

2020 Maine Homes Design Awards



Judges

Susan and Eliza Crater
President and creative director, Sister Parish



Jared Kuzia
Architectural and commercial photographer



Thos. Moser
Founder, Thos. Moser



Annabelle Selldorf, FAIA
Founder and principal, Selldorf Architects



Loi Thai
Interior and garden designer, Tone on Tone



When we began planning our third annual *Maine Homes* Design Awards contest in April, COVID-19 was cresting on the East Coast. With seemingly every public event canceled, we considered following suit. But we decided that our community could use a celebration of local beauty and creativity now, maybe more than ever, and we could use the contest to do some good. To that end, we're donating all submission fees from this year's contest to a nonprofit at the forefront of our pandemic response, the Good Shepherd Food Bank of Maine.

Once again, we tapped our cast of heavy-hitter judges with deep connections to the state: Susan and Eliza Crater, of iconic fabric and wallcovering company Sister Parish, renowned architect Annabelle Selldorf, and interior/garden designer extraordinaire Loi Thai all have homes here; architectural photographer Jared Kuzia has shot many houses for *Down East* and *Maine Homes*; and Thos. Moser, founder of the eponymous Auburn-based furniture brand, is, to many, a household name.

Next, industry pros and readers laid to rest the question of whether anyone would enter a design contest in the midst of a pandemic: Dozens of talented folks submitted more than 100 entries across five professional and three reader categories. Thousands of visitors also viewed our online gallery, casting votes to pick a Readers' Choice winner in each category — be sure to check those out on mainehomes.com this month.

Thanks to everyone who submitted and congratulations to the winners — including our first triple winner and the first winner whose project previously appeared on a *Maine Homes* cover — who entered the eight stunning projects blindly chosen by our judges, shown here. And special thanks to Knickerbocker Group and Maine Sun Solutions for sponsoring this year's competition. We can't wait to see what you all do next year.

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PROFESSIONAL LIVING AND/OR DINING ROOM

Damariscotta River View Cottage, Boothbay

WHITTEN ARCHITECTS

JESSIE CARROLL SAYS: Our New York-based clients sought this incredible property, situated high above the Damariscotta River, to be near dear friends. The existing home required substantial renovations to meet the needs of its new owners. It presented itself to the roadside with three large garage bays surrounded by lawn. The primary spaces had limited southern exposure due to a split-level bedroom addition. Small windows belied the water views. Our site-specific design included demolition of the bedroom wing to bring in more sunlight. The main living space was rebuilt to accommodate taller wall heights and larger windows. Minimal interior detailing and a neutral palette in the new kitchen/living/dining space focuses the view outward to the re-naturalized landscape and river beyond. The dining table and chairs play off the wood and metal elements and the double-sided fireplace, with a visually minimal

stucco finish, creates a sense of two intimate spaces. Cleanly executed details and the lush landscape design honor the architecture and interiors.

LOI THAI SAYS: Bring the outside in! The rooms' striking windows and doors beautifully frame the outdoors, allowing for expansive views of the Maine landscape. The spaces are lofty and somewhat minimal, but still inviting with comfy seating, cozy rugs, and a warm driftwood palette.

PROJECT ARCHITECT:
Jessie Carroll
PRINCIPAL ARCHITECT:
Rob Whitten
GENERAL CONTRACTOR:
Marden Builders
INTERIORS CONSULTANT:
Krista Stokes
LANDSCAPE ARCHITECT:
Richardson & Associates
LANDSCAPING CONTRACTOR:
Sunset Knoll Landscaping
STRUCTURAL ENGINEER:
Albert Putnam Associates



PROFESSIONAL KITCHEN

Pleasant Lake Camp, Western Maine

WHITTEN ARCHITECTS

DREW BORTLES SAYS: Tucked away in the mountains of western Maine, this camp was designed with a vibrant, young family in mind. The stunning landscape offered the family a woodsy retreat that flirts with simplicity. Our team reminisced about fond memories of summer camp as we worked closely with the clients to create a palette that welcomes warmth and evokes an emotional response, using natural light and mindfully sourced materials. Embraced by spectacular views of the lake, the kitchen lies at the heart of the home and offers a strong sense of belonging and purpose. Situated adjacent to the pantry, dining, and living spaces, this modern yet classic camp kitchen combines function and organization that's suited to an active lifestyle.

JARED KUZIA SAYS: What initially drew me to this kitchen was the fantastic palette, encompassing woodwork, and clean geometry. But the more I looked, the more I liked. The architects very successfully created a modern-feeling kitchen that interfuses with its natural surroundings while still maintaining historical integrity.

PROJECT ARCHITECTS:
James Beasley, Drew Bortles

PRINCIPAL ARCHITECT:
Rob Whitten

GENERAL CONTRACTOR:
R.P. Morrison Builders

INTERIOR CONSULTANT:
Krista Stokes

LANDSCAPE ARCHITECT:
Emma Kelly Landscape

STRUCTURAL ENGINEER:
Albert Putnam Associates

PROFESSIONAL LANDSCAPING

Coastal Village Residence, Greater Portland

WHITTEN ARCHITECTS

SOREN DENIORD SAYS: This home's composition of forms, scribed to ledge, provides an armature for a series of gardens and terraces designed to accentuate the coastal woodland setting. The plant palette ranges from flowering perennials and pollinator gardens to broad-stroke masses of native species, such as ostrich ferns, low-bush blueberries, and blue flag irises. The use of traditional hardscape materials in a contemporary way — wide-cut stone walkways, a low concrete seat wall, a clean-lined cedar arbor — complement the house's aesthetic, extending the architectural intentions into the landscape.

SUSAN AND ELIZA CRATER SAY: The juxtaposition of hard geometric forms with the soft nature that surrounds the home drew us in right away. The addition of the arbor, which connects the two buildings seamlessly, reminds us of summer days and we can't wait to see what grows there. Especially captivating is the harmony of colors. By using native plants, the landscaping fits in perfectly, adding to the already incredible beauty of Maine.



PROJECT ARCHITECT:
Jessie Carroll

GENERAL
CONTRACTOR:
Bowley Builders

LANDSCAPE
ARCHITECT:
Soren Deniord Design
Studio

LANDSCAPING
CONTRACTOR:
Pinnacle Landscape &
Design

STRUCTURAL
ENGINEER:
Albert Putnam Associates