

Maine Home

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Classic Style, Functional Design

DESIGNER: BRETT JOHNSON ▶ MAINE STREET DESIGN CO.

Photography: François Gagné

At the core of Brett Johnson's interior design philosophy sits the idea that every space should work for real people and their lives. He applied this approach to a salt-water farmhouse on a private 2,000-acre island in Blue Hill Bay. The farmhouse is one of several buildings still standing on the island; for years it was used by the resident caretaker and cattle farmer and his family. As the current homeowners' family grew, they saw the need for a house fit for larger gatherings of the next generations. Johnson set out to design a space that would accommodate multiple age groups. "The goal was to use traditional prints and upgrade them with subtle color twists," he says, "all the while making the rooms flow together cohesively and maintain a look of timelessness." Existing family art and antiques also factored into the design scheme. The house was transformed

from a warren of small rooms into a casually luxurious summer home featuring six bedrooms, three and a half baths, a study, a living room, and a large country kitchen with ample dining for everyone—all with views of the farm fields sloping to the sea and the mountains in the distance. Working within a specific budget, Johnson decorated and furnished the house from top to bottom, including dishes, linens, books, and even games and puzzles. One of the more challenging aspects was in the execution and delivery of a finished project on a remote island with no regular ferry service: team members were transported back and forth on a small lobster boat, and furniture and casework had to be barged over on a tight schedule dictated by the tide.

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