



Featured Homes

A House of Sea and Sky

Bringing the outdoors in...a Maine house celebrates life on the coast.

The breathtaking master bedroom captures the essence of sea and sky, with walls the color of sea glass (the color changes with the light) and endless windows that let in spectacular views from all sides.

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There is a house where the sea and sky meet, captured in the design as surely as any frame of walls. In Kittery Point, Maine, the home of Jacoba and Bob Goldman embraces the sweep of the Atlantic from nearly every vantage point. Window after glorious window features the mesmerizing view of the ever-changing sea. In summer, the house breathes in the salt air and echoes with the ebb and flow of the surf. But it was not always



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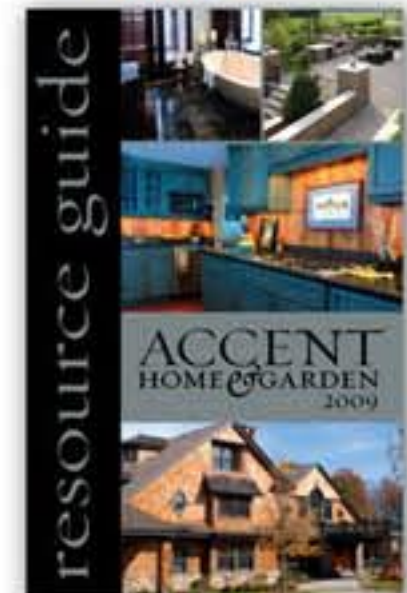


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so.

The Goldmans fell in love with the property instantly, but the existing house did not take full advantage of the incredible location, which had ocean vistas on three sides. Windows were small and few, and the Goldmans also knew they would need more space for visiting family and guests, and for their work. Bob wanted an office, and Jacoba, an acclaimed artist, needed a studio.

Jacoba's son recommended Robert Reed of Robert Reed Associates in York Harbor, Maine. Reed immediately grasped the couple's vision, and began designing a remodel that would do the location justice, while incorporating the Goldmans' wishes in terms of added space. The challenge he faced was creating a design that fit with the environmental regulations. There were setback requirements at the back of the lot near the ocean, but also requirements on the sides due to wetlands. Eventually, Reed developed a design that met all standards; approvals were given, and in late 2005, construction began.

"We opened up the house on both sides and off the back so we could get 180 degrees worth of views," Reed explains. "We gutted the entire existing structure, added the large family room and porches off the back, and the upstairs master suite. We essentially ripped the back of the house right off and reformatted that whole section." Ten months later, work was completed.

The finished house is the color of sand. Lush gardens add splashes of color out front, and wide lawns sweep around the sides and out to the back. The property is bound by stone walls, and just beyond lie an abundance of beach roses, which eventually give way to a carpet of sea-swept stones, and then the ocean itself.

From the side door, one enters the kitchen, a space of gleaming white cabinets, white trim, and white tile work offset by tan walls, a deep taupe ceiling, dark granite countertops, and hardwood



The home's dining area, which is part of the open family room that runs along the back of the house.



Builder Bob Reed's renovations completely changed the ocean-facing side of the house to allow 180-degree views.



The Goldman's house before renovations.



The kitchen is one gleaming expanse of white.



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floors. The tile work draws the eye as it is set in two different patterns—a brickwork pattern behind the sink, and a herringbone design behind the stove. The refrigerator has a white hardwood front, blending in with the rest of the cabinetry. Unique lights with ribbed umbrella-shaped glass globes hang above the butcher block island.

A breakfast nook has been carved out of one end of the kitchen; it features a wrap-around window-seat and a large table perfect for the space. Large windows fill one wall of the kitchen, giving Jacoba stunning views of gardens, the patio, and the ocean beyond.

Graceful archways form the transition points between most of the home's major rooms. They add architectural interest, but also help light travel all through the house. Indeed, one is constantly reminded of the outdoors just beyond, in the shifting of light, the feel of a breeze, and the ever-present panorama of the sea.

