

# MHD

MAINE HOME + DESIGN

## THE ARCHITECTURE ISSUE

### HIDDEN GEM

A HISTORIC RETREAT ON MDI  
GETS A VISIONARY REVAMP

### DESIGN FOR DESIGNERS

A HOUSE IN THE WOODS  
SINGS A MODERN SONG



THE ART OF THE  
NAPKIN SKETCH



# Into the Woods

Forest green is the deep, verdant hue we're craving this winter

**D**eep greens have been having a moment in interior design for the past several years. The Pantone Institute identified emerald green as the color of the year for 2013, and in 1stDibs's 2021 trends survey, which polled more than 700 interior designers, green was chosen as the most on-trend color for 2020. However, a rich forest green is an evergreen choice (forgive us the pun!) because it is so versatile and timeless.

A nature-inspired, mid to deep forest green has just a touch of darkness in the tone. It's neither the shamrock green of St. Paddy's Day nor the jewel tone of emerald: forest green has depth. Forest greens feel particularly right in Maine, where trees are never far from anyone's front door.

Using forest green in your decor is thankfully uncomplicated because it matches nearly everything. Deep green is especially nice as the holidays approach and much of the color is fading outdoors. Here's how to try this hue in your home.

#### **Treat forest green hues as neutral.**

Leafy greens are nature's neutrals. It may feel counterintuitive to imagine such a rich color as a noncolor, but think about the way plants look in a space: you never bring a plant into a room and think, "Oh, this clashes."

#### **Play up the associations with nature.**

Consider botanical prints to make the nature connection. "I've always loved leafy patterns or chintzes that have lots of green in them," says Libby Cameron, a Connecticut-based interior designer, who used Lee Jofa's iconic "Althea" chintz in her family home on Southport Island. These nature-inspired patterns are also on trend: the 1stDibs 2021 trends forecast that identified green as the most popular color for the year ahead also predicted botanic motifs will be the most popular ones for the coming year.

#### **Use green to create calm.**

Green's association with nature also has a powerful impact on the feeling of a room. By painting a room green, you bring nature into your home. When our lives are so busy and screen-focused that we desire to get away to the woods, forest green gives us that feeling we crave. And it's not just a perceived feeling of calm: a recent study published in the journal *Frontiers in Psychology* revealed that simply walking in a green environment induces a significant reduction in one's heart rate.

#### **Embrace rich fabrics.**

Green fabrics have long had a connotation of luxury—think deep green silk, damask, brocade, and velvet—but a more modern spin on green luxury might be a wonderful Belgian linen. Deep green paired with texture is a winning combination.



### Envelope a room in forest green.

Consider wall-to-wall green in a room where you want to cocoon, like a library, says Cameron. “When you walk into a room that has dark walls, your eye immediately goes out the window, which is so nice,” says Cameron, who notes that forest green is also “a very cozy color.”

### Go green in bathrooms strategically.

Cameron says small spaces like powder rooms lend themselves nicely to a dark color like forest green in a shiny finish. However, deep green walls do cast a greenish light, so think twice before using it on the walls of your primary bathroom. Instead, if you want to use forest green in a bathroom, consider a green vanity cabinet, like the one Windham-based Morrison Design House used in a Sebago Lake project. Or perhaps better still, tile your shower in forest green tiles for a relaxing, spa-like vibe, like Portland designer Tyler Karu did when she used green Fireclay tiles in a project in Biddeford.

### Create a backdrop for collections.

Galleries love a white wall, but deep green is a stunning choice for the wall behind your art collection. Cameron used Benjamin Moore’s Fiddlehead Green in her library, which highlights her collection of prints in gilt frames. Deep greens are also great for bibliophiles: “The backs of bookcases are often pretty in a dark green because the color makes the bookcase recede,” says Cameron.

