful transformations at the salon Mizu, everyone gathered for an intimate dinner at Menton.

Congratulations to Restoration Hardware on the opening of its new flagship store in one of the most storied buildings in Boston. We also had a terrific time celebrating Allison Williams's spring cover with the actress and Russian Standard Vodka at Bond at The Langham in March. Bond did a terrific job with the food, and our guests enjoyed those Moscow mules! In April, Clarke gave its annual Designer Appreciation Night a disco theme, and I was excited to see so many people dressed up for the occasion.

We are looking forward to once again sponsoring the Nantucket Wine Festival in May. It is the unofficial kickoff to summer, and we greatly enjoy seeing all our friends reunited in one spot after a long winter. Here's raising a glass to a wonderful summer ahead.

Glen Kelley

GLEN KELLEY



Jim and Angela Alex
with Linda Nunez



Brian Konish and
Ryann Czarneck
with Alisa and
Steve Bryan



Julian Edelman
and Dane Fletcher



Miya Hagberg,
Mark Wahlberg, and
Lauren Rutaiewicz



Anthony Hopkins Jr.
and Anthony Hopkins Sr.



Laura Kelley and
Debra Ludwig



Can Tiryaki and
Michael Askjaer

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Deja and noshing on sliders, barbecue chicken wings, and sweet potato tots prepared by Mark's brother, **Chef Paul Wahlberg**. Director **Allen Hughes**, actor **Henry Penzi**, Olympic gold medalist **Kayla Harrison**, and New England Patriots players **Dane Fletcher**, **Julian Edelman**, and **Patrick Chung** were also on hand for the evening.



Roberta and Steve Weiner



Edei



Katya Sorokko
and Eri Chaya



Carlos Alberini,
Jeremy Renner,
and Gary Friedman



Adam and
Rita Weiner



Krista and Andrew Ference

a new restoration

Gary Friedman and **Carlos Alberini**, creator/curator and chief executive officer of Restoration Hardware, held an opening party in the Back Bay on March 6 for the brand's new Gallery at the Historic Museum of Natural History. James Beard Award winner **Ken Oringer** provided gourmet bites while attendees sipped on fresh Bellinis from Cipriani NYC and wine from Blackbird Vineyards. British singer/songwriter **Edei** entertained the crowd along with **DJ Michael Smith**. The event benefitted The Boys & Girls Club of Boston and the Museum of Fine Arts. Guests included actor **Jeremy Renner**, **Adam and Rita Weiner**, and Bruins player **Andrew Ference** and his wife, **Krista**.

A grand elevator rises three floors through the center of RH Boston, The Gallery at the Historic Museum of Natural History.

a landmark, reimagined

RESTORATION HARDWARE LIVES UP TO ITS NAME BY RETURNING A BACK BAY ARCHITECTURAL TREASURE TO ITS ORIGINAL GRANDEUR. BY VICTORIA VEILLEUX

During an unexpected layover in Boston more than 20 years ago, Gary Friedman, creator, curator, and now chairman emeritus of Restoration Hardware, made a quick stop into what was then Louis Boston, at 234 Berkeley Street, to buy a dress shirt. “I’d never seen such a beautiful work of architecture housing a retail store,” he recalls of the French Academic façade, designed by famed architect William Gibbons Preston. So when Friedman learned in 2011 that the building was vacant, he jumped on a plane the very next day to explore the possibility of turning the address into his company’s grandest exhibition of luxury home goods.

With a philosophy of “re-imaginering” the past, Restoration Hardware seemed predestined for this historic landmark. Originally built as the New England Museum of Natural History in 1863, it was the second public building constructed in the Back Bay (after the Arlington Street Church), housing the Boston Society of Natural History’s exotic collections from around the world—from dinosaur bones and tiger specimens to war clubs and minerals. In 1947 the museum, renamed the Museum of Science, began vacating the building for a new space along the Charles River, and 234 Berkeley Street became home to the department store Bonwit Teller, followed by Louis in

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BELOW: The elliptical staircase offers an elegant alternative to the glass elevator. RIGHT: The interior before the elevator was installed.



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1989. Friedman admits that the leap of faith required to take over the lease—at 40,000 square feet, the building is twice the size of Restoration Hardware’s largest design gallery—was extraordinary, as the retailer didn’t have much data suggesting that it could support a location of this magnitude. He credits advice from the company’s chief creative officer as the catalyst for his signing on the dotted line: “Eri Chaya said to me, ‘Gary, the next time this building will be available, you’ll be dead.’ That made a big impression on me.”

