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Atlantic Design Center,
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RUSTIC OVERTONES

Builder Jonathan Trudo creates a perfect sanctuary in Kennebunkport

WORDS: ALLISON PAIGE PHOTOS: SARAH MORRILL

When builder Jonathan Trudo took on a house project in 2011 off Goose Rocks Road in Kennebunkport, he worked hard to please one of his most exacting customers—himself.

He has been building homes in the area for more than 20 years. First as a partner in his father Fred's company, Shoreline Builders, and now as the owner of Creative Coast Construction, the full-service general contracting company he founded in 2013.

Although raised in Vermont, Jonathan has roots that run deep in the community where many clients are return customers, with relationships that have grown along with their houses. Drive down to Goose Rocks Beach, and he can point out more than 10 homes in a single mile that he's worked on over the years.

A perfectionist by nature, Jonathan always has houses on the brain—measuring, assessing, diagramming—before he even puts pen to paper.

"I'm constantly overanalyzing what I do," he explains. "Before I build something, I build it six to eight times in my head, which means by then I've solved a lot of the issues that could occur."

As his company name implies, many homes he builds are near the water, and reflect their surroundings with nautical motifs, pale interiors, and white trim. The Trudo home, by contrast, is earthbound, rugged, friendly, and warm, much like the man himself.

The 1,962-square-foot Craftsman-style two-bedroom, two-and-a-half-bath home is situated on just over 22 acres of pine forest. With red cedar



above Jonathan Trudo, master builder and the founder and owner of Creative Coast Construction.

opposite page In the kitchen, the quartz kitchen counters are from Atlantic Design Center at Eldredge Lumber & Hardware. The kitchen cabinets are quarter sawn white oak with dentil detail, from Thos. Moser. In the background, a barn door on its original antique track closes off the laundry room in a novel way.

shingle siding, massive granite pillars, and a standing-seam metal roof, it resembles a mountain lodge and feels at one with its wooded surroundings.

Jonathan and his wife, Karen, a physical therapist, were influenced by the old mills of Maine—their aged wood and exposed brick. They found additional inspiration in Duffy's Tavern and Grill, a Kennebunk restaurant housed in a former shoe factory, with its mix of industrial space and rough-hewn design.

Although just a few years old, completed in 2016, the home has a timeless quality. Its simple lines harken back to an earlier era, and the couple intentionally incorporated vintage and antique elements to add old soul to the new construction.

This is evident in the expansive living room, with its decorative exposed beams and handsome brick hearth. A granite mantel shelters a Hearthstone woodstove and is topped by an antique wagon wheel. The dining area table and chairs from Chilton were made from reclaimed wood from an old B&M Beans factory.

In the kitchen, moss-green tiles and white oak dentil-detailed cabinets by Moser carry through a palette of earthen hues. The quartz countertops look like marble but were chosen specifically for their ease of care. "Stone takes too much maintenance. I try to use quartz in most people's kitchens," Jonathan notes.

Karen explains how they brainstormed over the space, musing over how to best arrange it. "Do we put a wall up, or do we just have an island the size of Chicago?" she recalls saying. They opted for a wall, but when they found that it blocked too much light, they installed antique mullioned church windows that Jonathan had been saving for some time. The effect was twofold, adding both light and charm.

Through the French doors to the backyard, an outdoor fireplace made from granite sourced from an Arundel quarry gives the couple a cozy spot for entertaining outside. The flagstone terrace leads to a pool and shelter with a galvanized metal roof made to match the house's, while a hot tub positioned close to the master bathroom door means the couple can take a quick dip, even in winter.



left Church windows Jonathan had been saving for some time found a new purpose in his home, providing light to interior spaces as well as a dose of charm. The wooden cabinet is by Stickley.

