

# DECOR MAINE

| ARCHITECTURE ART DESIGN EXPERIENCE FOOD SUSTAINABILITY |

DECEMBER 2020

## DESIGN

*The most innovative & spirited projects of the year*

## VISIONARIES

**A SLEEK  
PASSIVE HOUSE  
IN NORWAY**

**A 1906-MEETS-  
NOW COTTAGE IN  
BOOTHBAY**

**A SOARING  
BARN ON MOUNT  
DESERT ISLAND**


**A KITCHEN FOR  
BAKING IN  
CAPE ELIZABETH**

**A FLOATING  
POOL RETREAT IN  
KENNEBUNKPORT**

**AND MORE**







Situated on a sloped lot with few trees, this Kevin Browne designed home maximizes its 180-degree view of unspoiled marshland.

photo: Jeff Roberts

The Now:

# *Designs of* Distinction 2020

Over the summer, we put out a call for the best of the best. We wanted to see fresh, innovative design work from across the state, work from every arena—commercial, residential, professional, amateur, interior, exterior, furniture, single rooms, even individual design details. If you had the coolest drawer pull in York, we wanted to see it!

We debated what to call the selected projects. Winners? Finalists? Honorees? With so many incredible submissions, and with so much stellar work left on the editorial room floor for no reason beyond page count, we decided to forgo official labels. Rather, we've included here an eclectic mix of projects, all of which meet—in one way or another—the übercriteria we use every day: They are all designed with distinction.

*words by* **BRIAN SHUFF**





books



Antique elements—such as this banister—offer a high contrast with the home's more contemporary touches.



## Past Conceals Present

Knickerbocker Group, Boothbay, Portland

*photographer* **DARREN SETLOW**

*architect & builder* **KNICKERBOCKER GROUP**

*interior designer* **DARCHÉ DESIGNS**



A cowhide rug and the Atlantic Ocean—part ranch, part yacht.



In the kitchen, designer-owner Kate Horgan balanced a unique palette of yellows, golds, and whites.

IN THIS 1906 COTTAGE (TRANSPORTED IN 1926 to its current site), architect Sue Mendleson, architectural designer Haynes Johnston, and designer Kate Horgan managed what so many aspire to at the onset of a Maine home renovation: the reuse of authentic, historic details combined with an open layout made possible by modern materials.

Everywhere in the East Boothbay space, one sees a blend of antique and contemporary. The entry door, original to the home, was refinished and preserved while a panel in the same style was custom-cut to replace an impractical transom. “We retained all hardware,” Sue says, “including a vintage doorbell.” Living room casings and medallions got refurbished while matching replacements were fabricated as needed. The island column (a killer find by Kate) conceals a buttress necessary to opening the span, and coffered ceilings provide inherited whimsy while masking a steel beam.

Project manager Steve Berger laments one original element decidedly not worth saving: “The tiny, viewless rooms!” A first-floor paucity of glass made for comically obfuscated water views. “It just didn’t do justice to the location,” Steve says. “Now the first floor is like standing on the deck of an ocean liner.”