

MHD

MAINE HOME + DESIGN

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THE ARCHITECTURE ISSUE



DRINK+SKETCH

MAINE ARCHITECTS AND DESIGNERS GOT A NAPKIN,
A PEN, A DRINK, AND 30 MINUTES TO CREATE



Sebasco Cottage

On this secluded and serene coastal site, long ocean views toward Casco Bay are filtered by those of nearby islands, and tides keep the scenery changing throughout the day. Like much of the rest of the Maine coast, rocks and hardscrabble ledge dominate the landscape—hardy and beautiful features worth embracing rather than removing. The owners—two couples who are old friends—wanted to create a simple and relaxed cottage for their families that captures the dynamic views and spectacular daylight of this spot while maintaining a strong connection to the ledge it was built upon. Equally important was to make it an efficient, high-performance structure that would require little maintenance and last for generations.

The living and dining areas of the single-level cottage open to the water and are built on a concrete slab, allowing the house to be held as low and close to the ground as possible. Large, triple-pane windows bring the views inside, and an enormous sliding door creates an almost seamless connection to the outdoors. A south-facing clerestory window pulls daylight into the kitchen, keeping it bright all day long. To the rear of the house, two bedrooms and a bunk room accommodate both families comfortably, and here the floor transitions to a wood frame as the ledge slopes down and away from the house. This allows for a small storage and mechanical crawlspace, where a ground-source heat pump provides an efficient source of heat and hot water, eliminating the need for fossil fuels on-site. The double-stud walls are 12 inches thick, and the well-insulated flat roof will be layered with soil and planted in the near future, further blurring the distinction between the home and its surroundings.

Architect: Winkelman Architecture

Builder: R.W. Stevens, Inc.

Structural Engineer: Albert Putnam Associates

Photographer: Jeff Roberts

Location: Phippsburg

Completed: 2021