

Maine Home

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+ DESIGN

The
Architecture
Issue



Maine Home +DESIGN

75 Market Street

Suite 203

207-772-3373

www.mainehomedesign.com

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PROJECT /// ARCHITECT

BY SUSAN GRISANTI

Twenty of Maine's latest, most inventive, and striking architectural projects reveal their designers' philosophies, approaches, and styles

How they handle challenges. How they interpret how clients want to live, or work, in a space. **THOUGHTS ON BUDGET, ON THE ENVIRONMENT.** Do they edit down to bare minimalism or create opulent detail? Are their plans thoughtful, inventive, and controlled? **DO THEY PUSH THE LIMITS OF THE IMAGINATION?**

In every issue we share the extraordinary work of Maine's immensely talented architects, but once a year—in our special Architecture issue—the *MH+D* team offers a comprehensive look at architects and their compelling projects around the state. On these pages you will see everything, from the highest international standards of energy efficiency and innovation to incredibly creative projects on limited budgets to beautifully preserved classic cottages. We hope to whet your architectural appetite with a wide range of approaches and styles to inspire you—whether you have grand ideas for designing your state-of-the-art dream home or hope to make small-scale improvements.



SCOTT SIMONS ARCHITECTS

COASTAL MAINE BOTANICAL GARDENS BOSARGE FAMILY EDUCATION CENTER

Maine's first net-zero institutional building is the Bosarge Family Education Center at the Coastal Maine Botanical Gardens



The Bosarge Family Education Center is Maine's greenest building—LEED Platinum-certified and the first commercial net-zero building in the state, only the second in New England. Designed by a team led by Scott Simons Architects of Portland and Maclay Architects of Waitsfield, Vermont, it is built to the highest standards ever achieved in the nation, yet it looks completely at home in this coastal botanical-garden setting. It is a wonderful fusion of modern technology and design with vernacular form.

The transparency of the entry hall allows one to see through the center of the building, and in the summer, the gardens appear to flow right through the building, connecting the entrance side of the building with the garden experiences behind it. The multipurpose room can accommodate 150 people at round tables and nearly 200 people in rows of chairs. When the moveable wall panels are pulled across, and the acoustical panels in the trusses above are closed, it can function as three classroom spaces, each with great views to the gardens out the front and back of the building. Each interior classroom has a corresponding exterior space, so the doors can be open in nice weather and the class can literally move outside into the gardens.

Construction: HP Cummings

LEED Consultant: Fore Solutions

Structural Engineer: Becker Structural Engineers, Inc.

Mechanical & Electrical Engineer: Allied Engineering

Civil Engineer: Knickerbocker Group

Lighting Design: J&M Lighting Design

Photography: Robert Benson Photography