

DECOR MAINe

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DECEMBER 2021

the Year in Design

29 STELLAR
PROJECTS OF 2021

A CAPE NEDDICK
HOUSE WITH A
CALIFORNIA SOUL

A BOHEMIAN
BUNGALOW IN
YARMOUTH

A REFINED ALPINE
HOUSE IN BETHEL

AN ULTRAHIP
COMPOUND IN
STEUBEN

A MODERNIST
ISLAND HOME IN
KENNEBUNKPORT

& MORE

PLUS!
THE DM GUIDE TO
PRELUDE IN
THE KENNEBUNKS



THE YEAR

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Designer Ariana Fischer tones down bright whites with calacatta gold tiling, varying from traditional grays. Photo by Erin Little.

ONCE AGAIN, WE'RE CLOSING THE YEAR WITH A SPREAD OF 2021'S STANDOUT PROJECTS

BY BRIAN SHUFF

Our call yielded submissions from all corners of the state, and we share our favorites in eight categories: Overall Design, Kitchen & Bath Design, Landscape Design, Historic Preservation, Furniture Design, Restaurant & Venue Design, Multiuse Space, and Artful Living.

Projects of any scale were considered—residential or commercial, renovation or new build, professional or amateur—and whether we're experiencing an island retreat off the coast of Kennebunkport or marveling over a single piece of furniture, we asked the same questions that guide our choices year-round: *Does this feel as good as it looks? Does it reflect artistry? Does it relate to Maine and resonate an essence of this place?*

For the projects you're about to discover, it's yeses across the board.



*OVERALL
DESIGN*

Modern Perfection

MARCUS GLEYTEEN ARCHITECTS

Project Location: Kennebunkport

Principal Architect: Marcus Gleysteen

Project Architect: Maggie Baratz

General Contractor: Bowley Builders

Landscape Architect: Emma Kelly Landscape

Structural Engineer: Reg Roome

Woodworking: WoodLab

Thoroughly modern, this barrier island home draws its material inspiration from the harborside shacks and warehouses that “exhibit a kind of East Coast industrial practicality,” says architect Marcus Gleysteen. Inside, just off the entryway, a small steel stringer supports a floating staircase. “We kept the stair minimal and focused on how the materials could come together,” says Marcus. “The result feels light but also secure.” It’s a sensation that echoes through the home. A living room with near-20-foot ceilings was walled with window panels for a view not only of the rocky shore but also of a sheltered garden. “We have found that many waterfront homes are one sided,” says Marcus, “with every focal point leading to one view. Our goal was balance.”

PHOTOGRAPHY BY TRENT BELL



Marcus Gleysteen's design for the floating staircase let the sculptural become structural. Wood treads, carried by a steel spine, never touch the wall, achieving an airy but secure result.



Natural light and vitrine-like fenestration fuse the living space with its site between rocky shoreline and garden views. The 19-foot peaked wooden ceiling gives it the quiet air of a sanctuary.

Water Views in Every Direction

KEVIN BROWNE ARCHITECTURE

Project Location: Scarborough
Principal Architect: Kevin Browne
Designer: Bonnie Wedster
Builder: Sylvain + Seigny
Engineer: Structural Integrity

Situated at the quiet end of Ferry Beach, this renovated cottage faces marshland on one side and open ocean on the other. "Obviously, we wanted to max out the windows," says architect Kevin Browne. "We did floor-to-ceiling glass pretty much along the whole ocean side. We also pushed windows into the corners at several locations to keep an unbroken, panoramic view." Douglas fir siding on the front entrance and upstairs patio eaves breaks up the exterior profile by establishing a contrast with the cedar shingling that clads the rest of the home.

PHOTOGRAPHY BY JONATHAN REECE

Maximizing the windows of the home was key during renovation. Many windows stretch through the corners to minimize obscured views.

California Inspired

MELANIE MILLNER

Project Location: Cape Neddick

Interior Designer: Melanie Millner

Architect: Tierney Conner Architecture

Builder: Robert Satter and Morrison Construction

Styling: Eleanor Roper

A contemporary West Coast breeze seems to freshen this Cape Neddick cottage. Layered textures and deeper colors “help soften the modern space,” says designer Melanie Millner. A driftwood mirror from B.D. Jeffries adds warm design notes along with the installation of the barn door in the dining space. Traditional modern cool tones carry through the home, with cream Verellen dining chairs and beachy, washed-out hues in larger chest and table furnishings from Clubcu.

PHOTOGRAPHY BY EMILY FOLLOWILL

Dramatic pieces like this hall mirror from B.D. Jeffries create an intentional contrast of raw and refined finishes, as with the more muted chest below from Clubcu.

The natural figuring in a barn door warms a room defined by the palette of a dining set from Verellen and Clubcu. “Softening the space,” designer Melanie Millner calls it.