Once-in-a-Lifetime Opportunity

Friedman turned to architect James Gillam, a principal of Backen, Gillam & Kroeger Architects, to help him realize his vision. Together they aspired to recreate the original museum experience, based on old photographs, drawings from the public library, and information from the current



The exterior of the building, built in 1863, retains its original appearance.

Museum of Science. The architect devised a loop concept so the space would feel more like a gallery than a retail store. “You can walk continuously through four large rooms and adjoining corridors without ever having to walk backwards out of a room,” says Gillam. To bring back historical details, local artisans took painstaking measures, such as restoring the exterior stonework and original color of the plaster, as well as repairing decorative braces, coffers, trims, and arch surrounds on the second and third levels. New earthquake and floor-load codes were met by doubling the floors on all levels and reinforcing the original masonry components. The architect addressed other issues as well, such as having many of the windows dual glazed for energy conservation and making the entrances accessible to the handicapped. Then all the “enhancements” made in the 1940s to create more retail space were stripped away, including the mezzanines, the dropped ceilings, and the pedestrian elevator banks. “Peeling

back the covered second and third floors to restore the original atrium allows you to see the 70-foot vaulted and coffered ceiling, restoring the grandness that existed in the original museum,” says Gillam. Demolition of interior walls revealed the original winding staircase, now showcased behind steel and brick arches and fully encased in glass.

Much as I.M. Pei’s glass and steel pyramid entrance provides a counterpoint to the Renaissance architecture

“This building sits within its own park. You never see that in the middle of a city as significant as Boston.”

—GARY FRIEDMAN

of the Louvre in Paris, a steel-and-glass conservatory-like pavilion now graces the store’s new entrance from Newbury Street. The building was originally oriented toward Berkeley Street, so this was no small undertaking. In addition, Restoration Hardware preserved the original flowering magnolia trees and native New England perennials to fulfill the historical society’s initial vision of being surrounded by nature. Says Friedman, “This building sits within its own park, completely detached on all four

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RIGHT: The original coffered ceiling was uncovered when the second and third floors were peeled back.
BELOW: The building was the original home of the New England Museum of Natural History, where dinosaur bones found a resting place.



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sides. You never see that in the middle of a city as significant as Boston.”

One-of-a-kind creations further enhance the interior, such as custom lighting by Ross De Alessi and one of the space’s true showpieces: a custom-built steel and glass elevator that reinterprets an 1892 traction and counterweight model. On the third level, the elevator doors open to an indoor conservatory and park. The coffered ceiling—glistening in iridescent shades of gold and punctuated by a 24-foot steel replica of the Eiffel Tower discovered in a Paris flea market—provides year-round protection from the elements. The composite flooring is made of decomposed granite; reproductions of silver-leaved olive trees dot the third-floor “landscape”; and working fountains complete the parklike atmosphere. Explains Friedman, “The trick is to find the juxtaposition of making it look historic with a new twist.” 234 Berkeley St., 857-239-7202; restorationhardware.com **BC**



The restored building is an ideal home for RH’s retro-chic offerings.

MORE THAN A STORE

At RH Boston, The Gallery at the Historic Museum of Natural History, both the environment and the merchandise eloquently articulate Restoration Hardware’s knack for repurposing the past.

- A variety of Napa wines are served from the stone wine bar by Ma(i)sonry Napa Valley—the first outside of Yountville, California.
- A 1930s Burch World’s Fair model popcorn machine cranks out buttery morsels in the Cinema Room.
- Four “clubrooms,” which surround the indoor park and conservatory, create enclaves for perusing Motown vinyl records and vintage reads.
- Guests can belly up to a century-old beer bar salvaged from a local pub or make a break on a refurbished vintage Brunswick billiards table in the Music Room.
- The RH Objects of Curiosity collection features reproduced or reimagined artifacts, such as a 1920s German light bulb tester turned into a bar, and tabletop binoculars fashioned after those on the decks of World War II naval vessels.
- The new RH Tableware collection is a veritable United Nations of entertaining, with authentic Chinese porcelain, German stemware, English silver, and Belgian linen.
- On the subterranean level, the company has given birth to its first RH Baby&Child Design Showroom on the East Coast.
- Personalized RH Interior Design Services help tie it all together.
- Coming attractions include an outdoor sculpture garden as well as lifestyle programs being developed by the Restoration Hardware spin-off, Hierarchy.