

Decor Maine

ISSUE NO. 6

LIVING BEAUTIFULLY IN MAINE

the Year in Design

The Divine 9!

**MAGIC ON
MOUNT DESERT
ISLAND**

**A WOODS-ENVELOPED
COMPOUND IN
PHIPPSBURG**

**A SLOPESIDE
SANCTUARY IN
GREENWOOD**

& more!

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**THE INSTAGRAM
POSTS YOU LOVED THE
MOST IN
2023**

6 Superb Maine Makers

The Annual Craftsmanship Roundup Returns

**PLUS: Rosella's Sustainable Sushi Rolls into
Kennebunkport**

BEACH HOUSE
by Nicola's Home

ON YOUR
MARK...
GET
SET
...MODERNIZE

*Nicola's Home finds a million clever solutions
while enacting a full refresh*

Cabinetry DEREK PREBLE CABINETMAKERS,
Paint CHAMELEON COATINGS,
Flooring CASCO BAY HARDWOOD FLOORING,
Photography SEAN LITCHFIELD



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To hear the parameters of this extensive modernization is like listening to the rules of a thrilling design gameshow: Take a fixed budget, a three-month deadline, and modernize the full interior of this gambrel-style beach house. And, oh yes, two more things: the client wants no involvement until the reveal, and the work must be done during a global pandemic. Go!

To this task, Nicola Manganello of Nicola's Home brought her considerable skill, depth of knowledge, and experience. "The client was key," says Nicola. "Having their trust allowed me and my team to get really creative."

Supply chains were jammed, and lead times for custom upholstery jobs were touching on upwards of a year. Nicola had to dig deep from her bag of tricks and contacts, repurposing much of the existing furniture with the help of local upholsterers; focusing on fast-ship items; and favoring Maine artisans, fabricators, and sources at every turn. The results are jaw-dropping. (Spoiler alert—the client loved the work!)

Throughout the home, Nicola started by wash treating the Douglas Fir flooring, staircases, and door slabs. "It definitely gave a beachier feel," says Nicola, "Then we painted all the trim white." A chemical treatment was also used on all door hardware and hinges. "We kept the original doorknobs but darkened the hardware to look more modern,"

This oak dining room table (from 1stDibs) arrived as raw wood and was custom stained to match the kitchen cabinetry. **(OPPOSITE) TOP:** A wash treatment on the Douglas Fir floors gives a beachy look and feel throughout the home. **BOTTOM:** Nautical wallpaper plays wonderfully with a branch-frame mirror from Portland's Blanche & Mimi.





Our favorite finish is the handmade *Moroccan Zellige tile*. Note how it runs all the way to the edge of the pantry entrance, which has been stripped of molding.

she says. Light switch casings went from almond to fresh white—"It's a small change that really freshens the entire interior," Nicola says—and lighting fixtures throughout were replaced with an eye for texture.

Then came the really dramatic embellishments. A solid oak dining room table from online marketplace 1stDibs, as well as a dining room chandelier, became early drivers of the project. "It was the first thing we bought," says Nicola. "It came as a raw wood table, and our cabinet maker Derek Preble stained it to match the new upper cabinetry [in the kitchen]." Grass cloth on the walls added texture. "It's a softer, more subtle way to modernize a room," Nicola says.

But it is her work in the kitchen (to our minds) that evinces the true extent of Nicola's magic. A coat of paint refreshed the lower cabinets, but the upper cabinets left roughly an eighteen-inch gap between their termini and the ceiling. "That was wasted space just collecting dust and dirt," she says, so Derek constructed new uppers in whitewashed oak that extend all the way up. "We waterfallled the kitchen island in Calacutta Extra quartz, brought in a farm-style sink (to replace a stainless steel undermount), took down cabinets in the pantry, and added open shelving to make it feel bigger," Nicola says.

Our favorite finish is the handmade Moroccan Zellige tile. Note how it runs all the way to the edge of the pantry entrance, which has been stripped of molding. "A small action that makes a big impact toward modernizing," Nicola says. "Same with the way the tile is placed both vertically and horizontally. Those little touches make a significant impression."

What we wouldn't give to have been there for the reveal!

ABOVE: A drapery wall blocks sunlight in an ocean-side guest room. "Repositioning the direction of the bed changes the flow of the whole room," says Nicola. **RIGHT:** New lighting fixtures throughout offer a playful dose of texture. **OPPOSITE:** Local woodworker Derek Preble constructed all the upper cabinetry from oak, including the pantry's open shelving.

