

FREE • Issue 27 June / July 2018

# Bethel LIVING

**PLUS a Listing  
of Local Events!**

**Maine Passive House**  
with Jesper Kruse

**Camping in Western Maine**  
with Scott Bahr

**Bethel Beverage Company**  
with Jessica Badone

**SP & Airglow Films**  
with Nora McCormack

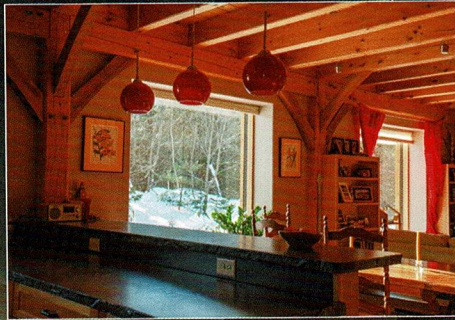
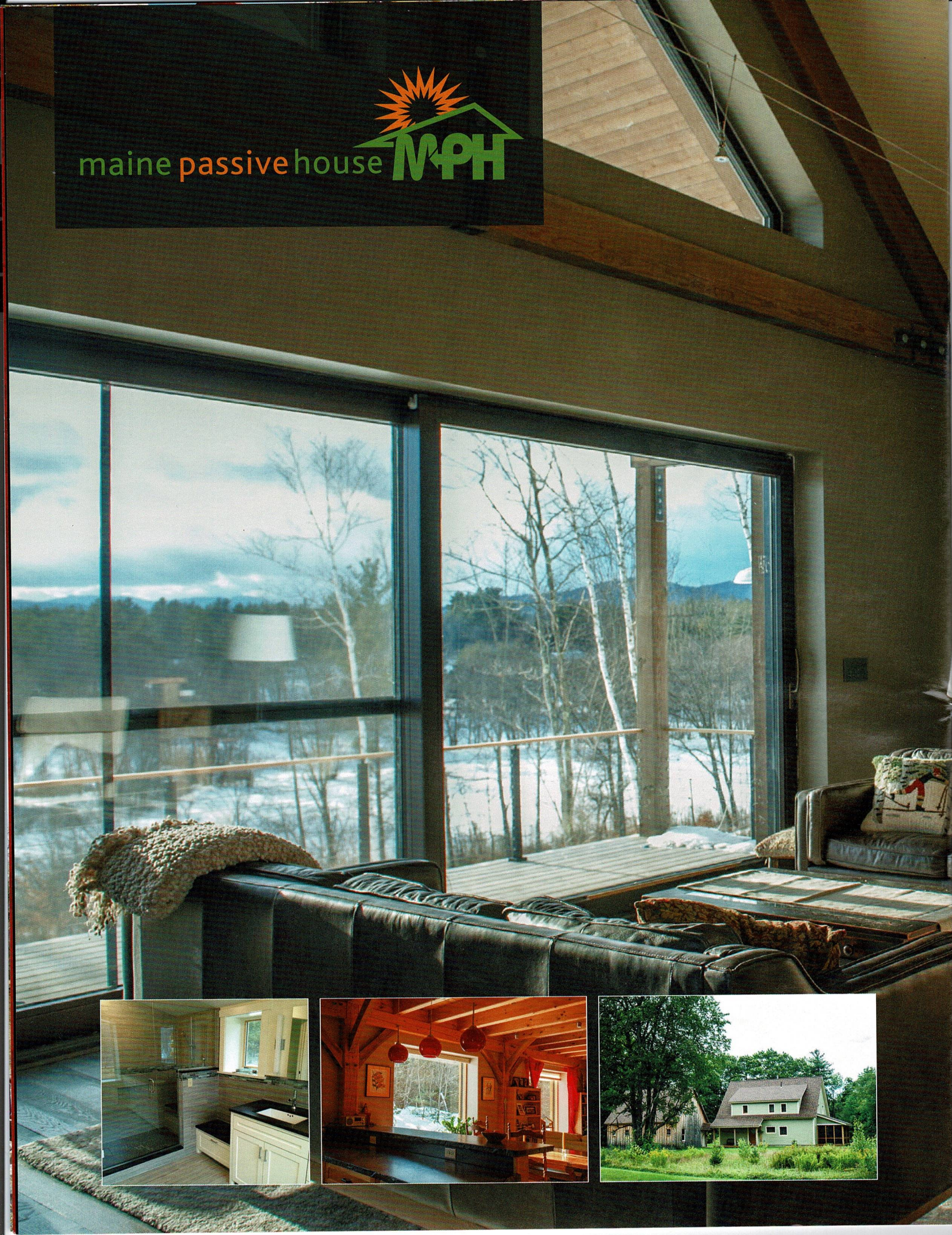
**Summer Recipes  
with Bill Slattery**  
Tuscan Shrimp with Parmesan  
Orange Fennel Salad

**Super Summer Wines**  
with Dave Nivus

**Maine CoLab**  
A Unique Conglomerate

**Digging Deeper**  
with Maine Mineral  
& Gem Museum

maine passive house  MPH



A bachelor party in Denmark may seem like an unlikely venue to spark a cutting edge home design and construction business based in Western Maine — but people with big ideas and the vision to move them forward seem to be drawn to the beauty of our area. The odyssey of builder Jesper Kruse began in Denmark — the flat windy one far to the east, not the rugged windy one to our immediate south — passed through Alaska and on to the Outward Bound mountain base in Newry, then closed the loop in Denmark

to complete a college degree. A return to Maine was followed by a quick volley back to Denmark (with wife Martha and two young kids in tow) — the bachelor party — then a final swing back to Maine by way of Chicago, Illinois. The connection across these peregrinations has been a dedicated search for the most proficient and exacting approach to a very basic human concern: shelter. Jesper's answer: create a business called Maine Passive House to provide Green Building services for homeowners who want a truly exceptional dwelling.

*(continues on page 28)*



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Also known as Green Construction or Sustainable Building, the term Green Building refers to both a given structure and also the new environmentally responsible and resource-efficient processes applied throughout that building's life-cycle, from planning and design to demolition. Air-tight construction, passive solar energy strategies and triple-paned windows with super-insulation became Jesper's motivation and expertise as he absorbed any and all information about his passion. Energy efficiency, comfort, high quality construction and design equals clean living; removing stale air, conserving heat through by-pass technologies and introducing a constant flow of fresh air makes a living space more livable. Being green is "where the rubber hits the road" for Jesper.

He attended the Passive House Institute in Illinois — an independent research council that has played a crucial role in the development

of the Passive House concept — to hone his craft amid the stewards of this new construction paradigm.

Since 2003 Jesper has built something like 20 homes, mostly in the Western Maine towns of Bethel, Norway, Lovell, Oxford, Woodstock, Andover and Newry. His original two person crew has grown by leaps and bounds — to 4 then 8 — as Maine Passive House has expanded into the secondary home market. Referrals come in regularly from architects as high-end homebuilding turns toward craftsmen who can deliver the best new construction practices.

Future MPH projects include Jesper's first commercial undertaking. A Maine Brewery has purchased an old farm in Oxford to establish a new brewery and restaurant. Jesper will showcase his talents as they lift the old barn, add a foundation and create a restaurant, brewery and pub using best design practices throughout. Now that's something we can ALL lift a glass to! 🍷

