

# Maine Home

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+ DESIGN



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# Works of Architecture

20 TRIUMPHS OF FUNCTION AND BEAUTY

by Rebecca Falzano





In Maine in particular, great architecture is as much about beauty as it is about function. Architects have important questions to address: *How will this design fulfill the clients' needs? How does it fit on a tight site? How do we ensure the least impact to the environment? How can we optimize sunlight? How do we get the best views? How can we heat it most efficiently?* Each of the 20 projects on the following pages represents a triumph of this intricate and elaborate process—the questioning, the calculating, the considering—the brilliant (and beautiful) design that unfolds in the hands of an architect.

## GAMBREL INSPIRATION, CONTEMPORARY TECHNOLOGY

After more than 20 years of planning, builder Eric Smith of Oceanside Builders, together with his wife, Laurie, and their three children, now live in a new home built on a tract of land that has been a part of his family for generations. Smith enlisted the help of his friend and summer neighbor, architect Robert S. MacNeille of Carpenter and MacNeille, whose family has been on Bailey Island for the past century.

A century ago, MacNeille's grandfather (architect Perry R. MacNeille of New York firm Mann and MacNeille) designed Bailey Island's Library Hall, a local colonial revival landmark that strongly references architectural elements of George Washington's Mount Vernon and is now listed on the National Register of Historic Places. Drawing on the rich architectural history of coastal Maine, MacNeille ensured that Oceanside, though completely new, would draw its primary design inspiration from the prevalent gambrel shingled cottages of the region.

Smith engineered a novel combination solar and geothermal system, which now powers, heats, and cools more than 16,000 square feet of interior space stretched over the main house, two rental properties, and multiple garages. Unconventional building materials—like cement shingles on the exterior façade—were used to increase overall structural sustainability. The challenges of the exposed coastal site, as well as Smith's desire to push the envelope of green construction practices, have resulted in a real example of contemporary Maine home and design.

**ARCHITECTURE: CARPENTER & MACNEILLE**  
**Construction: Oceanside Builders**  
**Photography: Cheryle St. Onge**

