

# MHD

MAINE HOME + DESIGN

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## 2025 AIA MAINE DESIGN AWARDS:

19 WINNING PROJECTS THROUGH  
THE EYES OF ARCHITECTS

THE MODERN REVIVAL OF  
A JOHN CALVIN STEVENS  
MASTERPIECE IN PORTLAND



HOW PLUNGE POOLS  
BLEND EFFICIENCY  
AND WELLNESS





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# Through These Architects' Eyes

## The 2025 AIA Maine Design Awards

Each year, the Maine chapter of the American Institute of Architects (AIA Maine) shines a spotlight on the best architectural work from our state's design community. From reimagined historical structures to brand-new builds that push the boundaries of sustainable living, the AIA Maine Design Awards program celebrates projects that exemplify thoughtful design, technical rigor, and a commitment to shaping a better built environment.

For the 2025 program, jurors from eastern New York brought their diverse perspectives to the judging table. The Design Awards jury included Beth Lacey of Lacey Architecture, Arien Cartrette of architecture+, Karin Kilgore-Green of JMZ Architects and Planners, and Michael Phinney of Phinney Design Group. For the Architrave Award—created to recognize excellence in traditional design—a separate jury was assembled, including Ira Grandberg of Grandberg and Associates Architects, Michael Tuck of Balzer and Tuck Architecture, and Scott Wallant of Wallant Architecture.

A distinguishing feature of the 2025 awards is the continued emphasis on the AIA's Framework for Design Excellence, a national initiative that calls on architects to lead the way toward a zero-carbon, equitable, resilient, and healthy built environment. This year's applicants were offered two submission paths: answering streamlined yes-or-no questions related to the framework's core principles or submitting the Common App for Design Excellence, a visual and data-driven tool that maps project performance against the framework's ten measures.

"Every year, the AIA Maine Design Awards program celebrates the best work of Maine-based architects. The 2025 program, like those before, is a testament to our architectural community's deep commitment to creating beautiful, thoughtful spaces that honor the people and places they serve. Their work not only elevates the profession and enriches communities but also inspires us all to bring more care and intention to the spaces we occupy," says Jeannette Schram, outgoing executive director of AIA Maine.

While the tools and criteria may evolve, the mission remains constant: to elevate Maine's architectural excellence. The awards program highlights a wide range of work: a currently enrolled architecture student's unbuilt project, a Maine firm's unbuilt project, and commercial, residential, renovation, and adaptive reuse projects designed both in and beyond state lines by AIA Maine members. Whether built or on the boards, honored or not, each submission adds to the broader conversation about what design can—and should—do.

MH+D is proud to present the winners of the 2025 AIA Maine Design Awards.



Photo: Trent Bell

## Winners at a Glance

### Honor Awards

Ferland Engineering Education & Design Center

The Honeymoon Cottage

The Narrows

East View

Subterranean Car Barn

### Merit Awards

Paul J. Schupf Art Center

Sweetwater Residence

Green Haven

The Outpost

Computational Craftsmanship

### Citation Awards

The Smith Center for Education & Research

Woodhull Headquarters

Fern House

Notch House

Squid Cove

Tidehead Woods House

West End Garden House

### The Architrave Award

Falls Pasture





## Green Haven, Westport Island Woodhull

### Merit Award for Excellence in Architecture

**Principal Architects:** Caleb Johnson, AIA,  
David Morris, AIA

**Architect:** Lydia Mather

**Interiors Architect:** Stacey Woodworth, AIA

**Project Manager:** Joshua Jacques

**Interior Designer:** Woodhull

**Landscape Architect:** Soren deNiord  
Design Studio

**Landscape Installation:** Pinnacle  
Landscape & Design

**Structural Engineer:** Intelligent Design  
Engineering

**Mechanical Engineer:** Ripcord Engineering

**Millwork:** Woodhull

**General Contractor:** Woodhull

**Photography:** Trent Bell

#### From the Jury:

The entry and circulation sequence for Green Haven seems to create a wonderfully seamless experience, one that is carefully planned down the hill through landscape elements, creating habitable places along the way. A similar process happens inside, circulation leading past beautiful spaces, down the stairs, and emerging once again to the exterior. Both the interior and exterior materials palettes and details are durable and precise, reinforcing the nature of each place along the path through the project.

#### From the Architect:

Nestled into a wooded hillside, overlooking a cove flowing into the Sheepscot River, this home's design hinges on a single, compelling view. That river vista became the organizing principle of the project, dictating design choices from the initial site concept onward. The building and its entrances were placed deliberately to the side, prioritizing the experience of the view above all else.

The clients envisioned a comfortable yet elegant retreat for two, with plenty of space to entertain guests. Their goals were clear: an open, clean plan, modern warmth, and a streamlined style drawing inspiration from Scandinavian and midcentury design. Expansive windows and glass were paramount, inviting natural light and framing the surrounding landscape. The clients sought a low-maintenance landscape emphasizing outdoor living with transitions from indoor to outdoor spaces. The kitchen and primary suite were to be focal points, designed with a comfortably large scale.

The more private rooms curve around the site, framing the cove's ever-changing tides. The daily ebb and flow become a quiet, intimate spectacle. Inside and out, carefully crafted decorative motifs echo the textures of the surrounding landscape. Stone, wood, and glass blend seamlessly, creating a sense of harmony and cohesion. It's a home where the architecture serves the land, not vice versa, offering a tranquil retreat deeply rooted in its natural setting. The clients sought a connection to the river, and the finished project delivers that, framing their daily lives with the beauty of the Sheepscot. The large windows and outdoor living areas create the seamless transition from inside to outside that they desired.