

Maine Home

+ DESIGN

MAY 2016

THE
KENNEBUNKS ISSUE

**SHINGLE-STYLE
SPECTACULAR**
Gracious homes
for entertaining



May \$5.95



+ Behind the scenes at the
Kennebunkport Festival

Maine Home +DESIGN

75 Market Street

Suite 203

207-772-3373

www.mainehomedesign.com

If whole or part of this article is reproduced online, we ask that
a link back to MaineHOME+DESIGN be placed. Thank you.

Remaking History

ON THE SITE OF THE FORMER EAGLE ROCK HOTEL,
A HOUSE DESIGNED WITH THE PAST IN MIND



In Judy and Bill Turner's Kennebunk house, local architect Brian Beaudette designed a living room that flows into the kitchen and dining area. "With the open plan and so many windows and doors, we had to get color in there," says Kennebunk interior designer Louise Hurlbutt, who chose a custom hand-hooked cotton rug from an 1800 pattern, made by the New England Collection. A comfortable cream slipcovered sectional with bright pillows faces the gas fireplace, which features stone work by Raymond Dussault in Biddeford and a mantel found at the Old House Parts Company in Kennebunk.







The shingle-style house (above) is perched on a hill on the site of the former Eagle Rock Hotel, which was built in 1886. By installing a maple colonnade along Sea Road, landscape designer Ted Carter of Buxton created the illusion that the house sits farther back from the road. His strategic placement of plantings gives depth to the landscape.

Solid wood pocket doors from the original hotel (opposite) were incorporated into a storage space to the left of the front porch. Dick Alden's marble sculpture *Reflections* accents Carter's land- and hardscaping. Old World shingle-style homes typically featured "sparse landscaping that required minimal maintenance," says Carter, who installed mature plantings in groves and clusters to keep the palette simple. The lichen-covered retaining boulders harken to days gone by when the use of excavation rubble was common.

IN 1886, the Eagle Rock Hotel was built on a hill near Kennebunk Beach, a soaring structure with four and a half stories and a cupola. It was one of several grand hotels in the area where the same guests would come year after year to stay for an entire month. From the open porch, visitors would take in the sea views and salt breezes; in the dining room, they would eat three meals a day. A newspaper advertisement dated July 4, 1896, sums up the scene succinctly: "On elevated ground. Spacious verandas. Table first class."

The hotel changed hands—and names—over the next several decades. In 1928 Edward Clark bought it and renamed it the Webhannet Inn. His wife, Harriet, ran it from 1952 to 1963. The following year, Jon Milligan and his wife, Elizabeth, purchased it. Because of the high cost of complying with newly mandated local and state fire regulations, the top three and a half floors were eventually removed, and the first floor was converted to a single-story cottage.

Fast forward to 2010, when Judy and Bill Turner were visiting their son and daughter-in-law at their house next door to the former

hotel. The building, now a private residence, was for sale, and the Turners decided to buy it. Their son and daughter-in-law had worked with Arundel builder Shawn Douston and Kennebunk interior designer Louise Hurlbutt to renovate their home the year before, and recommended them to Judy and Bill. When Judy asked for the names of local architects, Brian Beaudette of Kennebunk was among them. "When we met, I could tell we were all on the same page," she says.

The project was a nostalgic one for Hurlbutt, who worked summers at the hotel as a chambermaid during college in the early 1960s, when her friend Harriet Gott's parents (the Clarks) owned it. She has fond memories of the hotel in its heyday: the interesting summer visitors she got to meet (many from Canada), the chef's bell summoning the staff for dinner every night, riding her bicycle between work and her parents' summerhouse on Fairway Drive, and the weekend sophomore year when the Clarks let her take over the whole place for a party.

When the Turners came on the scene, however, the building was a shadow of its former self. Having been gutted and added on to so many times over the years, the structure was in poor, if not unsafe, condition. The couple's hopes of restoring the property were



The owners' bath (above) features rare Ming Green marble from Distinctive Tile and Design in Kennebunk on the countertop, in the shower, and on the basket-weave floor, which also has Thassos marble. "The green gives such a summery feel," says Hurlbutt. The wall sconces are from Visual Comfort through Hurlbutt Designs, and the custom cabinetry is from Sylco Cabinetry in East Waterboro.

