

DECOR MAINE

| ARCHITECTURE ART DESIGN LIFE STYLE TRAVEL FOOD |

ESSAY BY
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OF STONE AND SAVANNAS

ILLUSTRIOUS NEW YORK DESIGN FIRM
PARTNERS WITH LOCAL MAINE TEAM TO CREATE
A HOME OF MYTHOLOGICAL PROPORTIONS AT
GOOSE ROCKS BEACH

Words: BRIAN SHUFF
Photos: JEFF ROBERTS

Most of the materials used in the home of Jennifer King and Tim Fredel are custom, even proprietary. "You aren't buying this stuff off the shelf," says lead builder Geoff Bowley. "The kitchen cabinets are a great example. Each one was hand rubbed to exact specifications."

Designers
JOHN SALADINO & IVAN CHATMAN
SALADINO GROUP DESIGN SERVICES

Architectural Design
STEPHEN BARLOW
STEPHEN BARLOW ARCHITECT

Local Architect & Barn Architect
DAVID GRAHAM
GRAHAM ARCHITECTS

Landscape Architecture
TODD RICHARDSON
RICHARDSON & ASSOCIATES

Builder, Main House
GEOFF BOWLEY
BOWLEY BUILDERS

Architect, Barn Staircase
WILL WINKELMAN
WINKELMAN ARCHITECTURE

"Rugged elegance is my passion," says Jennifer. "From a fashion standpoint. From a travel standpoint. There's a certain feel. It's a certain textural quality. It's the perfect imperfection."

opposite page Wood reclaimed from barns all over New England, including some boards from Civil War era structures, was repurposed in Jennifer and Tim's barn.



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right Installation of the master bathroom tub required intricate planning and the use of a crane. "It is as much an art piece as a place to soothe my body and soul," Jennifer says.

This place shouldn't exist. It cannot be real. But it does—it is.

In the Goose Rocks Beach neighborhood of Kennebunkport, Jennifer King and Tim Fredel—a pair of serial entrepreneurs and philanthropists, most currently of Kudos Trading Co., The Retreat: SF, and the Rugged Elegance Foundation—have created an enigmatic destination, a home that lives in a dream space, knocked loose from orienting time. Raw nature conjoins with domestication. Rock and smoke and steel and earth commingle. We are somewhere elemental.

Rising from a spread of broad fieldstones (placed by landscape architect Todd Richardson of Saco, a recipient of a Merit Award from the Boston

Society of Landscape Architects), the villa suggests not so much a part-time summer retreat butted against a marsh on six acres in the Maine woods but a tectonic phenomenon, something awesome pushed up from the depths.

The effect intensifies the longer you stay. Soon, anything reliably “present” slips off, subsumed by more primordial forces. In the master bath rests a Papillon tub by Stone Forest, weighing beyond a ton and carved from a single piece of silver travertine. One imagines the palliative warmth of a mineral spring, the sweet punch of sulfur. Outside, a hot tub and cold plunge, a pebbled stream

and waterfall—formed and concealed in crags of Heritage Valley stone, pulled from a quarry in Washington, and cut by David Eaton of Maine Stone and Landscape in Rockport—mimic tidal pools one could believe gently hissing steam in some remote volcanic foothills. And obviously the Will Winkelman-designed staircase out in the barn (make that: barn/film screening room/yoga studio). The jaw-dropping piece spirals to an elevated loft where little ones, Jennifer says, “lie on their tummies for movies.” The handcrafted modern piece was blunt-carved with chainsaws and is impossible not to describe as spinal. But in this intoxicating, temporally altered plane, one

“
Get a coffee can,” Saladino said, “add rusty nails and beer to the grounds. Mix it up. That’s the color.
”

has to ask: The spine of what? What massive and long-extinct creature?

The nuance and texture of this chimeric world force many of these questions. The most recurrent: How is this mirage so real? Like even the slenderest of illusions—a coin vanish, say—the perfection of this numinous home demanded immense effort, dedication, patience, imaginative force, obsession.

“We broke ground in the blizzard of December 2010,” Jennifer says. From there, “Almost 200 people from over a hundred different trades, subcontractors, and suppliers worked on the project.” A crack squad helps—especially one led by John Saladino, who brought with him lead interior designer Ivan Chatman and lead architectural designer Stephen Barlow. From New York, the Saladino design team paired with an incredible local crew of architects, builders, artisans, and craftspeople to complete a design-build in just under two years. On the ground in Maine was lead builder Geoff Bowley of Bowley Builders in Kennebunk, whose father, Steve, built Jennifer’s parents’ home on the same plot in 1994. The King family has been on the land since the Great Fires of 1947 destroyed Jennifer’s grandparents’ original cottage and consumed much of Kennebunkport, after which they purchased the modest swath of (now burned clear) pine forest behind their former home, the land on which Jennifer and Tim’s home now presides, together with Jennifer’s siblings’ and parents’ homes.

“A lot of the design elements were evolving as we were building the home,” Bowley remembers. He speaks of the house as if it were coming alive. “Plus, we worked with largely custom materials and processes.” Reclaimed Douglas Fir panels on the ceiling and wall coverings required a seven-step treatment that involved blasting the boards with BBs to skip off the surface of the wood. Each stainless steel kitchen cabinet was rubbed individually to achieve its oily patina. Three different plasters came from multiple regions of Italy; stair railings arrived from Ecuador, artwork from Africa. “Everything here—lots of hands touched.”

Not all was so cosmopolitan. And intentionally so! Painstaking efforts have been made to ensure that “this is a barefoot home,” as Jennifer puts it.



opposite page, left One rainfall shower features a door to the outside. Again and again, this home fuzzes the distinctions between indoors and out.

opposite page, right Though Jennifer describes the home as “Africa-inspired,” touches of Maine run throughout.

left Most of the home’s windows are by Brombal. Before investing in a sizeable quantity of through-body bronze, Jennifer and Tim traveled to Italy and signed off on the material in person.