Touches of Refined Glam

KNICKERBOCKER GROUP

Interior Architecture: Knickerbocker Group

Interior Design: Knickerbocker Group

Tile: Old Port Specialty Tile

Woodworking: David Fields

Furnishings: COVE by Knickerbocker Group

Styling: Laura Nero

The design team added small reflective elements—touches of refined glam and gilded finishes—in every space in the home. The effect is a whimsical twinkle that runs through the house, a shimmer that jumps from light fixtures to cabinet pulls. The pièce de résistance is the kitchen's showstopping backsplash. Euphoria tiling from Sonoma Tilemakers in an After Midnight color sparkles with the moving sun, framed by White Macabus quartzite countertops and a custom range hood.

PHOTOGRAPHY BY ERIN LITTLE

Stainless steel banding gives the custom hood a luxe look. The curve detail in the upper cupboards adds a feminine counterpoint to the sober, Shaker-style base cabinets.

Delineating Space

HABITAT DESIGN

Project Location: Falmouth Foreside

Interior designer Carly Blackmore had functionality—and versatility—in mind for this design from the start. The hope was to create fluid spaces that maximize each room's usability. She extended these goals to choice of colors and textures. Tones of blues and grays are mixed with natural fibers to transcend the traditional coastal look, and in the living space, deep-blue chairs from Serena & Lily pop against custom pillows from Romo Fabrics to create an intimate nook for two—with a center console table for day-to-day versatility.

PHOTOGRAPHY BY SIAN RICHARDS



Chairs from Serena & Lily create an intimate nook. The console from Arteriors adds serving space during large gatherings. *opposite* An oversize dining table plays with scale just enough to surprise without disorienting. Masterful.

Organic Industrial

NICOLA'S HOME

Project Location: Yarmouth
Design & Build: Nicola's Home

"I wanted to work with a very neutral palette," says Nicola Manganello on her design-forward spec project where the final product is all about the details. To show the house's clean surfaces while adding a glint of industrial ambiance, Nicola put extra thought most into the lighting. Globe pendants from Hubbardton Forge hang over the dining room table. Unique geometry and textured patterns draw attention to the understated yet inviting seating arrangements from Chairish and Nicola's Home.

PHOTOGRAPHY BY BEN FOLSOM

The dining room is filled with delightful details. Here, the rustic (exposed beam and animal hides) meets the elegant (globe lighting and a barn door with porthole glass).

Study in White Oak

CALEB JOHNSON STUDIO

Project Location: Bethel

Principal Architect: Caleb Johnson

Project Architect: Duncan David Morris and Bud Angst

General Contractor: Clearwater Builders

Woodworking: Wentworth Woodworking

Landscape Design: Soren DeNiord Design Studio

This hillside home near Sunday River sprawls through layers of space. Its location on a steep hill called for a unique layout that would unify the home over those changing levels. A secondary aim, according to architect Caleb Johnson, was “simplicity of materials throughout,” which also created a cohesive look. With a focus on clean, minimalistic design, millwork of a single wood—white oak—is the focal point, each space with a unique stain to allow multiple tones to come through.

PHOTOGRAPHY BY TRENT BELL

Creative problem solving led to adapting the slope of the land and the home built upon it, maintaining a layered but unified layout.





*KITCHEN &
BATH DESIGN*



Height Advantage

ARCADIA KITCHEN & BATH

Project Location: Cumberland
Interior Designer: Kristen LaValle
Design & Build: Arcadia Kitchen & Bath

This primary bath renovation (the space's first since 1984) looked to capitalize on its high ceilings. "They give the grandeur we were looking for," says designer Kristen LaValle. An added floor-to-ceiling window allows sunlight to play wonderfully on a high shower wall of glazed tile from WOW Designs. "They really knock it out of the park with their punchy, curated glazes," says Kristen. "They give the handmade look of traditional zellige tile without breaking the bank."

PHOTOGRAPHY BY SOPHIA VAN DYK



A large soaking tub sits center stage atop a marble basket-weave mosaic tile floor. *below* A vanity by Sylco Cabinetry features marble countertops and white oak mirrors by Huston & Company. *opposite* Tile selections from WOW Designs and Clé Tile work off bold midcentury accents.

Light & Bright

RYAN DONNELLY

Project Location: Kennebunkport
Interior Designer: Ryan Donnelly Design, *Builder:* Spang Builders
Vanity: Sylco Cabinetry, *Stone:* Morningstar Stone & Tile
Custom Linen Cabinet & Mirrors: Huston & Company

A photograph by Kennebunk artist Brad Maushart (now hanging over the tub) inspired the ethereal look of this bathroom renovation. White oak on both a linen cabinet with antique mirrored glass and the frames around a pair of vanity mirrors (both cabinet and mirrors by Huston & Company) makes for a celestial interaction between the wood's soft tones and multiple white finishes. Thirteen feet of custom frosted glass enclose a curbless shower and private water closet. A restrained basket-weave pattern tiles the floor. "This is my client's forever home," says interior designer Ryan, "so we wanted to make sure the renovation design was timeless, something that they could love 15 years from now."

