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PRESTIGE

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A SIP OF HISTORY

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RARE TASTES FROM THE PAST



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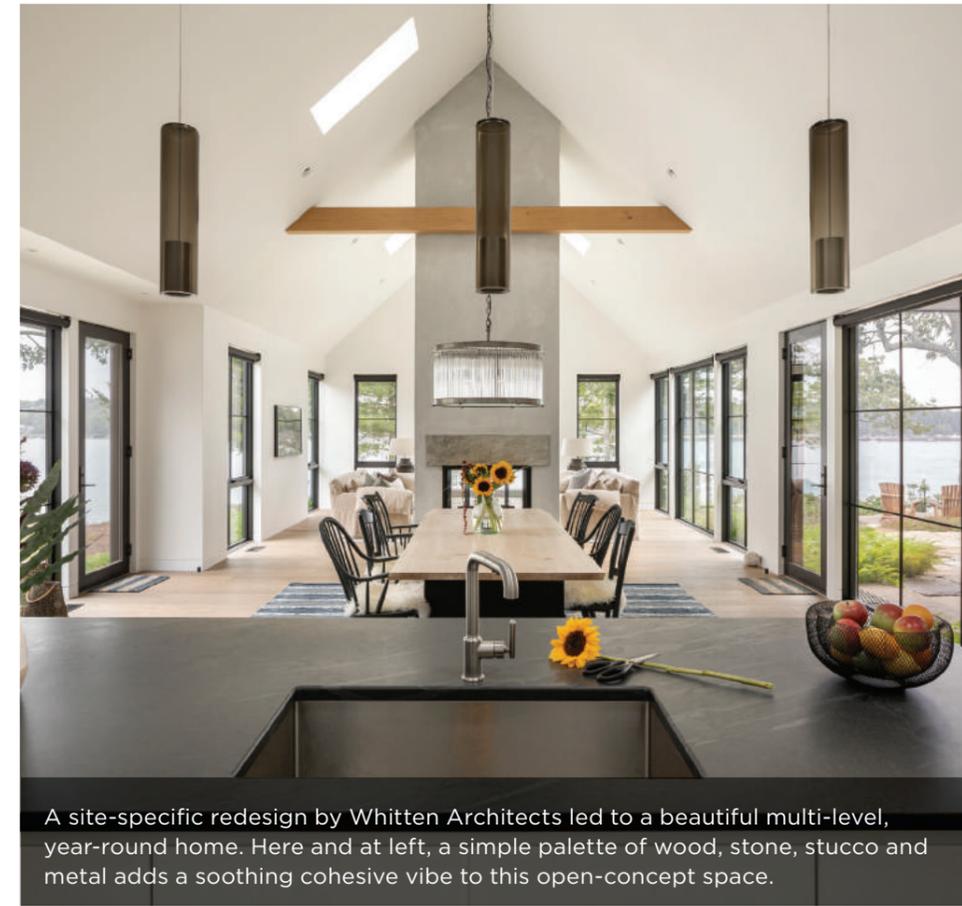
LUXURY
COLLECTION



A heavy timber screened porch is perfect for entertaining on Maine's buggy evenings. At right, relaxing views of the Damariscotta River in Mid-Coast Maine.



The living room offers ample river views and a strong connection to the landscape.



A site-specific redesign by Whitten Architects led to a beautiful multi-level, year-round home. Here and at left, a simple palette of wood, stone, stucco and metal adds a soothing cohesive vibe to this open-concept space.

Recognized as one the top young architects in the country, Jessie Carroll's story is one of passion and purpose.

The Path of Curiosity

By Kristen Ordonez

With over a decade of experience, associate principal architect Jessie Carroll describes how her passion for architecture stemmed from curiosity.

For Carroll, the path of becoming an architect was not a clear or direct one. Before entering the architecture program at Northeastern University's School of Architecture, she was heading toward a career in medicine. However, with a proclivity for math and science and a background in art, the prospect of becoming an architect piqued her curiosity and interest. Although she originally thought architects to be "artists that got paid well," a true passion developed for the work and led her to realize it was her intended vocation.

Part of what intrigued Carroll about architecture was its challenges, which she discovered both as a student working long hours on projects throughout her undergraduate and graduate programs, as well as in the field. Though it was difficult, she pulled pieces of wisdom from each endeavor, including the value of her time spent working and perfecting these projects. "The more time you put into a design, the better it becomes. The more time you put into a drawing or model, usually the better the outcome," Carroll says.

Wanting to diversify her experience even more, Carroll worked as a designer at several Boston-based firms, including Utile Inc., Cannon Design Inc., and Chan Krieger Sieniewicz (now NBBJ), as well as



Jessie Carroll

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construction manager of custom single-family homes by other notable architects. These positions not only helped diversify her knowledge of the industry, but also helped her to gain confidence for working onsite. "Working with those in the field, driving the company truck, wearing the boots, et cetera ... I think that was really a turning point, not only in my confidence, but in my understanding of architecture and the residential market."