### Refresh an all-white space.

Yarmouth-based designer Samantha S. Pappas applied green paint to the trim and window frames of a white-walled nursery to breathe life into the room without overwhelming the space with color. The green windows, in particular, blend into the views of the outdoors beyond. “The splashes of forest green give just enough depth to the nursery without being overwhelming or busy in a room which needs to be peaceful and serene,” notes Pappas. Cameron also embraced green trim against white walls in her Camden home.

### Consider it underfoot!

“I happen to love painted floors,” says Cameron, who painted all of the floors in her Maine home in Benjamin Moore’s Chrome Green. “The green floor grounds you,” she says. “You look out the window, and you see all the pines and evergreens out there and the blue of the ocean—it’s a lovely combination.” Cameron notes that painted floors are also a low-maintenance, casual choice for a Maine summer cottage.

### Coat your cabinets in green.

Forest green is an increasingly popular choice for kitchen cabinetry: it’s timeless, yet less expected than the usual white or gray. Shannon Richards, the founder of Hay Runner, a real estate development company in Portland, recently remodeled a kitchen, and she went with Cascades by Sherwin-Williams on all the cabinets. “My client wanted something dark and was inspired by decor we are seeing in restaurants right now,” says Richards. “I also love this color green with natural granite and slate.” If you’re not ready to go all-in on green, take a cue from Jennifer Morrison of Morrison Design House, who opted for a green island in an otherwise creamy white kitchen in Cumberland.

### Look outdoors for inspiration.

We’ve said it once, and we’ll say it again: Look to nature when choosing colors! Designers point to the great outdoors as the best place to find an appealing green. Morrison even goes so far as to gather pieces of nature from the property she’s designing to help develop her color palettes. If you choose a color that’s found in nature nearby, you can’t go wrong.

### Avoid using red and green together.

Proceed with caution when pairing crimson and evergreen. All the experts we spoke to agreed that red and forest green will almost always read as Christmasy.

A deep green paint creates a dramatic moment in this powder room by Morrison House Design (opposite, top); the palette of natural wood and gray marble references the nearby landscape of Sebago Lake. For the cabinets in this kitchen (opposite, bottom), Shannon Richards, the founder of Hay Runner, a real estate development company in Portland, opted for a bold, restaurant-inspired green.

(This page, from top) For the Spruce Point Inn in Boothbay Harbor, Knickerbocker Group layered rich green latticework over white walls. In a recent project, Heidi Lachapelle used a rich, green velvet on a daybed, where the luxe fabric elevates the simple silhouette.



PHOTO: DARREN SETLOW



PHOTO: ERIN LITTLE



## LIVING COLOR

# Green Greetings

Want a dead-easy way to bring the color forest green into your home? Bring in actual pieces of the forest. Cut evergreens, even living trees, are a wonderful way to add forest green to your decor, especially during the holiday season, says Jen Dunlap, a horticulturist at Coastal Maine Botanical Gardens. We asked Dunlap, who will lead a class on decorating with evergreens this fall, to share her tips.

Balsam fir and white pine are two native Maine evergreens that Dunlap likes to use in cut arrangements or draped over mantels. However, Dunlap says to avoid using hemlock and spruce indoors because they tend to drop their needles quickly, sometimes after just a few days.

When cutting branches from your trees, wait until after Thanksgiving and harvest at night, when temperatures are low. Cut branches on a slant, especially if you plan on putting them in a vase, to increase the surface area that can absorb water.

Dunlap likes to add long-needled white pine and *Chamaecyparis* to garlands: "They have this gorgeous and drapery effect of water and soft flowingness," she says. For a particularly Maine-centric touch, she suggests pressing and drying fern fronds in the pages of a book then adding them to your holiday display.

If you don't have evergreens in your own backyard, you can ask a neighbor for permission to cut, or visit your local garden center or farmers' market to stock up on greens, but never cut from public lands!



PHOTO: LIBBY CAMERON LLC

Benjamin Moore's Fiddlehead Green is a rich backdrop for a gallery wall of artwork in Libby Cameron's Connecticut home.