PHOTOGRAPHY BY MEREDITH PERDUE



Softening the Edges

ARIANA FISCHER INTERIOR DESIGN

Project Location: Boothbay

Interior Designer: Ariana Fischer

Woodworking: Bench Dogs and Ridgetop Cabinetry

Backsplash Tile: Distinctive Tile

“When I design, I’m always thinking about balance,” says Ariana Fischer. In this kitchen, that meant toning down a palette of whites that risked overbrightness, especially on sunny days. To temper some of the shine, Ariana turned to Bench Dogs in Washington for the fabrication of a stunning nine-foot island. “I had the surface done with quarter-inch strips of walnut and cherry,” says Ariana, “so it’s a striped wood countertop. It really is a work of art.” She also added recycled, reclaimed shelving and a unique Calacatta gold tiling with pale brow and warm yellow veining rather than traditional gray. “I love a space where the cooks get the good view,” Ariana says.

PHOTOGRAPHY BY ERIN LITTLE

Calacatta gold tiling and reclaimed shelving work to mute an onslaught of sunlight that could have (in the wrong hands) given the space a sterile feel.





below, right White tile laid in a vintage herringbone pattern subtly offsets the kitchen's modern lines. *bottom, left* Taking cues from a Chicago hotel, the powder room floor features a tartan mosaic in silver, dark olive, and beige marble and stone from Old Port Specialty Tile. *opposite, top* A beach house aesthetic gets European refinement of materials and colors. *opposite, bottom* Previously a cramped inn, this reworked open floor plan lets the new home breathe.

A Kitchen Recentered

POLESTAR DESIGN

Project Location: Cape Elizabeth

Designer: Chris Herlihy

General Contractor: Flying Point Construction

The fashionable open-cabinet plan in this Cape Elizabeth kitchen gets a jolt of nostalgia from touches of gold and black and a geometric pattern in the tiling. "When you think of good times in history, the Roaring Twenties jump to center stage," says Polestar owner-designer Chris Herlihy. "These touches pull you into a mood that puts a smile on your face and a cocktail on your mind." Originally disconnected from the living areas of the house, this kitchen was relocated to a more central position. "The new kitchen is a shared space," says Chris.

PHOTOGRAPHY BY JAMIE SALOMON



Traditions of Two Coasts

KITCHEN COVE DESIGN STUDIO

Project Location: Ogunquit

Design: Kitchen Cove Design Studio, *Cabinetry:* Crystal Cabinet Works

Appliances: Central Appliance, *Workstation Sink:* The Galley Workstation

Backsplash Tile: Distinctive Tile + Design

Starting with the layout of a former inn, designer Conrad Arseneau's most pressing task at this Ogunquit home was to open up the cramped space and make it practical for a single family. Kitchen-wise, this involved a remodel that blends bold eclectic touches with a traditional seaside aesthetic. Stained poplar shiplap wrapping the hood and island ring coastal, as do the grilles on the rustic copper lights over the island, but the radical, Portugal-inspired Fatima Mezzanotte ceramic backsplash adds an unexpected Mediterranean flair. Two coasts are evoked at once, and the mash-up is remarkable.

PHOTOGRAPHY BY ERIN LITTLE

Tile Out Front

MEAGAN MCKUSICK

Project Location: Yarmouth

Custom Floating Vanity: Jon Meade Design

Plaid Marble Mosaic: Old Port Specialty Tile

Tile Installation: TCT Marble & Tile

"The powder bath is likely the only bathroom your guests will see, so I feel it's a great place to be creative and bold with design," says Meagan McKusick. This miniature masterpiece in Yarmouth showcases top-notch tilework by Tyler Montgomery of TCT Marble & Tile. The floor is a tartan plaid composed of 0.33-inch squares of silver, dark olive, and beige stone and marble. Each 13.3-by-13.3-inch section contains 1,200 stones. Behind the mirror, a basic black subway in herringbone converses with the plaid. Jon Meade Design in Portland custom-cast, drilled, and polished the floating vanity with a vanishing drain. "The sink is far more modern than the wall or floor," says Meagan, "but its unique simplicity makes it the perfect fit."

