



**Deborah Crossley, B.Arch'83**  
**Architect | Deborah Crossley Architect**

Deb Crossley graduated from Boston Architectural College in 1983, after earning her B.S. in Environmental Design from UMass. Along the way, she worked with several architectural firms specializing in housing and taught building sciences in USDOE-funded job training programs.

Since 1985, Deborah Crossley Architect has designed private homes, mixed-income and special needs housing from her home in Newton, all while raising a family and becoming deeply involved in the Newton community.

Deb has served for decades on numerous citizens' organizations and city agencies. She contributed to both the Newton Energy Action and Comprehensive Plans, and on Newton's adoption of the first Stretch Code. Pointing to seriously deteriorated public buildings and infrastructure, she urged long range strategic planning to ensure facilities were reliable, while emphasizing the importance of rigorous stewardship.

Elected to Newton City Council in 2009, Councilor Crossley led efforts on critical strategic plans, including rehabilitating failing water systems, reducing energy use, fixing roads, and rebuilding schools. She collaborated to pass ordinances permitting more ADUs and lodging houses, as well as requiring increased affordability and higher building performance standards for special permits.

In 2011, Deb led the Zoning Reform Group, a team of quasi-professional citizen volunteers who produced a roadmap for reforms needed to facilitate the City Plan. In 2020 to 2024, Deb led the City's effort to develop zoning to enable moderate-density, transit-adjacent housing in business districts. While the new zoning overwhelmingly passed, the Council reduced its application to meet minimum state requirements to avoid a referendum .

Today, Deb continues to promote housing, improve building standards, and climate actions. She has limited her practice to focus on small projects and landscape design.