

Maine Home

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+ DESIGN



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This four-season beach house is a daylight- and view-driven design with a crisp cottage vernacular totaling 1,980 square feet. The clients, longtime residents of Higgins Beach, sought a quieter location within the community and found a site on Harmon's Island that offers a setting with spectacular, sweeping southerly views of the tidal marsh across to Higgins Beach and beyond.

A pair of flanking second-story gables frames a transparent connecting form that bridges the two sides of the house. This bridge organizes a stairwell that ascends within a two-story space, with clerestory windows that introduce daylight deep into the heart of the house. Two second-floor decks cut into the roof, one on the front and one on the back.

The first floor is organized in a linear fashion with public spaces spread out along the view to catch

the daylight. The cottage has a traditional porch shed roof on the water side that acts as an extension of the living room/dining room/kitchen, and a sweeping window wall addresses the view.

The exterior finishes were selected to fit into the traditional cottage community while also providing a low-maintenance package. The envelope is well insulated and tight, resulting in a high-performance building. The interior finishes reflect a clean and contemporary palette. The floors are engineered white oak over radiant-heated floors, and the stair and rails are of oak as well. The stainless-steel cable railing from the exterior roof decks flows inside, becoming the railing system for the inner stair as well, strengthening the tie from interior to exterior.



ARCHITECT: Winkelman Architecture
BUILDER: Trademark
STRUCTURAL ENGINEER: Albert Putnam Associates
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LIGHT-FLOODED ROOMS WITH COUNTLESS VIEWS