PHOTOGRAPHY BY MEAGAN MCKUSICK





LANDSCAPE DESIGN



Listening for Sanctuary

**TED CARTER INSPIRED
LANDSCAPES**

Project Location: Scarborough

Design & Installation: Ted Carter Inspired
Landscapes

Images can't capture the entirety of this custom water feature's hypnotic power. "Sound is a big part of it," says horticulturalist-designer Ted Carter. "It takes a lot of work to shape the spillways in such a way that you get a sincere and authentic sound. The water sings to you a little bit." It comes as no surprise to Ted, given the state of the world, that a good number of people are looking to put money into constructing areas of sanctuary. Butterfly bushes attract colorful specimens, and birds nesting in the nearby pines chirp faintly throughout the day. "The space is visible from most of the house, too," says Ted, "so the owners enjoy its view even in winter."

PHOTOGRAPHY BY MAX ABICKI

Maine river rock borders a custom water feature and butterfly bushes. An escape that "engages the natural world to come be a part of your world," explains Ted.

Encouraged to Encroach

RICHARDSON & ASSOCIATES

Project Location: Steuben

Landscape Architect: Richardson & Associates

Architect: Winkelman Architecture

General Contractor: Nate Holyoke Builders

Landscape Contractor: Atlantic Landscape
Construction

Project Location: Falmouth

Landscape Architect: Richardson & Associates

Architect: Winkelman Architecture

General Contractor: Warren Construction

Landscape Contractor: Gnome Landscapes

In two very different projects, landscape architect Todd Richardson achieves an “inseparable knitting together of indoor and outdoor spaces,” as he puts it. At an ultrahip compound in Steuben, wild grasses grow flush with walking paths. Some plantings even jump to the roof. “You don’t see a lot of green roofs,” Todd says, “and [architect] Will Winkelman made sure this design engages with that element.” At a more traditional home in Falmouth, and using a more verdant palette, Todd’s design connects both a kitchen and a study to an outdoor dining terrace. “We worked hard to preserve the vine on the side of the house,” Todd says. “Those took 50 years to grow, so we valued them a lot.”

**PHOTOGRAPHY BY TRENT BELL
AND (FOLLOWING SPREAD) ROB KAROSIS**

This project knit together indoor and outdoor spaces and materials. The Steuben home blurs the lines between architecture and landscape with a structurally complex green roof.





Vines covering the terrace at this Falmouth home were preserved through three homeowners, bridging the old and new landscapes. *opposite* "Yes, this is a simple design," says Richardson, "but it's a *disciplined* simplicity, and getting everything proportioned and looking natural—like it's always been that way—is not so easy."





HISTORIC PRESERVATION



Disciplined Renovation

**MAINE STREET DESIGN CO.
(MSDCO)**

Project Location: Bath

Owner, Creative Director: Brett Johnson, MSDCO

Developer: Sean Ireland, Woodward Development

Project Management: Mandy Reynolds

Historic Consultant: Mandy Reynolds

Architect: Evan Carroll, bild Architecture

Builder: Frank Grondin, Justin Fundaro, Calendar Island Construction, and Seth Ireland, Ireland's Remodeling Services

Antique Window Restoration: Nate Jung

The National Park Service and the State of Maine Historic Preservation Office standards for historic preservation governed the redevelopment of Bath's Medanick Building into a flagship design studio for MSDCO. "Front Street has a significant historic core," says Sean Ireland, owner and developer, "and with MSDCO, we wanted to demonstrate to the city what it was to do a historic preservation tax-credited project." In most cases, this meant underscoring the building's existing assets while modernizing its function. The soaring, two-story window feature that fronts the building was maintained in the loft space and maximized for energy efficiency. "With historic projects, the best design is often the least design," says Sean, "and it takes a seasoned designer like Brett to put the building at the center—not himself."

PHOTOGRAPHY BY SOPHIA VAN DYK

Adhering to preservation standards, The Medanick Building was transformed into a balance of historic form and modern function.

A detailed still life painting featuring a bouquet of flowers and a grasshopper. The bouquet includes a large pink rose, a white hydrangea, and a cluster of red roses. A green grasshopper is positioned in the lower left corner. The scene is set against a dark, textured wooden background.

*FURNITURE
DESIGN*



Lit from Within

HUSTON & COMPANY

Project Location: Portland
Designer: Huston & Company
Lighting Assistance: BH Miliken
Collaboration with: Ealain Studio

Breathtaking views deserve breathtaking furniture. This bar-height table in Portland's city-crowning Luna Rooftop Bar originated as a 17-by-5-foot slab of figured beechwood. "We cut the slab down the middle and reversed the sides," says furniture maker Saer Huston. "This allowed us to use the live edge on both sides and to create the river pattern down the middle of the table with very little modification, preserving an incredible organic feel." A hefty undercut along the edge of the "river" obscures the table's light source. "The warm glow becomes *part* of the piece," says Saer, "rather than simply lighting the piece."