**Disney theme parks use a dusky shade of green that they coined "go away green" to hide features that they don't want guests to notice, like trash cans and construction walls.**

## Palette Picks



### **Benjamin Moore Chrome Green**

A traditional, deep green that feels elegant and historic.



### **Farrow and Ball Duck Green**

Named after the plumage of a mallard, Duck Green is strong yet mellow.



### **Benjamin Moore Goodwin Green**

A rich, intense shade of deep green with a touch of black to mellow its hue.



### **Sherwin-Williams Cascades**

An inky, bold, and dramatic emerald.



### **Sherwin-Williams Evergreens**

A classic, true green with some pep to it.



# Color Curated

*We rounded up 9 foresty finds for your home.*



**Schoolhouse Electric Clock, \$299**  
Schoolhouse // [schoolhouse.com](http://schoolhouse.com)



**Modern Matte Dresser, \$1,699**  
West Elm // [westelm.com](http://westelm.com)



**Fred Lounge Chair, \$2,803**  
Fritz Hansen // [fritzhenzen.com](http://fritzhenzen.com)



**Jute Woven Evergreen Rug, \$78 to \$1,848**  
Dash & Albert // [annieselke.com](http://annieselke.com)



**Como Sofa, \$5,995**  
Design Within Reach // [dwr.com](http://dwr.com)



**Cascade Meadow Wallpaper, \$205 per roll**  
Hygge & West // [hyggeandwest.com](http://hyggeandwest.com)



**Hans Medium Table Lamp, \$949**  
Visual Comfort // [ciricalighting.com](http://ciricalighting.com)



**Linen Duvet Cover Set, \$325 to \$355**  
Cultiver // [cultiver.com](http://cultiver.com)



**Ava Bed, \$1,399 to \$1,599**  
Crate & Barrel // [crateandbarrel.com](http://crateandbarrel.com)



# New Heights

*16 architecture projects pushing design in Maine*

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## Cozy Bear

Part of a former YWCA camp, this property came with 40 acres, thousands of feet of frontage on two lakes, a sandy beach, three small cabins, and a former infirmary. The clients, who have three children and six grandchildren and who have lived around the world, desired a comfortable home with Scandinavian influences that could serve as a cozy, central gathering space for their entire family while also being connected to the natural landscape.

Knickerbocker Group designed a series of three single-level forms that subsequently become more modern as they stretch away from the camp's simple cabins: a gable-roofed open-plan living space, a low-pitched dining area with a wall composed nearly entirely of windows, and a pair of bedrooms topped with a shed dormer roof. Each volume is given distinct cladding in vertical and horizontal applications, including reverse board-and-batten siding and prefinished white-cedar shingles, all stained a muted black that mimics the bark of the pines just outside.

The large screened porch is nearly 600 square feet—more than a third of the size of the home—and is designed to be durable and multifunctional, with a granite fireplace, L-shaped custom cedar bench, polished concrete floors, all-weather wicker seating, and a cedar Ping-Pong/crafting/overflow dining table crafted by the homeowner.

White walls are punctuated by black hardware, and colors are taken from surrounding nature: nickel-gap the color of moss, white-oak kitchen cabinets in a sandy shade. Granite flows in and out of the home, including thick slabs that were found on-site and repurposed as a front step, fireplace hearth, and porch column.

The site was disturbed as little as possible during construction, and landscaping was kept minimal, resulting in a cozy lakeside haven tucked under a canopy of trees.

### Architect, Builder & Interior Designer:

Knickerbocker Group

**Project Architect:** Rick Nelson

**Project Interior Designer:** Leah Lippmann

**Project Team:** Tom Burrill, Derek Libby,  
Nan Tanner

**Photographer:** Darren Setlow

**Photo Stylist:** Patty Boone

**Location:** The Lakes Region

**Completed:** 2019







## Ocean Point Casino

The Ocean Point Casino has traditionally served as the heart of a primarily seasonal community located along the East Boothbay peninsula's southern shore. Many current residents retain fond memories of the original 1905 casino, which was tragically destroyed in a mid-1970s fire and later replaced with a temporary community structure. A series of community design workshops engaging all age groups were conducted to define and prioritize desired programmatic elements and design features for the new building and associated outdoor sports courts.

