

Maine Home

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CREATIVE GENIUS

**TWENTY IMAGINATIVE ARCHITECTURE PROJECTS
MAKING INDELIBLE MARKS ON THE STATE**

Maine architecture has a storied past. In Portland alone, buildings range from the Colonial Tate House (1750–1820) to the Renaissance Revival United States Custom House (1868–72) to the postmodern Portland Museum of Art addition by Henry Nichols Cobb of Pei Cobb Freed and Partners (1983). For a variety of reasons, design evolution often means buildings that were once “in style” aren’t anymore. And whether or not you deem a particular building beautiful, what there’s certainly no arguing about is that Maine architecture continues to evolve at a rapid pace.

Need proof? You’re holding it in your hands. In this, our annual Architecture Issue, we’ve rounded up 20 recent residences and commercial buildings that speak to the caliber of design happening around the state. Many have a quiet beauty, an inherent simplicity that echoes the qualities that help define Maine in both its landscape and culture. Some projects are designed to be a seamless transition from sea to land to structure, while others have an eco bent along with a bit of unflagging grit. (A home designed by GO Logic and built far beyond the last power pole in Palermo comes to mind.)

The projects range in scope—from a contemporary residence with a planted flat roof to a three-story urban penthouse to a 19,000-square-foot office building for an insurance company—but what is notable about many of them, as architect Scott Blanchard of Eric A. Chase Architecture puts it, “is what you don’t see.” The firm updated a turn-of-the-century farmhouse with solar panels that store summer’s excess energy to be used during winter’s sun-shy months. Indeed, sustainable design strategies are used in abundance: Fiorentino Group Architects planted a fine fescue lawn that requires less water, and BrightBuilt Home constructed an entire house off-site—both saving on the cost of construction and saving the home from the elements while it was built. These projects speak to a level of sustainability that simply wasn’t possible just years ago.

What will Maine architecture bring in the coming years? If the following pages offer a glimpse of where it’s going, if they serve as a roadmap to the future being built around us, then we’re on the right path. In color, form, line, shape, space, texture, value, and scale, these projects are making their artistic, imaginative, optimistic, and indelible marks on the state. Here’s to making beautiful history.



A NET ZERO HOME & STUDIO ON THE ROYAL RIVER

A New York couple looking to relocate closer to family in Maine purchased a wooded ten-acre lot on the shores of the Royal River in North Yarmouth. The goal of the architect, Briburn, was to design an energy-efficient home and artist's studio capable of reaching a net-zero energy goal. The buildings are sited to create visual and acoustic separation while maximizing views east to the river as well as southern orientation for both natural light and heat gain in the winter.

The firm worked with a landscape designer and the owners to develop a series of public and private exterior spaces, including auto courts, walking paths, patios, and gardens, that contrast yet harmonize with the landscape. The home features 12-inch-thick double-stud exterior walls filled with dense-packed cellulose, triple-glazed windows and doors, 4 inches of rigid insulation beneath the concrete slab foundation, deep roof overhangs to control light on the south side, a highly efficient gas-fired boiler, radiant in-floor heating, and an energy-recovery ventilator to circulate fresh air. Photovoltaic panels on the roof of the artist's studio are designed to offset all the energy demand for that building as well as the home.

Taggart Construction used tapes and sealant to create a tight building envelope that earned a reading of 0.85 ACH50 (air change per hour at 50 pascals) during the final blower-door test, indicating minimal air leakage. The exterior finishes were chosen for their natural beauty and low-maintenance properties and to blend with the earth tones found on-site. Locally harvested, thermally modified poplar, which requires no paint finish and is termite and rot resistant, was used for the siding, and the trim around the aluminum-clad wood windows is a poly-ash material. Both the windows and trim are painted dark bronze to create a unified appearance.

Architect: Briburn

Boiler: Viessmann

Builder: Taggart Construction

Engineer: Becker Structural Engineers

Exterior Doors & Windows: Loewen

Glass Artist: Kremer Glass Studio

Landscape Designer: Soren DeNiord Design Studio

Solar Panels: ReVision Energy

Window Supplier: Pinnacle Window Solutions

Woodstove: Wittus

Photographer: Irvin Serrano