PHOTOGRAPHY BY LAURYN HOTTINGER



Standing on Air

DSO CREATIVE FABRICATION

Project Location: Saco

"We begin by designing products that have high aesthetic value," says founder-owner Nate Deyesso. The geometry of this Summit Lounger (there's also a sofa version) intrigues and excites. Plate steel paired with square tubing and vinyl upholstery from Pistol Pete's Upholstery in Yarmouth generates a balance of light and heavy, airy versus solid. One can imagine kicking back in this piece in the year 2122, sipping a neon-green cocktail, listening to a jazz combo on Mars. "I hope the piece speaks for itself," says Nate, "but what may not be obvious is the pride, enjoyment, and passion that my shop and its employees share in creating unique builds."

PHOTOGRAPHY BY LAURYN HOTTINGER



Wild Grain

GKS FURNITUREMAKER

Project Location: Biddeford, **Fabric Painter:** Heather Chontos

Gabe Sutton is a self-taught craftsman of nearly two decades. To achieve the complex patterns in his work, he has learned to cut his own veneers. "It's a bit of an old-world technique," he says. "It's called shop cut, or shop sawn, and it produces a much thicker, more stable veneer than you see commercially." These custom veneers can be cut and laminated in any orientation. "That's how I get really funky patterns with the grain running in different directions," Gabe adds. A spectacular set of club chairs is a collab with artist Heather Chontos, who hand-painted the upholstery.

PHOTOGRAPHY BY GABE SUTTON

above Using an old-world technique, Gabe Sutton develops original veneers with the grain running in multiple directions. Artist Heather Chontos hand-painted the upholstery. *opposite, top* In collaboration with Ealain Studio for Canopy Hotel in Portland, a long bar-height table brings drama to natural elements revered by Mainers. *opposite, bottom* Using painted plywood, steel, and custom cushions, Nate Deyesso achieves a contemporary look.



