

Country Home

**Colorful
Homes**
*From Sea to
Shining
Sea*

**CELEBRATE
AMERICA!**
Vintage Collections
& Party Ideas

plus
**ARTISTIC
ADDITIONS**
**COASTAL
STYLE**
**RUSTIC
REMODELS**

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RIGHT This once-plain barn in Maine was given classic character with board-and-batten siding that shifts to cedar shingles. "We wanted to slightly change up the materiality, so we added a little accent of shingles at the top," says architect Julien Jalbert. The extended roof truss replicates the barn's original design. "It's a special detail, and we thought it was cool so we kept it," he says. **OPPOSITE** The barn comfortably sleeps seven, and the comfy sectional covered in a performance linen provides even more places for overnight guests when the owners' college-age sons visit with their friends. The oversize leather-top ottoman lets guests kick up their feet.

CHARACTER BUILDING

A coastal Maine barn settles into its wooded surroundings overlooking an idyllic harbor. Inside, the rustic space opens wide for family gatherings while providing cozy corners to steal away to with a book or for a nap.

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THE SIGNS OF HISTORY ARE ALL THERE: THE CLASSIC GABLE ROOF, PRACTICAL VERTICAL BOARD SIDING THAT LETS RAIN EASILY RUN OFF, AND A LOFTED INTERIOR COVERED IN RAW HEMLOCK PLANKS OF VARYING WIDTHS. BUT WHILE THE MATERIALS AND ARCHITECTURE RING TRUE TO A 19TH-CENTURY BARN ON BOOTHBAY HARBOR IN MAINE, THIS STRUCTURE WAS BUILT DURING THE 1980S. “IT’S NOT POST AND BEAM LIKE AN ANTIQUE BARN, BUT IT WAS BUILT VERY WELL; THE FRAMING IS SUPER ROBUST,” SAYS ARCHITECT JULIEN JALBERT.

OPPOSITE The homeowners’ antique Windsor dining chairs gather around a 1960s Jacobean French dining table. A new built-in banquette topped with a comfy cushion and pillows invites lingering conversation. **ABOVE** All the cabinetry was made using reclaimed wood. “Our carpenter worked with the client to draw the details of the kitchen, and the carpenter built the whole bank of cabinetry on site,” Jalbert says. Café curtains conceal some of the open shelves and break up the runs of wood throughout the space.

Designed as a guest retreat, the barn’s interiors were dated and lacked the charm of an old rural outbuilding; that is, until Jalbert and the design team at Knickerbocker Group in Maine revived it. The homeowners hired the firm to give the structure a needed update by drawing on pieces of the past. “The finishes were of the 1980s and ’90s, so the clients wanted to refresh it all and give it more character to make it feel a bit more like an older barn,” Jalbert says. The team did the work while also renovating the owners’ main cabin located just across a narrow street on the waterfront (and featured in the Spring 2026 issue of *Country Home*® magazine).

The architect and design firm worked within the existing footprint to move walls and carve out more livable space by tapping into unfinished storage at the back of the barn. The transformation made way for a loft, which is open to the great-room and above the kitchen and dining area; it accommodates a built-in queen-size bed, sleeper sofa, and game table.

Thoughtful architectural details give the barn personality it never had. The great-room's new bookcases rise up the wall and continue in the new loft space, now accessed by a custom powder-coated spiral staircase. For the center of the bookcases, interior designer Elena Duralde found an antique leaded-glass window and had it restored before installing it. The salvaged window not only adds a charming, historical detail, but it also brings in daylight to the main entry hallway on the other side of the shelved wall.

Larger windows throughout, including a new bank of three windows above the deck, usher in more light and frame bird's-eye views of Boothbay Harbor. Interior doors were built with Z-buck design, a style common to older farmhouses and barns.

Humble touches, such as kitchen cabinetry with cutouts instead of drawer pulls, skirted shelving, hardworking soapstone countertops, and a built-in banquette at the dining table, embody a simplicity typical of rural architecture.



LEFT The kitchen's honed soapstone sink and counter will withstand wear and tear and develop a beautiful patina over time. **ABOVE** In the entry hall, a framed map of Southport, Maine, hangs above the late-19th-century Scandinavian bench, which is paired with a vintage kilim runner. **OPPOSITE** Instead of going for a built-in island, interior designer Elena Duralde found a 19th-century painted American worktable from Parc Monceau Antiques in Atlanta. The timeworn piece provides open storage and adds character. "We looked at several options, but a built-in piece didn't feel appropriate; it would have been a little too modern," Duralde says. "This works really well with everything else in the space. The legs are just so playful."





OPPOSITE A king-size spindle bed and black metal bedside lamp bases bring fresh farmhouse style to one of the guest rooms. Block-printed textiles in the bedrooms and for pillows and cushions elsewhere in the barn soften the rustic wood surroundings. **RIGHT** A cast-iron drainboard sink in one of the guest bathrooms evokes old-world charm with a wall-mounted bridge faucet in oil-rubbed bronze. The checkerboard tile floor, painted wood vanity, and horizontal plank walls further the vintage vibe. **BELOW** Built at the same time as the barn, a small studio sits at the end of a mulched path. The exterior now matches the barn's, and the design team added a new front door; otherwise the building maintains its simple air. **BOTTOM** Peeking out from its verdant surroundings is the barn's bronze standing seam metal roof. The barn sits across the street from the homeowners' renovated cottage.



There's no pretense, and the spaces have nothing to hide; everything is easily accessed and enjoyed. "We wanted this to feel like it had been in someone's family for a long time," Duralde says. "It has a collected look."

Next to the barn, a pathway leads to a small studio, which provides another inviting spot. "We intentionally chose not to do too much to it, but we dressed it up to be cohesive in its exterior finishes," Jalbert says. "It's kind of overflow if someone needs a little space for themselves."

The barn feels cozy and grounded thanks to saturated, nature-inspired colors—browns, grays, and greens—and its woody rusticity. Even more, it now functions as intended, to encourage their visitors to stay awhile. "When the homeowners have guests stay here," Duralde says, "they have a lot of flexibility." □

RESOURCES, SEE PAGE 94.



ABOVE An old pub cricket table the homeowners owned, surrounded with a vintage set of caned barrel dining chairs, is the perfect place to keep a puzzle going. **LEFT** In the open loft, a queen-size daybed with storage tucked underneath is a cozy spot to nap or unwind with a book. A vintage sailboat tray on the wall nods to the barn's maritime surroundings; the niche is painted Benjamin Moore Rushing River. **OPPOSITE** The original pine walls and ceilings were preserved in both guest rooms. When the designers needed to replace boards, they used leftover pine salvaged from the great-room renovation. "We were trying to be smart about preserving materials that we could reuse," Jalbert says. Twin ram's-head beds with rope detailing add to the room's sense of history.