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The Boathouse

The project transformed an existing boathouse by integrating a barn structure within it, which created a layered, rustic foundation for the interiors. The design honors the barn's heritage while reflecting the homeowner's vision of a warm, welcoming space for entertaining. Subtle nods to saloons of the past and to classic New England pubs add character and charm without overwhelming the space.

A large, voluminous area required the creation of three distinct focal points: seating around the grand fireplace, an entertainment/TV area, and a large, elliptical bar. Working within the constraints of the barn's post-and-beam structure, the team carefully selected furnishings and lighting to suit each activity, ensuring the spaces would feel both cohesive and intimate. The color palette is predominately monochromatic, emphasizing earthy browns and taupes. Texture drives visual interest: furniture was curated to feel restored, reupholstered, and repurposed over time, with fabrics like leather, horsehair, wool, and rich woods enhancing a sense of depth and authenticity.

The mezzanine bathroom introduces a black and white hex-tile pattern inspired by the 1920s. Lighting remains understated, with black iron fixtures—including six large chandeliers above the main level—chosen to preserve an unobstructed ocean view from the mezzanine. Each area has its own focus, while the building as a whole feels both approachable and refined—a place for quiet retreat or lively gatherings alike.

FIRM: Knickerbocker Group
LEAD INTERIOR DESIGNER: Elena Duralde
DESIGN TEAM: Bob Francisco, Pascale Plüss-Zehm, Taylor Hickey & Trevor Watson
METALWORK: Cumberland Ironworks
MILLWORK: David A. Fields; Zoulamis Fine Woodworking
FRAMING: Rulo Timberworks
FURNITURE: Hancock & Moore; Taylor King
LIGHTING: Visual Comfort
TILE: Capozza Tile
PHOTOGRAPHER: Jeff Roberts Imaging
LOCATION: Coastal Maine