RESTAURANT & VENUE DESIGN

Deli Chic

MEY & CO

Project Location: Portland

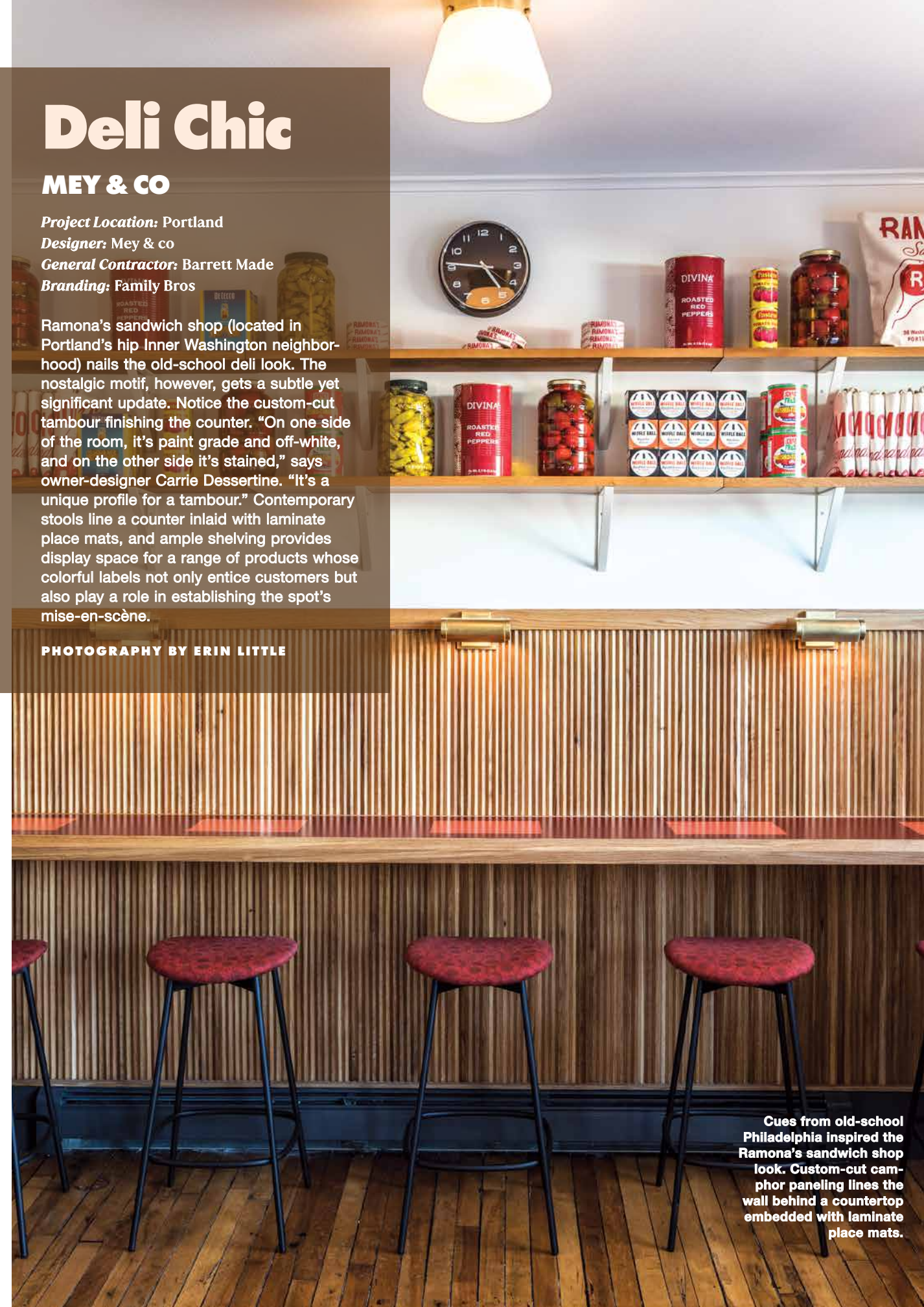
Designer: Mey & co

General Contractor: Barrett Made

Branding: Family Bros

Ramona's sandwich shop (located in Portland's hip Inner Washington neighborhood) nails the old-school deli look. The nostalgic motif, however, gets a subtle yet significant update. Notice the custom-cut tambour finishing the counter. "On one side of the room, it's paint grade and off-white, and on the other side it's stained," says owner-designer Carrie Dessertine. "It's a unique profile for a tambour." Contemporary stools line a counter inlaid with laminate place mats, and ample shelving provides display space for a range of products whose colorful labels not only entice customers but also play a role in establishing the spot's mise-en-scène.

PHOTOGRAPHY BY ERIN LITTLE



Cues from old-school Philadelphia inspired the Ramona's sandwich shop look. Custom-cut camphor paneling lines the wall behind a countertop embedded with laminate place mats.

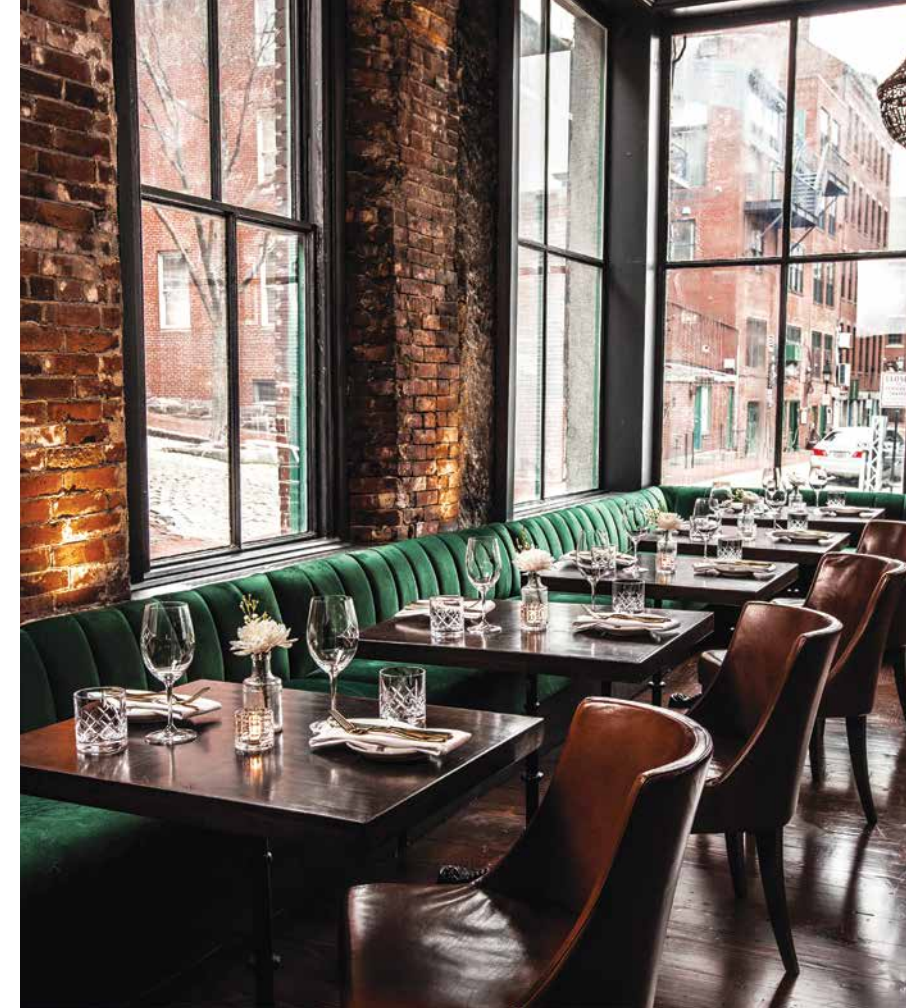


Batson River's black tambour on the underbar plays with furnishings to give the space a distinct vertical line.

