



Maine Home

+ DESIGN

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AIA MAINE
DESIGN AWARDS

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Building for Change

The winners of the 2020 AIA Maine Design Awards

BY DANIELLE DEVINE
IN COLLABORATION WITH AIA MAINE

Every year, the Maine Chapter of the American Institute of Architects (AIA Maine) honors extraordinary work by Maine-based architectural firms. The projects chosen for AIA Maine's annual Design Awards are a mix of commercial, single-family residential, renovations and adaptive reuse, and small projects (with budgets under \$250,000). The sole judging criterion is design excellence. The work can be located anywhere in the world but must be designed after 2013 by a registered AIA Maine architect or a current Maine architecture student and cannot have been honored in years past. For the first time, this year AIA Maine asked that all submitters reveal how their project incorporates three out of ten measures based on the ethos of the Framework for Design Excellence, a tool developed by the AIA National to help transform the day-to-day practice of architects to achieve a zero-carbon, equitable, resilient, and healthy built environment. The ten measures include design for integration, for equitable communities, for ecology, for water, for economy, for energy, for wellness, for resources, for change, and for discovery. "It is important that AIA Maine helps make sure architecture evolves and meets the climate crisis," says executive director Jeannette Schram.

The Design Awards program commences with the committee's search for a jury of out-of-state peers suited to judge designs in light of Maine's unique geography and history. This year the Wisconsin-based jury—led by Allen Washatko, a principal at the Kubala Washatko Architects (TKWA); David Black, principal at Flad Architects; Jim Shields, principal at HGA; John Vetter, principal at Vetter Architects; Nick Carnahan, principal at Galbraith Carnahan Architects (GCA); and Ursula Twombly, formerly a principal at Continuum Architects and Planners—deliberated over a total of 63 submissions before awarding 14 Maine architecture firms. "We received a lot of great feedback from the jury this year, and they were impressed by the strength of the projects coming out of our state," reveals Schram.

Beyond just celebrating beautiful forms, these awards recognize designs that positively impact the environment, society as a whole, and the economy. *Maine Home+Design* is honored to present the winners of the 2020 AIA Maine Design Awards.



Winners at a Glance

Honor Awards

Parris Terraces

by Kaplan Thompson Architects

80 Exchange

by Briburn

In the Dunes

by Caleb Johnson Studio

The Far Cabin

by Winkelman Architecture

House on the Thorofare

by Elliott + Elliott Architecture

Retreat on a Pond's Edge

by Elliott + Elliott Architecture

Merit Awards

Wescustogo Hall & North

Yarmouth Community Center

by Barrett Made

Sortwell Chandlery

by Whitten Architects

Blackwood House

by Kaplan Thompson Architects

Distribution

by Nicole Cyr, UMA student

Flyleaf

by SMRT Architects & Engineers

Citations

Lumber Products Office Building

by Scott Simons Architects

The Aviary—Staff Housing for

the Wavus Camp for Girls

by 44° North Architects

Maine Plastic Surgery

by CHA Architects

K Camp

by WMH Architects



Sortwell Chandlery, Sheepscot River

Whitten Architects

Merit Award

Project Architect: Will Fellis, Whitten Architects

Project Team: Will Fellis, Rob Whitten

General Contractor: Pearson Construction

Engineers: Albert Putnam Associates (structural), Walsh Engineering Associates (site & civil)

Landscape Designer: Soren deNiord Design Studio

Photographer: Trent Bell

From the Jury: The Sortwell Chandlery is a truly admirable effort to save an endangered structure. We commend the architect on the heroic measures taken to save the building, with the subtle and surgical ways that it was altered to serve the family for the next 200 years.

The historic Sortwell Chandlery has been a family retreat since the early 1900s, used as an open-plan, informal coastal cottage. Rising sea levels triggered a full-scale relocation, renovation, and addition, which was mindfully developed to retain the existing character and materials of the waterside structure while meeting the ongoing needs for the family for the next century and beyond.

Whitten Architects was hired by the owners with a design goal of maintaining the character of the original chandlery while rebuilding the structure to meet the new flood plain requirements. They also requested a new kitchen and bathrooms, heating, insulation, new stairs, a screened porch, an upgraded electrical system, and the ability to extend the residents' season from early spring into late fall.

It was historically important to keep the structure near the water, so the design team worked closely with the local historical society, planning board, and the Department of Environmental Protection to lift, reposition, and design a compatible addition to the chandlery. The structure was raised three feet and moved back from the river's edge to mitigate moisture issues that were previously present. The shed roof-style addition springs from the eaves of the old structure, adding an entry porch, small mudroom, new stairs, full bath, laundry, and mechanical space. A screened porch was carved from the interior's southeast corner to let in sunlight and to access downriver views. New windows and French doors open to the river, and a new light well brightens the living, dining, and kitchen space. The owners' suite, study, and private entry look upriver, proximate to the existing dock and pier.

Original structural timbers were retained and supplemented with a new structural grid of rough-sawn posts and beams, creating a dialogue between old and new. New concrete footings were designed to accommodate coastal flooding and resist uplift. The original floors were reinstalled and insulated, and nineteenth-century boards were resourced for stairs and interior trim. Old trade counters, bases, and cash till of the chandlery have been incorporated into the new kitchen.

The team strove to reuse as many original materials as possible. This included bracing the existing exterior shell framing from the interior to keep the profile and shape intact. Existing cabinetry and countertops were reused. Care was taken to remove the existing flooring and clean, gently sand, and refinish it before putting it back. There was an effort by all to select materials that would have been available to the original builders of the chandlery.

