

CREATIVE GENIUS

**TWENTY IMAGINATIVE ARCHITECTURE PROJECTS
MAKING INDELIBLE MARKS ON THE STATE**

Maine architecture has a storied past. In Portland alone, buildings range from the Colonial Tate House (1750–1820) to the Renaissance Revival United States Custom House (1868–72) to the postmodern Portland Museum of Art addition by Henry Nichols Cobb of Pei Cobb Freed and Partners (1983). For a variety of reasons, design evolution often means buildings that were once “in style” aren’t anymore. And whether or not you deem a particular building beautiful, what there’s certainly no arguing about is that Maine architecture continues to evolve at a rapid pace.

Need proof? You’re holding it in your hands. In this, our annual Architecture Issue, we’ve rounded up 20 recent residences and commercial buildings that speak to the caliber of design happening around the state. Many have a quiet beauty, an inherent simplicity that echoes the qualities that help define Maine in both its landscape and culture. Some projects are designed to be a seamless transition from sea to land to structure, while others have an eco bent along with a bit of unflagging grit. (A home designed by GO Logic and built far beyond the last power pole in Palermo comes to mind.)

The projects range in scope—from a contemporary residence with a planted flat roof to a three-story urban penthouse to a 19,000-square-foot office building for an insurance company—but what is notable about many of them, as architect Scott Blanchard of Eric A. Chase Architecture puts it, “is what you don’t see.” The firm updated a turn-of-the-century farmhouse with solar panels that store summer’s excess energy to be used during winter’s sun-shy months. Indeed, sustainable design strategies are used in abundance: Fiorentino Group Architects planted a fine fescue lawn that requires less water, and BrightBuilt Home constructed an entire house off-site—both saving on the cost of construction and saving the home from the elements while it was built. These projects speak to a level of sustainability that simply wasn’t possible just years ago.

What will Maine architecture bring in the coming years? If the following pages offer a glimpse of where it’s going, if they serve as a roadmap to the future being built around us, then we’re on the right path. In color, form, line, shape, space, texture, value, and scale, these projects are making their artistic, imaginative, optimistic, and indelible marks on the state. Here’s to making beautiful history.



AN UPDATED TURN-OF-THE-CENTURY FARMHOUSE

At first glance, the renovation of this Deer Isle home might seem skin deep, but “it’s what you don’t see that sets this 100-year-old farmhouse apart,” says architect Scott Blanchard of Eric A. Chase Architecture, who designed updates that harmonize with the simple vernacular style prevalent throughout Maine. The redesign opened up the first floor and included a new connector to the barn from the ell and a new 14-foot bay window to enlarge the living room and enhance its ocean view. Outside, Chase designed an octagonal screened porch with a second-floor deck that wraps around the home’s northwest corner. “Each new element flows from the existing design and honors the original architecture,” says Chase.

Blanchard, working with the client, who is a committed environmentalist, developed a design to retrofit the farmhouse with new energy-saving technologies. After furring out the walls, the walls and roof were insulated with 5 inches of Corbond spray foam. A Daikin Altherma air-to-water heat pump system supplies low-temperature radiant hot water and heating throughout the house.

In the barn, nail-base panels insulate the exterior walls and roof, and two Fujitsu mini-split air-to-air heat pumps stabilize the temperature. An energy-recovery ventilator circulates air within both the house and the barn. On the roof, a 7-kilowatt grid-tied solar electric array supplies electricity to run the heat pumps and ventilation as well as for other electrical needs, and the grid stores summer’s excess electricity for winter’s sun-shy months.

Visitors to the site don’t see any of the energy system equipment, but the client quietly knows of her contribution to the environment.

Architect: Eric A. Chase Architecture

Builder: Stewart Construction

Electrical: Chris Joyce Electrical Contracting

Plumbing & Heating: Percy L. Brown & Son

Masonry: Dennis J. King Masonry

Solar: Sundog Solar

Photographer: Brian Vanden Brink