This turning point and her passion for the craft led Carroll to find a place at Whitten Architects, a small architecture firm at the time in 2013, and has since led her to become nationally recognized for her work in architecture. Accolades for her achievements include the highest Design Achievement Award for her graduate thesis work, the

national Red Diamond Achiever Award and the local AIA Maine Design Merit Award. Most recently she was named a top "5 Under 40" professional by New England Home magazine, the first female Maine architect to receive the honor. It was curiosity that first led her to architecture, but when it came to Whitten, it was the firm's dedication, passion and collaborative nature that solidified her place in the company, and in Maine.

When first interviewing, the team at Whitten invited Carroll to Portland, Maine, which she later saw to be their way of wanting her "to fall in love with the place of Portland, Maine." Happily, they were right. "I've found practicing in Maine to be incredibly special and that a lot of the properties and building locations just feel so undiscovered.

It's a terrible analogy, but when I explain it to my friends and peers, it's like Disneyland for an architect. I am often blown away by these properties and I find myself asking, 'Are you kidding, we get to build something here?' It's an honor to be a part of," she says.

Carroll notes that unlike other notable New England coastal regions, Maine possesses a great deal of underdeveloped land that represents huge opportunities for people interested in making the move up north. "It's not like Cape Cod, where the square footage of oceanfront is inhabited and costs reflect that," she notes, adding that "people are recognizing the value of Maine and wanting to either work here remotely, retire or own a second home in Maine because they see the value in living here." →



The project shown on these pages was in a small Maine beach community, offering a first-floor guest suite, second-floor studio with generous light, and a green roof with a roof deck, boasting dramatic views of the ocean.



Fully custom millwork featuring the homeowner's interests and works makes this space usable and uniquely theirs.



The coastal home is nestled into a ledge outcropping with a new, usable terrace and roof deck above.

While working at Whitten, Carroll has also come to find residential architecture to be one of the most intimate of the design paths. "You're working with someone in their home ... the people that they care most about are going to inhabit this place. There are high expectations," she says. She adds that the residential sector is also a contributor to her passion for architecture. "Every project represents a new property, a new client. Both have brand new challenges."

Whitten Architects works to remain diverse in both size and style, usually heavily reflective of the clients and their overall vision, according to Carroll. One project that she always remembers fondly is known as the Coastal Village Residence,

according to Whitten's website, once a seasonal log cabin near woodlands in the Greater Portland, Maine area. Carroll says what she loved about that project was that the homeowners were really committed to Whitten and its process, and deeply valued the other teams of builders and landscape architects who all worked beautifully together with the firm, and still do to this day. The result was a highly crafted home from the inside out that was received on time and on budget.

What sets Whitten Architects apart from other architects is its commitment to the client as well as the site, what Carroll notes as site-specific design, which means heavily considering the property and

"Find what it is that makes you think, what it is that makes you curious and lights something up in you — just pursue that."



A "corner office" featuring the homeowners' Midwestern art and childhood toys.

the client's vision. "Something Whitten Architects does really well, we set ourselves up so we have time to do that with our clients. We really give ourselves time to grow that relationship, to understand what they're looking for, in order to exceed their expectations," she says.

A lot of what the firm is seeing today in terms of design includes more modern design with lots of glass, steel, and a deeper connection to the environment. "Now we're having people bring a new taste level with them, asking for a different type of architecture. I think that that has been exciting for us, exciting to work with younger families and be part of their story and their growth," Carroll says.

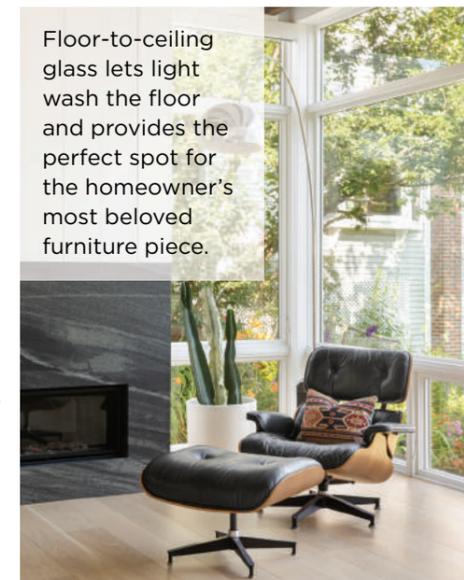
Reflecting on architecture itself, Carroll notes that "it is a career of humility, one that is constantly shifting and changing and one that is always going to be challenging because every project is so different, and should be, as it's a new place with new people." For her, and for others looking for "the perfect job," she says, "I don't think you have to understand why or what the ramifications of the decisions are going to be, but you just have to go with your instincts and your intuition. When I got into architecture, I wasn't passionate, I was curious. Through a curiosity can come passion. Find what it is that makes you think, what it is that makes you curious and lights something up in you — just pursue that."



A layered landscape leading to a large entry porch provides a gentle welcome. A playful window composition adds interest.



A minimal kitchen sized just right for the homeowners has ample views and subtle palette.



Floor-to-ceiling glass lets light wash the floor and provides the perfect spot for the homeowner's most beloved furniture piece.

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Refined architectural details add to the new simplistic building forms. A large entry porch and trellis reach to the landscape.