Programming elements for the new building include a large multifunction meeting/recreation space, a new kitchen, two bathrooms, storage, an office for the seasonally hired activities director, and a meeting/reading room. The design also incorporates a wraparound porch, a key architectural feature of the 1905 casino. Two new tennis courts, a multisports court, parking, and new hardscape/landscape elements complete the site upgrades. Expanded porch areas provide ample seating for those viewing tennis matches and for parents overseeing children enjoying the adjacent playground and ballfield.

The building design was intended to create a warm, inviting, and flexible environment suitable for a wide range of typical seasonal activities: community dinners and other group social gatherings, fundraising events, yoga classes, arts and crafts sessions, and general recreation. During the project, the architect presented weekly updates concerning overall building organization, materials selections, and architectural details to a project building committee composed of community representatives to ensure that the best long-term value was obtained while working within a tight overall budget and schedule.



**Architect:** McGranaghan Architecture  
**Principal Architect:** Patrick McGranaghan  
**Master Planning & Builder:** Knickerbocker Group  
**Photographer:** Darren Setlow  
**Location:** East Boothbay  
**Completed:** 2020



## Knickerbocker Group Portland Offices

Located in a former Portland Department of Public Works warehouse, Knickerbocker Group's 6,200-square-foot Portland offices showcase the firm's focus on craftsmanship and innovative design.

Initially a raw industrial shell, the space now has restored brick exterior walls, white-painted ceiling beams, and ductwork that create a unifying palette. To provide light and views, a central core contains the kitchenette, server space, four private bathrooms and a shower, and a mother's—or focus—room. Wood-toned workstations, which boast sit-stand desktops and closed storage, ring the windowed perimeter, bringing light into interior offices that feature all-glass walls. Overhead lighting is zoned, dimmable, and connected to efficient occupancy sensors. Functional and decorative acoustical treatments, such as wavelike felt panels that float above a meeting table, minimize sound echoing.

The natural beauty of wood and craftsmanship are highlighted throughout the space, from the live-edge conference room table—locally made from a fallen oak tree in downtown Saco—to the custom, built-on-site walnut acoustical panel wall that is backed with sound-absorbing material. The ADA-compliant, walnut kitchenette has touch-latch cabinets, concealed appliances, and an ash counter-height table that can be used for eating, working, or a brief meeting with a vendor or coworker.

Welcoming design details are reminiscent of a residential property: planters handmade by a local ceramicist are filled with ferns and succulents, a Soumak wool rug softens a poured concrete floor, walls are in deep green nickel-gap with carefully mitered corners, and art is hung gallery style. The outdoor deck—where native grasses and hop vines swish in the Casco Bay breeze next to lounge areas that encourage gatherings—uses a modular system that floats on the roof to avoid penetrations and is designed for maximum privacy with minimal weight.

As the firm is both design and build, seamless in-house coordination and real-time decision making kept the jobsite running safely during COVID lockdowns. Today, employees work in a history- and nature-inspired space that encourages creativity and cross-disciplinary collaboration. **MH+D**



### Architect, Builder & Interior Designer:

Knickerbocker Group

**Project Interior Designer:** Angela Ballard

**Project Architect:** Michael Belleau

**Project Team:** Tom Burrill, Nick Gray, Sam Kapala, Rick Nelson

**Engineer:** RFS Engineering

**Landscape Design & Installation:** At the Garden Gate

**Workstation Design:** Exterus Business Furniture

**Photographer:** Trent Bell

**Location:** Portland

**Completed:** 2020