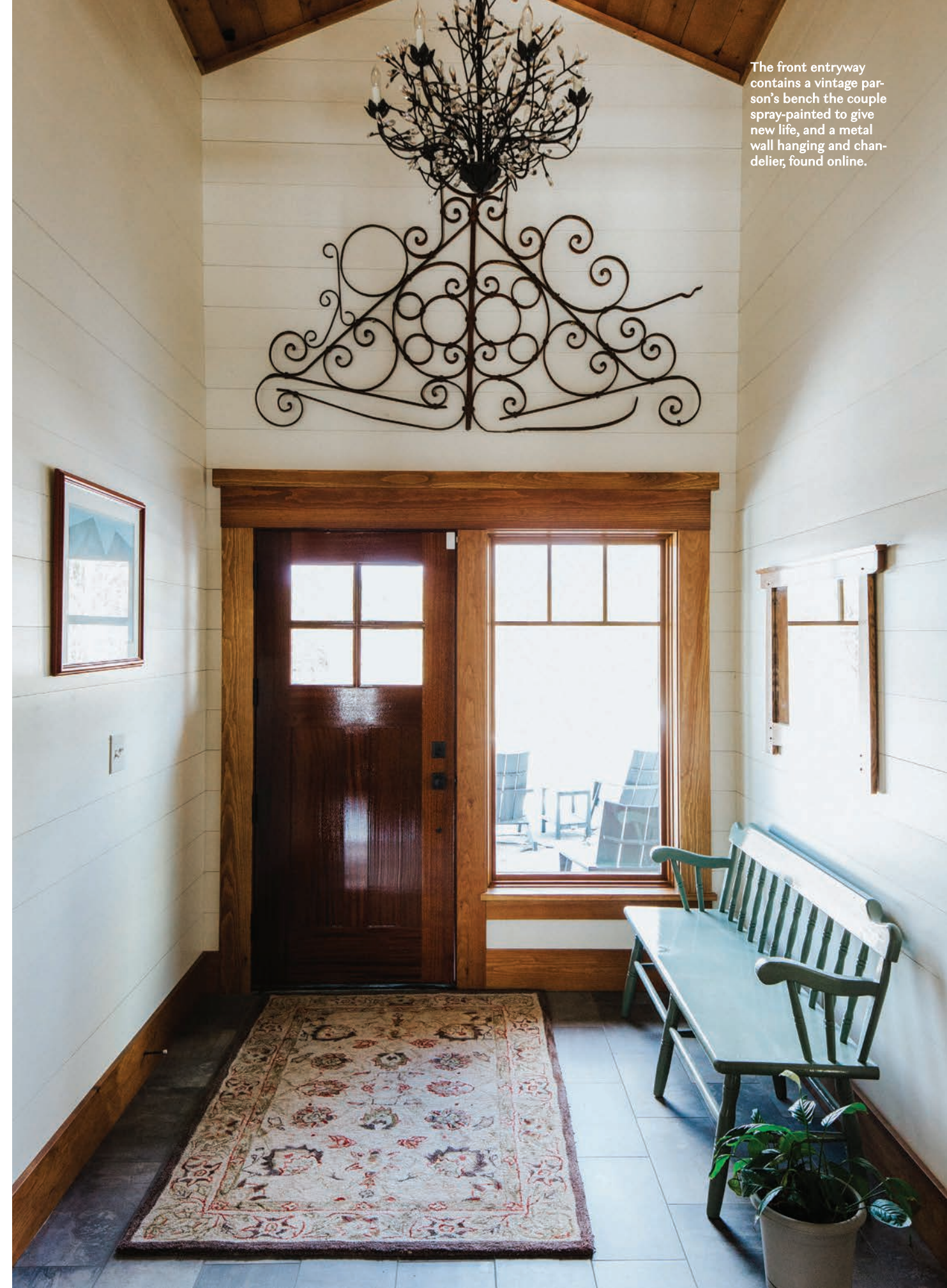


above The simple mud-room space has hooks for coats and a bench from Chilton.

THE TRUDO HOME, BY CONTRAST, IS EARTH-BOUND, RUGGED, FRIENDLY AND WARM, MUCH LIKE THE MAN HIMSELF.



right In Karen's home office, a vintage roll-top desk from Jonathan's parents melds seamlessly with the decor.



The front entryway contains a vintage parson's bench the couple spray-painted to give new life, and a metal wall hanging and chandelier, found online.

The bedrooms are restfully spare, with furniture that is in keeping with the couple's love for classic American design. In the master bedroom, a custom-made cherry four-poster bed was an anniversary gift from Jonathan.

All the interior doors are Victorian-age, salvaged from the same Portland estate, a lucky find at Old House Parts in Kennebunk. Jonathan flipped the original double-sliding doors and reattached the hardware to bring it to a more contemporary scale.

