

DECOR MAINE

2020

DESIGN
VISIONARY

Maine Passive
House

ABODES

DECOR MAINE

ARCHITECTURE ART DESIGN EXPERIENCE FOOD SUSTAINABILITY

DECEMBER 2020

DESIGN

The most innovative & spirited projects of the year

VISIONARIES

**A SLEEK
PASSIVE HOUSE
IN NORWAY**

**A 1906-MEETS-
NOW COTTAGE IN
BOOTHBAY**

**A SOARING
BARN ON MOUNT
DESERT ISLAND**

**A KITCHEN FOR
BAKING IN
CAPE ELIZABETH**

**A FLOATING
POOL RETREAT IN
KENNEBUNKPORT**

AND MORE



Situated on a sloped lot with few trees, this Kevin Browne designed home maximizes its 180-degree view of unspoiled marshland.



photo: Jeff Roberts

The Now:
Designs of
Distinction
2020

Over the summer, we put out a call for the best of the best. We wanted to see fresh, innovative design work from across the state, work from every arena—commercial, residential, professional, amateur, interior, exterior, furniture, single rooms, even individual design details. If you had the coolest drawer pull in York, we wanted to see it!

We debated what to call the selected projects. Winners? Finalists? Honorees? With so many incredible submissions, and with so much stellar work left on the editorial room floor for no reason beyond page count, we decided to forgo official labels. Rather, we've included here an eclectic mix of projects, all of which meet—in one way or another—the übercriteria we use every day: They are all designed with distinction.

words by **BRIAN SHUFF**

The background is a complex, repeating floral pattern. It features a variety of flower types, including large sunflowers, smaller bell-shaped flowers, and multi-petaled blossoms. The color palette is rich, with deep forest greens, vibrant oranges, bright reds, and cool blues. The pattern is dense and covers the entire frame, creating a textured, wallpaper-like effect.

abodes

Sustainable Goals

Maine Passive House, Bethel

photographer IRVIN SERRANO

architect KAPLAN THOMPSON ARCHITECTS

interior designer SPRUCE COLOR & DESIGN

“IT’S AMAZING HOW MANY BUILDERS OUT THERE still build like we did 40 years ago,” says Jesper Kruse. “If we do new construction, it doesn’t have to be an official, accredited passive house, but we always work towards those principles. I can’t justify any other way of building in this day and age.”

At this Norway residence, that meant bolstering efficiency by constructing an extremely well-sealed home—triple-pane windows and a 12-inch-deep wall scheme insulated with cellulose, a substance made from recycled newspaper. The ventilation system also includes heat recovery. “The warm air leaving the house and the cool air being pulled in both pass through a magic box,” Jesper says. “Inside the box, the two airstreams run against each other for heat transfer. It’s almost an 85 percent efficiency. Meaning: If the air leaving the home is 70 degrees and the air coming in from outside is zero degrees, then the contact they have inside the box raises the incoming air temperature to around 60. Then you’re only using electricity to raise its temperature 10 degrees instead of the full 70.”

The cedar on this Norway home was milled in Mercer, about two hours from where it was installed. Structural engineering by Casco Bay Engineering.