

2015

LIFE on the Coast

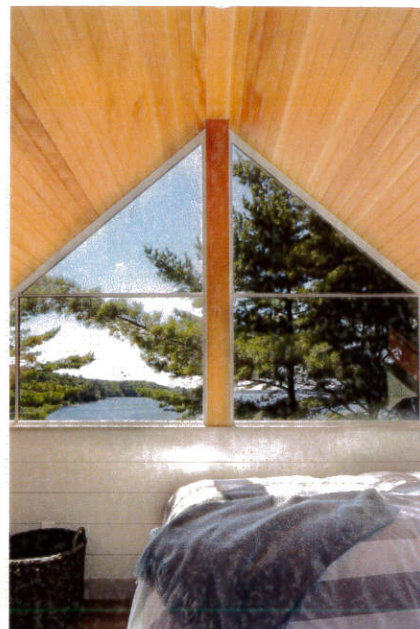
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Reconnecting to the Elemental Nature of the Maine Coast



DOWN A NARROW PATH, a cottage sat under the trees on a point of land. The structurally sagging home was built with low eaves that obstructed views to the surrounding rivers. The owners wanted to reconnect the home to its rocky coast-bound woodland environment, while also adding space for extended family and guests, and they contacted Knickerbocker Group for help.

The cottage was located in a 75' shoreland setback, confining the possibilities for expansion. Knickerbocker Group's solution involved two modestly sized homes: a family cottage and a bunkhouse just beyond the setback, to be built in series to minimize the impact on the land.

The open plan in the family cottage was designed around a massive stone element in the home's center. Large slabs of rough-cut granite serve as backdrops for the kitchen workspaces, a sweeping stone arch graces the fireplace with its over-sized drilled-and-split hearth, the loft ladder conforms to the shape of the stone. In the tree-house-style loft, with its gabled walls made entirely

of glass, the materials are echoed in long views of woods, rocks, and water.

The bunkhouse is eclectic — a modern-day bungalow with colorful tiled carpet, salvaged leaded glass window art, colorful painted trim, knotty pine ceilings, and birch tree accents. The homes are unified by a central stone patio and fire pit, characterized by handmade "found wood" Adirondack chairs and a grill/cooking station crafted of granite.

Today, the same narrow woodland path leads you to the new cottages. Both inside and out, the union of wood and stone evokes a re-connection to place, a reminder of the elemental nature of Maine.

KNICKERBOCKER GROUP

3 Builders Square, Boothbay, ME 04537

207-633-3818

info@knickerbockergroup.com

www.knickerbockergroup.com



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