

# ZEST

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MAINE



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# POSHLY PRACTICAL

words *Joanne Friedrich* | photography *Darren Setlow*

Despite their necessary and oft-used nature, bathrooms and kitchens have risen in stature in home design: the former becoming an oasis for luxuriating, the latter the hub of family and entertaining activity. Homeowners and their design partners at Knickerbocker Group worked in tandem to take the rooms featured here beyond utilitarian.

**PROJECT TEAM**

**Builder**

**Knickerbocker Group**  
Steve Berger, project manager  
knickerbockergroup.com

**Interior Designers**

**Darché Designs**  
Katharine Horgan, homeowner  
**Knickerbocker Group**  
Elaine Murdoch, designer, CMKBD, CAPS  
Certified Master Kitchen & Bath Specialist  
Certified Aging in Place Specialist

**Cabinetry**

**Knickerbocker Group**  
Elaine Murdoch  
knickerbockergroup.com

**Tile**

**Old Port Specialty Tile**  
oldporttile.com

**Stone**

**Morningstar Stone and Tile**  
morningstarmarble.com

**Appliances**

**Dave's Appliance**  
davesappliancewin.com

In the guest room bath of this remodeled home, classic polished-nickel fittings and Carrara marble are offset by the simple but sublime floor-to-ceiling custom stone mix mosaic shower tile from Old Port Specialty Tile. The gradient blues—from dark, almost gray, to a shimmering light blue—suggest the ever-changing colors of the ocean, depending on the weather and time of day. Critical to showcasing this spectacular tile is the completely colorless low-iron glass shower door. “Ordinary clear glass has a distinct aqua cast that would have muted the true colors of the tile,” says Knickerbocker’s Elaine Murdoch, CMKBD, CAPS. A mirror made at Boothbay Harbor Framers that picks up on the sea-like colors in the bath pairs with a marble sink from New York’s Urban Archaeology.





Inspired by a photo the homeowner saw in *Elle Décor* of Bobby Flay's kitchen in the Hamptons, the kitchen boasts elegant blue cabinetry chosen by the homeowner. "This is their color all the way, Bluebird Feather from Sherwin-Williams, which complements the walnut flooring," says Murdoch. Throughout the room there is an eclectic blend of materials including painted glass, a Carrara marble subway tile backsplash, brass lighting fixtures and orange knobs on the BlueStar range, all giving the room its unique personality. Murdoch's favorite? The double apron-front stainless steel corner sink. "I almost didn't show it to Kate because I thought it might be too extreme for her taste, but she loved it!"

The pass-through into the dining room is a chameleon, offering a mirrored look that reflects window light into the room when closed, as seen in the kitchen photo opposite, but providing a view into the dining area and a dramatic Andrea Peters painting when opened (above left).

"We managed to squeeze a good-sized walnut glass-front hutch with a blue-painted back interior into the long, narrow butler's pantry," says Murdoch. Ribbon LED lighting, which is hidden behind the front face frame, illuminates the contents from top to bottom, she says, "avoiding shadowing that occurs with just top lighting." The remaining pantry space features mostly open shelving, although the base corner cabinet has a sliding door, which provides clearance for a wine refrigerator under the counter.



**PROJECT TEAM**

**Builder**

**Knickerbocker Group**

Jeffrey Brehm, project manager  
 Susan Mendleson, AIA  
 Elaine Murdoch, designer, CMKBD, CAPS  
 Certified Master Kitchen & Bath Specialist  
 Certified Aging in Place Specialist  
 knickerbockergroup.com

**Cabinetry**

**Hammond Lumber**

Carol Bartlett  
 Elaine Murdoch (Knickerbocker Group)  
 hammondlumber.com

**Tile**

**Old Port Specialty Tile**

oldporttile.com

**Stone**

**Morningstar Stone and Tile**

morningstarmarble.com

**Appliances**

**Dave's Appliance**

davesappliancewin.com

This residence—named Lily's Watch for the south-facing hallway view that gives the homeowners' cats a prime bird-watching spot—captures the many features the “very decisive” owners wanted for their newly built retirement space, says Susan Mendleson, AIA, at Knickerbocker Group. The east-facing bathroom and kitchen from this bluff-side home look out on the Sasanoa River. Both rooms, says the owner, give the “feeling of being part of the beauty outside.” The color schemes of blues and greens in the bathroom tiles and kitchen backsplash, tied in with wall colors of whites and grays, are subtly different from room to room yet coordinate for a cohesive look and reinforce the connection with nature with “hues of coastal water and air.”

“The entire house is intended to promote the feeling of peace within the natural surroundings,” says the homeowner. The use of blue also mirrors the blue windows found on the home's exterior.

A focal point of the bathroom is the angled recessed shower with its bench that doubles as a seat and shaving shelf. The shower was moved slightly from the original design, says Mendleson, to accommodate access to a hallway, while also adding visual interest. Not seen is a tub that replicates one the homeowners had in their previous home. “My favorite feature of the bath is the tub, placed so as to be surrounded by the calmness of the rest of the bath,” the owner remarks. The room also features his-and-her vanities on either side of the space, with open shelving on his side to properly scale with hers.

If the shower draws the eye in the bathroom, it's the 48-inch Wolf range, placed between two light-filled windows, that centers the kitchen for the homeowner. The custom-built wine rack was created to add functionality and enhance the look of a necessary column in the kitchen, says Mendleson. Within the soapstone-topped buffet counter, which joins the kitchen with the living area and which the homeowners use frequently when entertaining, is a convenient mini fridge.

