

DECOR MAINe

| ARCHITECTURE ART DESIGN EXPERIENCE FOOD SUSTAINABILITY |

MAY 2021

HIGH-STYLE Getaways

**TRENDY, RUSTIC, LUXE,
OR LAID-BACK:**

STAYCATION SPOTS FOR
EVERY PERSONALITY

**TINY FOOTPRINTS,
BIG IMPACT:**

STANDOUT SMALL SPACES
IN PORTLAND, BRUNSWICK,
AND CAPE PORPOISE

Campy Vibes:
SUMMER SPIRIT(S) AT
BATSON RIVER BREWING

&

**A BUDDING
INDUSTRY:**

INSIDE A DESIGN-WORTHY
CANNABIS SHOP IN
SOUTH PORTLAND



written by Heather Chapman photography by Maura McEvoy

GHOSTS OF MAINE

FOR THOSE SEEKING A PEEK AT MAINE'S SPELLBINDING SOUL, LOOK NO FURTHER THAN **THE MAINE HOUSE**, EQUAL PARTS BOOK, ANTHOLOGY, AND URGENT CALL TO ACTION

"To me, the Big House has always been the crucible of my father's dreams. But my mother's valor and strength—over years of renovation and renewal—made this dream truly habitable for the rest of us," explains the steward of a home brimming with memories. *opposite* "The feeling is inexplicable. It is as if there is some kind of magnetic force here that proffers happiness and safety," says the owner of this antique cape picturesquely situated in Southern Maine.





In this reimagined mid-coast farmhouse, the many expressions of the color blue echo throughout—in throw rugs, wall coverings, textiles, and more.



Disappearing Maine

Maura McEvoy, Basha Burwell, and Kathleen Hackett highlight endangered heritage homes in their new book, debuting in June.

THE VISION OF MAINE THAT PHOTOGRAPHER Maura McEvoy, art director Basha Burwell, and writer Kathleen Hackett have captured in their anthology, *The Maine House* (to be published by Vendome Press in June), is one that, as Kathleen writes, “plays out in a city dweller’s fantasy, a child’s dream, an artist’s imagination, a sailor’s aspirations, and a nature lover’s reverie.” Here, the well-worn homes are fixed with unfitted kitchens bearing heirloom workbenches for islands and repurposed basins for sinks ready to prepare fresh-caught and foraged meals. Endearingly aged fireplaces cling to board-and-batten walls and are stoked with wood fetched by hand. Found things—loved things—like seashells and family candid photos claim prime real estate along faintly cracked walls and scuffed bookshelves. All this texture didn’t come from an artist’s or designer’s sketchbook, though it’s precisely the detailed, comfortably sumptuous aesthetic designers and artists alike strive to replicate. In *this* Maine, it comes naturally.

Even in capturing this enchanted vision of the Pine Tree State, Maura, Basha, and Kathleen have documented its vulnerability: Like the old sepia tones on their walls, these homes are turning into curios, relics—ghosts—as they’re torn down one by one for new construction. Coastal cottages, carriage houses, and service buildings are being erased rather than gently revived and repurposed. On restoring a particularly well-loved cottage named Back of the Moon, Maura describes the rehabilitation as akin to rescuing an endangered species.

Through five detailed sections (“Time and Tides,” “Reverence and Restraint,” “Wit and Wisdom,” “Weathered and Free,” and “Adaptation and Ingenuity”), *The Maine House* crafts a plea to preserve a living history belonging to individual, family, and state; a visual call to recognize these homey structures and others like them as “extraordinary gifts.” In her foreword, Kathleen writes, “Here is a kind of visual wealth that money just can’t buy.” Maura, Basha, and Kathleen have gone into these old homes and salvaged something we’d do well to hold on to: the understanding that when the last cottage is crumbled and family farmhouse is flattened, so goes the unrenewable character and charm that is uniquely Maine. Upon flipping the last page, readers become acutely aware of a simple truth: Once it’s gone, it’s gone. ■



top Textural details—a vintage print, shiplap wall covering, and a herringbone door—add to the feeling the owner's family calls "going back in time." *above* In the home of a photographer and literary editor and ceramicist, nooks are filled creatively—oftentimes with handmade items.



An updated farmhouse kitchen recalls French design in the playful pairing of blues with blacks and raw furnishings. *opposite, bottom right* In a no-frills coastal property, a love story budded and grew as bountiful as the harvest pictured here.



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above This interior is alive with the owner-artists’ work, accentuated by colorful bed- and window coverings. *right* A whimsical set of drawers within a seaside dwelling dubbed High Head alludes to the high-achieving owner’s playful side.

