

# New England HOME

Celebrating Fine Design, Architecture, and Building



OASIS of Calm

Innovative respites and retreats

Katsutoshi Yuasa's Mizumi wallcovering for The Romo Group's Black Edition envelops the main guesthouse's entry hall, which features a custom live-edge table on a Lucite base.

# Sylvan Soirees

A multi-structure guesthouse and entertaining space in Maine brings the forest to the foreground.

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hile driving through Lubec, Maine, Emily Dwyer, an architectural designer at Nate Holyoke Builders, spied a square gabled smokehouse. It instantly sparked an idea for a guesthouse and entertaining space she was designing in Blue Hill.



**ABOVE:** The guesthouse's suspended fireplace can be seen through Wilson windows from landscape designer Emma Kelly's fernery. **LEFT:** A bubble chandelier centers the living room under a white-oak ceiling. At right is one of a pair of paintings by William Irvine.

The clients, who had worked with Dwyer on their main house, were originally contemplating a much more modern design. “But this would fit in with the old Maine cottage vernacular of Blue Hill,” Dwyer says of the complex, which ended up as a cluster of three white-cedar shingle “pods” with standing-seam metal roofs. The main pod contains two bedrooms and a sought-after entertaining space, while the second pod houses an additional bedroom and the third centers around a gym.

Dwyer rejoined forces with the creative team behind the main house: Pittsburgh-based interior designer Betsy Wentz and Maine-based landscape designer Emma Kelly. They determined the interior palette early on. “We wanted green to be the thread throughout,” says Wentz, “because it brings in nature.

*“WE WANTED GREEN TO BE THE THREAD THROUGHOUT BECAUSE IT BRINGS IN NATURE.”*

—Interior designer  
Betsy Wentz



**RIGHT:** The kitchen showcases Benjamin Moore Jojoba on the stainless-steel-topped cabinetry opposite an island of white oak and engineered stone. **BELOW:** A Maine landscape by Jon Imber hangs next to the living room's cove-side windows. Furniture in this room is portable and mostly covered in indoor-outdoor fabrics for maximum versatility.



We've got pretty much every shade of green covered in this house." Known for her vivid eye-popping palettes, Wentz also added what she calls her "color stamp" to barstools (individually upholstered in lavender, pale blue, and green) and toss pillows and in subtle patterns that show up on wallpapers and strategically placed chairs.



**ABOVE:** In the glass "breakfast cube," interior designer Betsy Wentz clad barstools in lavender, pale blue, and forest green. **TOP RIGHT:** The 2,500-bottle wine cellar has polished poured-concrete floors and shelves that display ceramics by Blue Hill, Maine, potter Mark Bell.



The wallpapers, Wentz recalls, were the wife's request. "She wanted something that was artistic and caught your attention—but not enough to detract from the view," explains Wentz. Said view was conjured by Kelly, who "brought the woods closer to the house, making them feel dense for a sense of seclusion and privacy." On one side she planted a birch grove, on another she created viewsheds of the surrounding cove by opening up the tree line.

In the main house, Dwyer's dramatic fireplace required some tricky engineering. The team hung a steel frame from the living room's ridge beam, then faced it with plywood and affixed thin slabs



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**CLOCKWISE FROM TOP:** Wentz brought color and pattern into a basement space in the main guesthouse with Area Environments' Luckless Romance watercolor mural wallpaper. In a bathroom in the main guesthouse, Fireclay Tile's Star & Cross pattern contrasts with the graphic floral wallpaper seen in the mirror, but their shared palette of pale grays provides harmony. The oak-swathed bedroom of the freestanding "guest pod" alternates small-scale and large graphic patterns on upholstered pieces and linens.

Adirondack chairs atop stone pavers allow for cove views across the lawn.



of engineered stone from Cambria. The design allows for a view through the flames to a fern-shrouded terrace—and from the terrace into the living room. A thoughtful collection of Maine artists

provides the guesthouse’s exclamation point, making it feel like a home away from home and providing plenty of conversation starters for all those soirees. **EDITOR’S NOTE:** *For details, see Resources.*

**ARCHITECTURAL DESIGN AND BUILDER:**  
Nate Holyoke Builders

**INTERIOR DESIGN:** Betsy Wentz Interior Design

**LANDSCAPE DESIGN:** Emma Kelly Landscape