An octagonal turret room adjacent to the owners' suite (opposite) offers a sitting area with prime sunset views and a Juliet balcony. It's Judy's favorite place in the house. And if the Turners ever decide to further replicate history, Beaudette designed the area to be extended into a porte cochère like the one on the original structure. Hurlbutt Designs provided the Mitchell Gold and Bob Williams chair and ottoman, Visual Comfort lighting, and Manh Truc woven roman blinds.

dashed on their first walkthrough with Douston and Hurlbutt. "We just couldn't save it," says Douston. "We had no choice but to demo and start over."

While the building as a whole was beyond repair, the team did uncover a handful of pieces from the original structure that they were able to repurpose, including the solid wood pocket doors to the left of the entry that lead to an exterior storage area. "It was an incredible thing to find those," says Douston. "They were hidden in the walls of the dining room, and I don't think anyone realized they were there." The team also found two mahogany French doors from the original front-porch entry that wound up as doors to the upstairs turret sitting room. "It was weird because we salvaged them before Brian even had the door sizes, and they fit perfectly—as if he had designed with them in mind," says Douston.

Brackets from the old porch were installed beneath a cantilevered stair-landing bump-out on the side of the house.

In keeping with many of the area's turn-of-the-century "grand dame" mansions, Beaudette designed a shingle-style house with gambrel rooflines and sweeping covered porches studded with square tapered columns. "The former hotel that stood on the site was an example of Maine's historic architecture," says Beaudette. "We wanted to honor the site by replacing the structure with something that would look as though it had been there for years."

Like many of the shingle-style homes of the era, the house features shingle flares and siding, brackets, stone accenting at the base, cottage-style windows with multiple grilles in the upper sash and







The kitchen's custom cabinetry was crafted by Sylco Cabinetry and painted in Benjamin Moore's Baby Fawn with a custom back glaze in black. A beige crackled tile backsplash by Distinctive Tile and Design complements the cabinetry, as well as the honed absolute black granite countertops from Blue Rock of Maine in Portland. The Visual Comfort lighting and woven stools, table, and chairs from Sarreid are through Hurlbutt Designs.



none in the bottom sash, and deep roof overhangs with crown and bed moulding, beadboard soffits, fascia boards, and raised frieze boards. Roof lines are carried down to the first floor, so the second floor appears to be “built within the roofs, creating a warm and welcoming approach to the structure,” says Beaudette.

One of the most iconic historic elements of Beaudette’s design is the columned porch that the Turners, like the hotel guests before them, spend so much of their time on. The couple wanted to be able to use the porch in three seasons, so the team built custom screened and glass panels. Rather than place the panels between the columns, Douston came up with a hook system where the panels are attached behind the columns, allowing the architectural features to be seen in their entirety and maintaining the period character of the porch.

On the interior, Hurlbutt’s palette, finishes, and fixtures needed to mesh with the

homeowners’ early-American furniture and artwork from their house in Vermont—as well as the way the space would be used, primarily as a seaside summer house. “We wanted our friends to feel welcome,” says Judy. “I like things to look well put together, but seating has to be comfortable, and surfaces can’t be too fragile.” The great room features a slipcovered sectional where the Turners can snuggle up with their grandchildren in front of a gas fireplace with a stone surround by Biddeford masonry company Raymond Dussault. The kitchen’s custom cabinetry was crafted by Sylco Cabinetry in East Waterboro and painted in Benjamin Moore’s Baby Fawn with a custom back glaze in black. A beige crackled tile backsplash by Distinctive Tile and Design in Kennebunk complements the cabinetry, as well as the honed absolute black granite countertops from Blue Rock of Maine in Portland. “The house is rustic in a sense, yet refined. We combined Old World style with a little modernity,” says Hurlbutt.

In a guest bedroom (above), a king-size cherry bed with a shell motif custom made by Hurlbutt Designs is outfitted with pillows in a Robert Allen lighthouse fabric.

During the summer, screens let the ocean breezes filter onto the porch (opposite). In the colder months, glass panels go in, allowing the porch to be used in three seasons. To maintain the period look of the tapered columns and so the architecture can be seen in its entirety, Beaudette designed the screens and panels to be hung behind the columns rather than between them. The wicker furniture is from Lloyd Flanders through Hurlbutt Designs.