Old Hollywood

WENDY POLSTEIN

Project Location: Portland
Design & Build: NMT Woodworking
Interior Designer: Wendy Polstein of Quill Design
Tile & Surfaces: Paul White Company
Barstools: Nate Deyesso of DSO Creative Fabrication
Upholstery: Pistol Pete Upholstery Design
Consultants: Linda Davies and Joshua Miranda



Via Vecchia drips with 1920s Euro mystique. "One of the first things we did was paint the entire ceiling metallic gold, to warm the space and be sure we gave it a glow," says designer Wendy Polstein. Carefully placed chandeliers, antique pendant lights, and lampposts framing the booths all reflect from the ceiling onto a rich assemblage of textures—green velvet against brick, quartz on the bar, live flora on the walls—and delicious tilework by Paul White. We love the traditional black-and-white hex mosaic track at the bar base. "It anchors the bar to the space and makes it seem as though it's been there a long while," says Wendy. We want to stay all night.

PHOTOGRAPHY BY ANTHONY DI BIASE



Rich Backdrops

BARRETT MADE

Project Locations: Portland & Yarmouth
General Contractor: Barrett Made

The soaring drama of Batson River Brewing & Distilling's flagship Portland location owes no small part of its panache to project architect Brian Knipp's careful incorporation of vertical profiles. Black tambour paneling on the front bar, endcaps, and banquettes stretches the space skyward. Batson Creative Director Krista Stokes oversaw the selection of interior color and texture palettes and personally selected the sublime mash-up of vintage finds that gives the restaurant its Gatsby-meets-hunting-lodge vibe. At The Garrison in Yarmouth, Vice President and Director of Design Services Matthew Ahlberg hoped to let the existing mill serve as "a rich backdrop to the theater of the dining room and kitchen." Spare alterations and a minimal palette complement the texture of brick and timber framing.

PHOTOGRAPHY BY ERIN LITTLE



above Presiding over the back bar is a huge iron-and-crystal chandelier sourced from Union Station alongside eight lights from the Waldorf Astoria. *top, right* Via Vecchia's elegant interior nods to 1920s European bistros. *right* Quartz Carrara-style countertop and contrasting textures add a glam note. *opposite, bottom* "In warmer months," says Brian, "the parallel runner allows occupants to sit in front of the open windows, right over the Royal River."



Pastoral Finesse

AUTUMN LANE ESTATE

Project Location: Sebago

Designer: Daniel Bowe and Harlow Home Design

Landscape: C.M. Nichols Landscape, York Earthworks, Off Road Construction, and Robin's Nest Natural Pools

Builders: McKenney & Sons and Rick Fritz Remodeling

Owner Daniel Bowe has a passion for lighting. Strategically placed LED strip tape under-lights the cedar barn prows to warm and dazzling effect at this lakeside venue. "We wanted something more modern and fresh than the typical converted horse barn," Daniel says. Clean finishes throughout the 20-acre estate add function and style to the bucolic environment. Polished concrete floors reflect chandelier light in the barn. White trim on the loft and entrance adds sophistication. And both the estate house and couple's cottage feature spa-quality bathing facilities. This is rustic in a very smart wrapper.

PHOTOGRAPHY BY SOPHIA VAN DYK



Sexy Seating

SUSIE SMITH COUGHLIN

Project Location: Portland

Designer: Susie Smith Coughlin

General Contractor: Shane Bradstreet

Magical is the word owners Ryan Houghton and Michael Cardente used when describing their vision of the Après tasting room in East Bayside to designer Susie Smith Coughlin. Objective met—and then some. "It really was a special project," says Susie, "in that they really let me go where I wanted to go." Case in point: When Susie fell in love with a mustard-yellow velvet sofa while working in Atlanta, Ryan and Michael trusted her to incorporate a version of it into four scooped-out "living room booths." The booths are unquestionably one of Après's most salient features. Meranti wood, oil-stained to a glistening finish, wraps behind the gorgeous sofas, echoing the Quonset hut's curved roofline and warming these intimate recesses. "It's very sexy seating," says Susie.

PHOTOGRAPHY BY SOPHIA VAN DYK

Meranti wood frames the chic nooks at Après, a haven for craft beverage and design enthusiasts. *opposite* The rustic property was designed for free-flowing events. It's hard for a barn-turned-venue to stand out in Maine. This one does.





MULTIUSE SPACE



Photo Loft

SAMANTHA S. PAPPAS DESIGN

Project Location: Falmouth
Interior Designer: Samantha Pappas
General Contractor: Mastercraft Carpentry

Mallika Malhotra needed a home studio with options. “She does photo shoots for female entrepreneurs and wanted an adaptable space,” says designer Samantha Pappas. “Everything in here is meant to be moved easily to allow for multiple configurations.” Samantha added brass wheels to Mallika’s desk and in lieu of a coffee table chose three white oak stools. Their shape and weight allows them to be clustered, parted, or removed entirely. Subtle blush tones provide an air of femininity, while two pieces by Cape Elizabeth artist Laurie Fisher keep the mood funky and unpredictable. We’re particular fans of the trimless doorways. “Clean drywall returns help maintain the simplistic feel we’re going for,” says Samantha.

