

MODERN LUXURY

BOSTON COMMON

CHILL FACTOR

Denim & Diamonds Are the New
Easy Elegance

THE NEXT WAVE

Boston's Disruptors
& Innovators



Musician & Singer
Rhiannon Giddens Rolls
Down Boston's Silkroad

Eye *on* the BALL

DUSTIN JOHNSON'S WINNING FOCUS

Justin Crane
Associate Principal, CambridgeSeven
cambridgeseven.com

Justin Crane's design vernacular is colossal—mirroring his large projects that include the New England Aquarium's Giant Ocean Tank renovations. Above all, the architect, a Harvard and MIT alum, spearheads adaptive reuse projects for CambridgeSeven. For his current project, The Foundry, based in Cambridge, Crane is transforming a historic industrial space into a community hub for creativity and collaboration—serving as a nexus for visual and performing arts, entrepreneurship, technology and workforce education. The designer's overriding passion is reflective of a younger generation of architects who have an eye on sustainable design, leading the way toward better buildings for better living. “The past year has taught me the importance of all the decisions we make as designers,” he says. “I’m a member of the American Institute of Architects’ National Ethics Council, and we’ve spent a lot of time this year considering not only individual cases but also how the building types we design contribute to a just society. In practice, I’m focusing on conversions of old and defunct structures into places that build communities, such as transforming jails and abandoned factories into theaters, community centers, nonprofit offices and artist workspaces.”

To me, innovation means... listening carefully and with understanding. Then composing a response that makes all of us see new possibilities in our ideas.

One of my greatest influences is... Samuel Mockbee. He started Auburn University's Rural Studio, one of the first student design-build programs in the country. They create buildings, often using found materials, for poor rural residents of Hale County in Alabama.

One of my favorite quotes about design is... the prospects of architecture are not divorced from the prospects of community. This was written by Lewis Mumford in *Sticks and Stones*, his study of New England architecture. I truly believe that the more inspired and equitable we can make architecture or community, the other will follow.

People might be surprised to learn that I am... making all my household cleaning products from scratch.

When I design, I'm always thinking about... the stories being told by the architecture and its occupants. For example, in the Foundry Building's design, by integrating historic structure and ornamentation, and through a new historical exhibit joined with the architecture, we weave together narratives of Cambridge's industrial history. [This includes] the building's relationship to the women's labor rights movement and the importance of arts to neighborhood residents.

The best way design can influence and build community is... providing a clear vision for people to imagine what they can accomplish together. The Foundry is one of a kind—a fully publicly funded arts and culture center. The design incorporates an eclectic mix of uses, from a demonstration kitchen to flexible performance space to digital fabrication and dance studio.

