



**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

**THIS OLD HOUSE® TO TRANSFORM PROPERTY  
ON BANKS OF BOSTON'S FAMOUS CHARLES RIVER**

**CONCORD, Mass., (May 25, 2010)** – A dated home situated on a postcard perfect plot of land along the Charles River has been selected as the next project for the Emmy®-winning PBS home improvement series *This Old House*. Over the course of 16 brand new episodes, the show's team of experts will dramatically transform the river front property in Auburndale, Mass., by adding character and curb appeal outside while modernizing the home's interior to bring the beauty of the land inside. The new season of *This Old House* premieres nationally on PBS Thursday, October 7, 2010 (check [www.thisoldhouse.com/tvschedule](http://www.thisoldhouse.com/tvschedule) or your local listings).

Nestled in a quiet neighborhood of charming cottages and modest Colonial Revivals, this stark 1940s suburban home has never quite lived up to the neighboring properties, due to its largely featureless facade, bland paint job and a seemingly tacked-on garage (in reality, it's original to the house). The biggest shortfall, however, is that the home does not take advantage of its greatest asset – a picturesque and panoramic view of the Charles River, which winds behind the house. The home's interior, which boasts a vintage lemon-yellow kitchen, pink-and-black tile bathrooms and an overabundance of dark-stained woodwork, is also in desperate need of updating.

"The house is in sad shape; it was nearly untouched for seventy years," said *This Old House* Host Kevin O'Connor. But it's in a great neighborhood and sits on the banks of Boston's famous Charles River, so it has great promise. And that's what we do at This Old House; we give new life to tired homes with great potential. It's going to be an inspired project."

When Raveen and Allison Sharma purchased this property just three short months ago they immediately began to prepare for the renovations necessary to modernize the home for themselves and their two children. The Sharmas hired local architect Harriet Christina (Chris) Chu, AIA, who created a budget conscious plan to expand the house by only 200 sq.-ft. while making strategic decisions to dramatically alter the home both inside and out.

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*This Old House* General Contractor Tom Silva will work with the entire *This Old House* team to infuse character and curb appeal into the project by adding new garage doors, additional front windows, a pergola

to mitigate the protrusion of the garage and a badly needed paint job. Silva also plans to add a gabled roof to the flat-topped garage, which will help it meld better with the house itself. In back, the old sun porch will be demolished then rebuilt on top of a new family room that will extend from the house's walkout basement. A new deck with cascading stairs will also create a connection between the house's first floor to the backyard and nearby river.

Inside, the plans call for a modern, expanded kitchen, the addition of an entry hall and mudroom as well as changes to update the bathrooms. The team will also strategically remove walls to create more open spaces, paint dark woodwork to brighten the interior and add new, larger windows that will open up the house to the outdoors maximizing light and creating spectacular views of the river from many areas of the home.

Throughout this project, the usual issues of limited time and budget will meet site specific challenges including asbestos removal, termite damage, new EPA lead paint laws and strict conservation guidelines intended to protect the Charles River.

The *This Old House* Auburndale project will also be featured in upcoming issues of *This Old House* magazine.

Also in the upcoming season, *This Old House* is doing its first ever renovation in Los Angeles and, as previously announced, the show is actively looking for projects in the area. If you are interested in learning more or submitting a project for consideration please visit [www.thisoldhouse.com](http://www.thisoldhouse.com). Once a project has been selected, details will be announced by *This Old House* producers later this summer.

This season, [thisoldhouse.com/webcams](http://thisoldhouse.com/webcams) will debut four new large-format webcams, powered by EarthCam, featuring live, 24/7 progress of the Auburndale project from multiple jobsite angles. Viewers will be able to watch the renovation in real time, as if they were part of the jobsite crew. Visitors to [www.thisoldhouse.com](http://www.thisoldhouse.com) also will be able to access other special features, such as a "before" and "after" photo gallery, project overview, products and services information and a time-lapse archive of the project's progress. Readers of the blog [oldhousemyhouse.thisoldhouse.com/](http://oldhousemyhouse.thisoldhouse.com/) will get frequent behind-the-scenes updates on the project from the homeowners and show producers. Viewers can also become a fan of *This Old House* on Facebook or follow the show on Twitter.

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#### **MEDIA CONTACTS**

Dawn Newell  
Senior Account Executive  
WGBH Boston  
617-300-5344  
[dawn\\_newell@wgbh.org](mailto:dawn_newell@wgbh.org)

Tara Rafieymehr Pettinato  
Account Executive  
WGBH Boston  
617-300-5328  
[tara\\_rafieymehr@wgbh.org](mailto:tara_rafieymehr@wgbh.org)

Karen Affinito  
Senior Manager  
*This Old House* Ventures, Inc.  
212-522-3740  
[karen\\_affinito@timeinc.com](mailto:karen_affinito@timeinc.com)

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*This Old House* is produced by *This Old House* Productions, Inc., for *This Old House* Ventures, Inc., and is presented on PBS by WGBH Boston. Vice President of Television Operations is Michael Burton. Senior producer and director is David Vos and senior series producer is Deborah Hood. Series creator is Russell Morash. Funding is provided by GMC, Home Depot, Lumber Liquidators and State Farm. *This Old House* is the No. 1 multimedia home enthusiast brand, offering trusted information and expert advice through award-winning television, a highly regarded magazine and an information-driven Web site. *This Old House* Ventures, Inc., is a business of Time Inc., which is a wholly owned subsidiary of Time Warner.

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