PHOTOGRAPHY BY COURTNEY ELIZABETH

Bedrosians tile in the kitchenette. “There’s a lot of texture to the pink,” says Samantha. “It’s not a flat ceramic.”



*ARTFUL
LIVING*



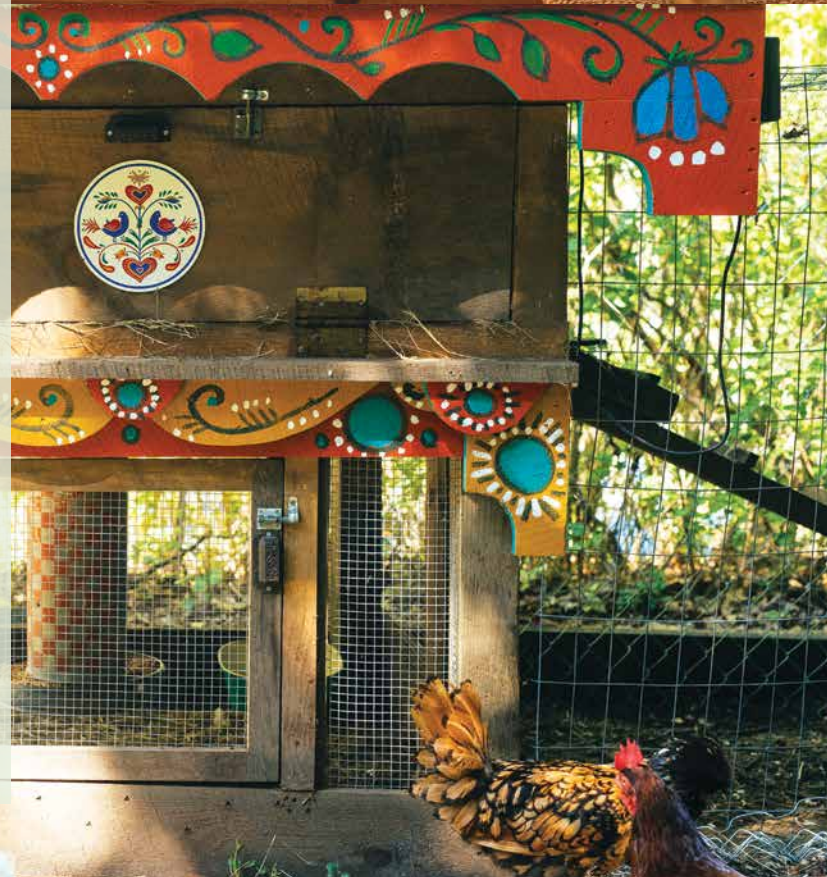
Reclaimed Wonders

MATT BARTER

Project Location: Brunswick

Perhaps you've seen Matt Barter's Art House from the roadside in Brunswick. The artist's distinctive salvage style has been refined over many years, starting in Oregon where he attended demolition auctions. Almost all Matt's work today uses reclaimed or recycled materials. Horsehair-plastered lath planks border the entrance to a built-in bed. "Those planks are one of my favorite resources," Matt says. Outside, a chicken coop designed in the style of a cuckoo clock was an anniversary present for Matt's wife, Rebekah. "She's my teammate on all these projects," he says, "and she loves Bavarian things, so it was fun to make this for her."

PHOTOGRAPHY BY LAURYN HOTTINGER



Risk Rewarded

DREW HODGES

Project Location: Portland

Inspired by the bold and unapologetic mix of texture and color of the Bloomsbury crew's Charleston House in England, graphic designer Drew Hodges and Peter Kukielski—in collaboration with Donna Parratt of Rockport and New York City—began work on this principal bedroom with a bright leaf wallpaper they discovered while thumbing through swatches in London's Liberty. "That pattern grew into the rest of the design," says Drew. "We decided to be exuberant and joyful and to take a bunch of risk." The risk paid off. The room projects a palpable delight and acts as an unexpected backdrop for artwork by, among others, Maine artists Alex Katz (over the bed) and Jody Payne (over the mantel).

PHOTOGRAPHY BY SOPHIA VAN DYK

Work from Maine artists (plus a David Hockney) is displayed throughout the primary bedroom, including art by Jody Payne and Alex Katz. Alex's painting *Dark Brook* is above the bed. *opposite, top* A statement bed. "Modifying things to be the way you want it to be is really important to us," Matt explains. *opposite, bottom* Growing up with an artist father helped inspire Matt's own journey toward unconventional creations.