Jacoba worked with interior designer Sarah Duquette of Duquette & Company in York, Maine, to bring a natural feel into the home. The entire color palette echoes the outdoors, with neutral and earth tones being the predominant shades. Sarah even used these colors on the ceilings in an effort to make the rooms feel grounded and intimate. The consistency of tones connects the rooms to each other, and to the outdoors. "Because you can see most of the rooms from any one vantage point, it was important that their color schemes flow together," she says. "And the natural tones appealed to Jacoba's artistic side."

In the living room, the walls are the color of palest sand, accented by white wainscoting and trim, and ivory furniture. The ceilings are painted soft gray, which reflects the light. The fireplace has a white mantel but is framed in black, which, along with the hardwood floors, anchors the room. Built-in shelves and cabinets showcase books, pictures and mementos. Off the living



The family room maintains a casual feel, with cozy spaces for reading or playing games, but always that magnificent ocean view.



Beautiful garden containers frame a perfect spot for al-fresco dining on the patio.



The living room continues the natural color palette,

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room is Bob's office, a boldly masculine room with rich leather chairs and deep gold walls. A large bookcase/storage unit, handmade of mahogany, fills one wall and an Oriental rug, in soft shades of brown and gray, covers the floor. Windows cover two walls, and Bob's binoculars sit on a nearby shelf, ready to hone in on the abundant bird life.

The family room dominates the back of the house, which is one long sweep of glass as windows on three sides capture the magnificent view. The feel is casual with cozy activity nooks for dining, reading, or playing games. Taupe walls, hardwood floors, comfortable furniture, and a large stone fireplace give the room warmth. A striking coffee table, in the shape of a giant antique clock face, is an intriguing touch, while an oversized stuffed brown bear brings an element of whimsy to the decor.

"We have a large family, and we wanted everyone to be able to stay and enjoy the house," says Jacoba. "This room is so captivating that we spend nearly all our time here. In fact, we eat nearly every meal in this room, the views are so striking."

Jacoba's studio sits at one end of the front of the house. A cork floor cushions footfalls, while taupe walls and a gray ceiling the colors of sea stones soothes the eye. Countertops and shelves line two walls, with an old soapstone sink filling one. Serpentine track lighting with unique rotating bulbs curves across the ceiling. Vivid paintings hang everywhere, indicative of Jacoba's diverse styles. A former landscape artist, she now focuses on flowers, portraits and still lifes. Her paintings are alive with details, often fanciful, and frequently recall ethnic influences in their use of bold colors and shapes. Windows dominate one whole wall, and Jacoba's art table sits in the center of the room, bathed in that perfect northern light. "This room is inspiring on so many levels," she says. "It's quiet; there is all this beautiful light, and just a complete sense of peace. It seems ironic that I'm not doing seascapes here, but I don't need to paint the sea to be inspired by it."

with soft gray walls that reflect the light.



The breakfast nook, set at one end of the kitchen, is a relaxing spot for morning coffee.



The deck provides an outdoor seating space just steps away from the ocean.



The master bath is an elegant vision in Italian marble the color of sea stones.

Upstairs, the master suite is breathtaking. On a summer day, the room is filled with the tang of salt air and the sound of the sea. The walls are that mysterious shade of blue/green/gray that changes with the light. "Sea glass," is how Jacoba describes it. White trim frames the room, and the furniture is kept simple—a pillow-filled window seat that spans one whole bank of windows, the mahogany sleigh bed done up in a pristine white coverlet, and two end tables, their lamps slim columns of glass etched with a single green reed.

The master bath captures the colors of sea stones with its extensive tile work in shades of white, gray, pale brown and black, and walls of dark beige. The walls of the large shower are done in Calacatta Italian marble, with smaller squares of the stone making up the floor. The matching vanity countertops are large squares of the same marble. An elegant old-fashioned tub sits on a block of black wood by the window, but a luminette screen provides privacy.

"The house is a calming place, very serene, which is exactly what Bob and I wanted," says Jacoba. "There is a true sense of bringing the outdoors in, and because of that, it feels almost like a retreat. You're rejuvenated here. The sky, the sea, the surf, they are always changing, always captivating. You never want to leave."

Design Details

Design & Build

Robert Reed Associates, Inc.

Kitchen & Bath design

Atlantic Design Center

Interior Design

Duquette & Company Fine Interiors

Built-in Cabinetry

The Fernwood Company

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