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Making Waves:
Iceland Meets Maine
on a Portland Pier

A Modern Home
on Munjoy Hill
(Stargazing Spot
Included)

Camp, Upgraded,
on Round Pond

PLUS:
An Antiquing
Road Trip, Up and
Down the Coast



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It's smooth sailing for
**KNICKERBOCKER
GROUP'S COVE**

Newly launched brand catches wind
of today's client

The inviting outdoor kitchen wows visitors to Knickerbocker Group headquarters in Boothbay.





Twenty twenty might go down as the year when home became more important than ever. Our homes became our sanctuaries, our retreats from a relentless pandemic, the place we feel most safe and sheltered, cozy and comfortable.

But as time wore on, all that sheltering in place might have led us to look at our all-too-familiar digs somewhat critically. We may have scrutinized every square inch, pondering minor cosmetic changes or contemplating big ones: ripping out carpeting to install maple floors, remodeling kitchens and bathrooms, or even moving to another home that more closely fits our ideals.

Our makeover urges have kept some designers, builders, and architects rather busy of late. For Knickerbocker Group, which launched a new home and interior-design brand in 2019, the timing turned out to be rather fortuitous.

The 40-year-old architectural firm based on Maine's midcoast has a history of bringing dreams to reality with its personally designed, thoughtfully crafted, custom residential homes.

above, left Coastal colors and natural woods feature prominently at COVE. *above, right* Designers consider every detail of a client's home. *left* The showroom is the perfect spot to storyboard your home. All are welcome to visit by appointment only.

Touches of elegance, such as a silver tray and graceful chandelier, dazzle at the COVE showroom in midcoast Maine.



left COVE designers don't shy away from harmonizing bold colors and playful patterns. *above* Inspiration abounds at the COVE showroom. *below, left* Clients looking for a predesigned home with quicker turnaround and a lower price point than a custom home by Knickerbocker Group are choosing COVE.



But in recent years, the firm had received requests for structures that embody the same qualities of a traditional Knickerbocker design—the elegance, the simplicity, the connection to the outdoors—yet with a smaller footprint, lower price point, and quicker turnaround.

After many a brainstorming session, COVE by Knickerbocker Group was born. “Our timing is such that we are hitting the ground with COVE when there’s a need and a demand,” says Valery Tessier, lead architect for COVE. “We had long ago planned to launch these houses this summer, and we’ve had a great response. We are seeing a huge draw to Maine—its slower pace and simpler quality of life—and we can only imagine COVID has something to do with that.”

COVE by Knickerbocker Group not only encompasses a collection of predesigned homes—cottages, carriage houses, and more, which might vary depending on their setting (city, coast, mountains, or lakes region)—but it also includes a collaborative design studio and a home-decor showroom, all reflecting the company’s values of fine craftsmanship, locally sourced materials and makers, and its classic, contemporary farmhouse style deeply rooted in historical New England.

The aim is to offer a sort of one-stop-shopping experience for the whole package, which is especially convenient for clients who live out of state or those who

aren’t inclined to embark on a treasure hunt to piece together decorative items and furniture on their own.

Although COVE homes are mostly preconceived, their designs are still dynamic. “COVID has given us a lot of material for reflection,” says Valery. “We are not done considering potential life changes that could affect living spaces.” Recent times, she explains, might prompt interest in a screened porch, home office, playroom for kids, or perhaps an entirely separate dwelling for guests or in-laws.

Also, for the growing number of clients who desire ecologically friendly homes, she says, COVE by Knickerbocker Group will include a “green option” that takes sustainability beyond the standard COVE homes, which are all energy efficient and sourced as much as possible from sustainable materials such as wood from Maine’s forests.

Staying local is also a priority when sourcing furnishings, says Angie Ballard, senior interior designer for COVE. This is partly by default due to tricky logistics during the pandemic, but mostly it’s intentional, as the COVE team values and strives to support the state’s huge pool of talented

above Windows that invite in natural light and maximize views are KG trademarks. *opposite, bottom right* Spaces are staged so that showroom visitors can easily picture themselves there.



artists and craftspeople—and the more off the beaten track the better.

“We’re constantly looking for vendors and makers close to us—and they’re not always at the antique fairs,” says Angie. “We especially like to discover hidden talent, designers that want to collaborate with us to create pieces that reflect our local roots but are tailored for modern-day living.”

After an item attracts Angie’s eye, it might land in the COVE by Knickerbocker Group studio, where it could be seen by and sold to walk-in visitors, existing clients, or design professionals. She considers the COVE studio a collaborative workspace, where, preferably by appointment, people could not only purchase a custom dining table or unique glazed serving tray but also feel fabric samples, peruse books, or consult with a designer.

The collaborative-studio concept is an expression of the more accessible COVE brand, hatched in response to client request and also from the Knickerbocker Group’s own finely tuned intuition about what’s most in keeping with changing tastes and trends.

In short, says Valery: “COVE is exactly what we think should be part of a home now.” ■

above, left Cocktail hour! A simply crafted rolling bar cart whets one’s appetite at the COVE showroom. *above, right* Have a seat: Visitors to the showroom are free to linger. *left* Sustainable materials sourced from Maine are the first choice at COVE.