

Maine Home

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+ DESIGN



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Sky Apple

With its sandy shore and tight neighborhood fabric, Higgins Beach is a family-oriented beach town. The clients owned a home at the end of the neighborhood on a dead-end street toward the woods—a rather unique lot for the Higgins Beach area. The house acted mostly as a rental and was dark and poorly laid out. When the couple decided to move to Maine full-time, they asked Whitten Architects to redesign their home for year-round living, with a better layout and more light and air—a combination of beach cottage and Old Port-industrial vibe.

The site-specific design brought the home closer to the front corner of the lot, allowing for a more secluded outdoor space in the back. The house and garage act as a buffer from the street to create a private lawn space. Strict form-based zoning influenced much of the initial massing. The plan utilizes a main house body with a great room wing on the first floor. The great room, with a vaulted double-height ceiling, acts as the major first-floor living space to the south and east. The main bedroom is on the first floor to the southwest, while utility spaces live on the north side. Upstairs is an open loft-like entertainment area with an adjacent bunkroom enclosed with obscured glass, giving the room an open feel while still providing privacy. Two bedrooms and a full bathroom finish out the upper floor. The plan provides a beach house feel with large open spaces and a direct connection to the outdoors while providing cozy and private spaces. The exterior features Boral poly-ash siding for durability and less maintenance. Metal roofing on low, sloped roofs helps pitch snow, while the steeper roofs feature architectural-grade asphalt shingles. Durable interior finishes stand up to the wear and tear of everyday life.



Architect: Whitten Architects
Project Architect: Will Fellis
Builder: Douston Construction
Project Manager: Crystal Wilson
Photographer: Trent Bell
Location: Higgins Beach
Completed: 2019