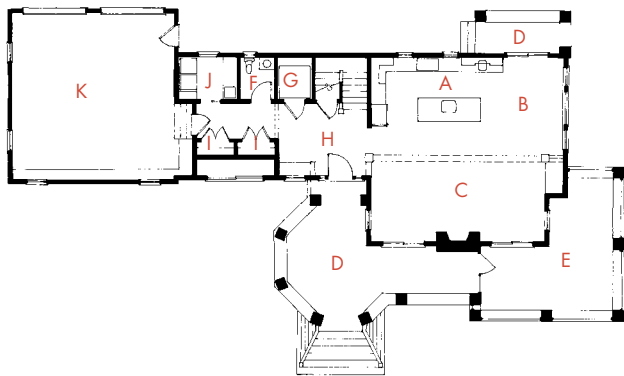


“*It’s so warm and welcoming here—you can almost picture walking into the old hotel, through the big doors, and past the check-in desk.*”

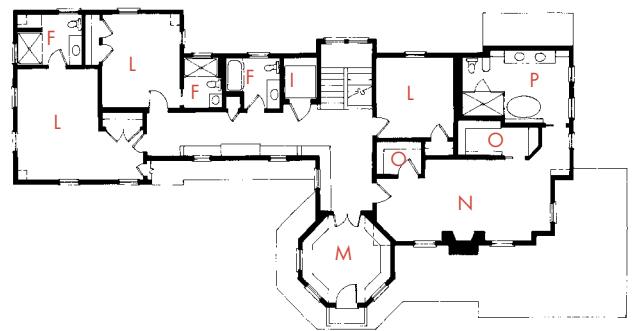


Above, left to right: Turned spindles on the staircase evoke the past. The guest bedroom’s button-trim drapery is from Samuel and Sons through Hurlbutt Designs. An eagle cutout on the mahogany front screen door references the former hotel.

FIRST FLOOR



SECOND FLOOR



- A Kitchen
- B Dining Area
- C Living Area
- D Porches
- E Three-Season Porch
- F Bathrooms
- G Pantry
- H Entry Hallway
- I Closets
- J Laundry
- K Garage
- L Bedrooms
- M Turret Room
- N Owners’ Bedroom
- O Owners’ Closets
- P Owners’ Bathroom



A terrace dotted with Adirondack chairs (above) is crafted from freeform bluestone slabs.

The powder room (right) is furnished with a custom vanity by Sylco Cabinetry topped with Silver Silk granite; the nautical Cowtan and Tout wallpaper, Visual Comfort sconces, and rope mirror are from Hurlbutt Designs.

BRIGHT IDEAS



- Spray-foam insulation
- 22-SEER heat-pump AC units with Wi-Fi thermostats
- Reused materials from the old hotel
- Low-E argon windows



5.21.16 | CRITERION THEATRE | BAR HARBOR, MAINE

EBB FLOW

TED^xDirigo
x = independently
organized TED event

Join us for a full weekend of events. Register at TEDxDirigo.com

TEDxDirigo *Ebb + Flow* will feature scientists, artists,
writers, adventurers, and more. Speakers will include:

DR. KAREN JAMES

DR. NADIA ROSENTHAL

REBECCA ROCKEFELLER LAMBERT

DAVID SHAW

ALYNE CISTONE

And many more!

A special thanks to  RED THREAD | Steelcase for their support.

Celebrating *Acadia National Park* and the
National Park System's 100th anniversary,



TEDxDirigo will present *Ebb + Flow* on May 21,
2016 in the recently restored Criterion Theatre.



An eagle weathervane perches on a
balconied turret (above).

These days, when Hurlbutt walks down the wide upstairs hallway she feels a twinge of déjà vu. "I especially love going into the turret room at sunset," she says. "It's the same sunset as it was in my college days. There's something about Maine and the way it always pulls you back."

Because Judy assembled the players early on and had a clear idea of what she wanted, Douston Construction and the team were able to finish the project under a tight time frame, just in time for the Turners' summer stay. Project manager Crystal Wilson, of Douston, said working on the home was a joy because of Judy's involvement and dedication to creating a house worthy of the site's past. "I like to say we 'reclaimed the Rock,'" says Wilson. "It's so warm and welcoming here—you can almost picture walking into the old hotel, through the big doors, and past the check-in desk." In other words, history lives on. The Eagle soars again. **MH+D**

For more information, see Resources on page
140