

# Maine Home

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## + DESIGN



THE ARCHITECTURE ISSUE

# S E N I O R C H I N E M A C H I N E

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22

PROJECTS ACROSS THE STATE THAT  
AIM TO STAND THE TEST OF TIME

# Maine Home +DESIGN

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## TIDEWATCH

The town of Harpswell boasts 216 miles of coastline, three major islands connected by bridges, and more than 200 smaller islands. One of the larger islands, Bailey Island, is where the clients would come year after year from New Jersey to visit their seasonal family cottage. With many fond memories of summers spent in Maine, they decided to purchase a home in Harpswell close to their family cottage to make their full-time residence.

The home is in a neighborhood that provides shared boat access and cove views. The classic four-square contemporary split-level featured an octagonal center skylight with sweeping tidal views. Though the architects were compelled by the uniqueness of the home's character, its roof structure had failed. Whitten Architects explored saving the home, but with the clients' lifestyle requirements and a need for anticipating costs with limited variables, they decided to take advantage of the opportunities new construction presented.

The architects worked within a limited buildable area due to increased setbacks required by the neighborhood covenants and a bluff condition at the water's edge. The angles of the structures are representative of the property restrictions.

Taking a cue from the prior home's site response, one enters at midlevel so that the main level, with its spectacular views, is only half a flight of stairs away from the garage and formal entry. The primary living area at level two makes use of the mono-slope roof system with high-volume space. Making the most of a restricted property to meet the lifestyle needs of clients is a common challenge, one exemplified by this project.



**Architect:** Whitten Architects

**General Contractor:** Thorner Building Corp.

**Millwork:** Seth Helie Designs

**Structural Engineer:** Albert Putnam Associates

**Window Coverings:** Jan Robinson Interiors

**Photography:** Jeff Roberts

**Location:** Harpswell

**Completed:** 2017