

MaineHomes

by *Down East*

YOUR LIFE LIVED WELL FALL 2021

Old Houses FRESH LOOKS

PLUS

29 IDEAS FOR
LIVING GREEN
IN MAINE

PRESERVING A
19TH-CENTURY
WRITER'S
PARTY PAD

DESIGN
AWARD
WINNERS!

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NEW IN TOWN

Old-School Upgrades

Two Gilded Age inns get new owners — and inventive new looks.

UPDATING A HISTORIC hotel is a bit of a catch-22: Bring it too close to today's trends and you'll alienate repeat guests who fell in love with the legacy look. But cling too tightly to the past and the property may fade into irrelevance, heirloom furnishings and all. Here's how two groups of designers nailed the balance.



THE CLAREMONT, SOUTHWEST HARBOR

When Kennebunkport hotelier Tim Harrington bought the 1884 inn last year, he asked his longtime design partner, Krista Stokes, for what she describes as a “sentimental glam” vibe that would be expressed everywhere, from elevator buttons to lampshades. She and Boston/Seal Harbor designer Laura Pierce worked with décor firm Sister Parish (named for the iconic decorator who summered on Islesboro)

to customize a navy-on-white trellis wallpaper for the guest rooms, then layered in rattan and patterned textiles, including nostalgic chintz. For the property's cottages, Stokes and Pierce brought in nautical and Americana themes (brass anchors, a red-white-and-seafoam palette) that harmonize with the Somes Sound views and their overall vision. “There are motifs like the trellis that we've carried through all the spaces — there's a certain green ticking stripe you see almost everywhere,” Stokes says. “So you feel like you're at the Claremont even though you're in this quirky bungalow.”

From \$480/night. 22 Claremont Rd., Southwest Harbor. 207-244-5036. thecclaremonthotel.com



SPRUCE POINT INN, BOOTHBAY HARBOR

In 2019, the Texas-based buyers of this 1892 resort asked local design firm Knickerbocker Group for a quick update, rather than a total overhaul. Designer Chloe Kregling focused on paint, lighting, and furniture, aiming to honor the inn's heritage while injecting some playfulness. In the library, for instance, nickel-gap paneling that had been stained was painted dark teal to allow the pine fireplace to pop. Existing 1950s wooden sofas received black paint and upholstery in a “funky mustard” color that coordinates with new armchairs in golden velvet. The room's brass lamps are original too — part of a treasure trove of furnishings found around the property and spiffed up in the re-do. Reflecting on the project that wrapped last year, Kregling says, “I can't stress enough how much fun we had.”

From \$245/night. 88 Grandview Ave., Boothbay Harbor. 207-633-4152. sprucepointinn.com

LEFT, FROM TOP Cottages at The Claremont feature a riff on a patriotic palette, while guest rooms showcase expert pattern mixing. **ABOVE AND RIGHT** In the Spruce Point Inn's library, teal and gold pack a complementary punch; an office for guests is outfitted with repurposed furniture and art.



ERIN LITTLE (THE CLAREMONT); DARREN SETLOW (SPRUCE POINT INN)