"Those reclaimed items brought into the home tell a story," Karen says, explaining how Jonathan socks away things he loves, confident that they will one day find their niche. "Certain materials or certain pieces speak to him. Those church windows were in our garage attic for 20 years."

"I save everything," Jonathan admits.

At 6-foot-3, he also made the doorways seven feet high to accommodate his frame.

"The transoms over the doors were my idea," Karen adds. "I like light and I like height."

A barn door on its original antique track closes off the laundry room in a novel way that is in keeping with the home's admixture of metal, wood, and stone.

Jonathan did not want drywall and chose instead wood paneling. The poplar walls are nickel-board style and were painted prior to installation to save time. The flooring is recycled barn boards laid over a geothermal heating and cooling system that keeps the house comfortable year-round.

"It's not just the house that tells the story," Karen says. "It's the property."

Underneath the snow, the ground is chockablock with granite outcroppings. In fact, Jonathan had to dynamite through some of the stone to build on the site. "I got to push the button!" Karen exclaims, adding that it was a good thing they were standing at a generous distance. "The rocks flew a long way!"

Terrapin Landscapes of Kennebunkport worked around the existing stone to create flower beds

above Antique hand tools collected by Jonathan over the years are thoughtfully displayed.

opposite page The dining room suite is from Chilton's. The table is made from repurposed wood from an old B&M Beans factory.



that include perennials and three varieties of blueberries. The front porch and extended stone ledge make for a perfect spot to sit and watch the sunset.

As for his design philosophy, whether creating a home for a client or for himself, Jonathan says, "A lot of it has to do with practicality. Even when I'm working on jobs with a set plan, I'll change things a little bit to make it a little more practical and user-friendly. I enjoy the whole process," he adds. "I enjoy making people's dreams come to fruition."

His commute is shorter than most. The workshop of Creative Coast Construction, situated in a barn on their property, is just a few yards away from the front door. And though work beckons, his cell phone rings repeatedly, and a buzz saw's whine follows us up the drive, once inside his gracious home, the hush of it feels complete.

"It's become a sort of oasis," he says. "A bit of a calm spot for me."

"It really is," Karen agrees. "We come home from work and don't want to leave. We might say, 'Hey, let's go out to dinner tomorrow night!' And we get home that night, and it's like, 'Oh, you know what, it's just really nice right here. How about we just sit here and have cereal later?'" she laughs.

Looking around their home, with its welcoming warmth and rustic simplicity, it seems only natural that the Trudos feel more than happy to stay in. ■

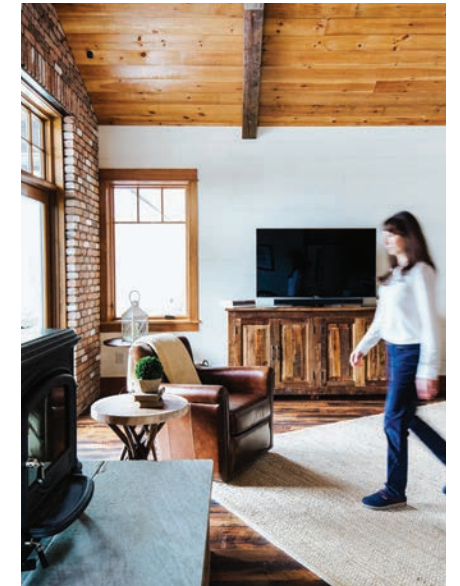




The cherry four-poster bed in the master bedroom was handmade by a furniture maker in Massachusetts and given to Karen as an anniversary gift from Jonathan.



left In the guest room, custom curtains by Teri Cardinelli of Cloth Interiors, Kennebunk, and sconces from Pottery Barn feel simple and timeless.



above Karen Trudo in the living room. Karen specifically did not want the orange cast that often accompanies wood interiors, so the Trudos had a custom stain created to achieve the exact shade they wanted.

“CERTAIN MATERIALS OR CERTAIN PIECES SPEAK TO HIM. THOSE CHURCH WINDOWS WERE IN OUR GARAGE ATTIC FOR 20 YEARS.”

right In the living room, a Hearthstone woodstove atop a bluestone pedestal keeps the house cozy. It shares the chimney with an outdoor fireplace made of granite from an Arundel quarry. Indoor masonry and outdoor fireplace by Byron Mecklin.



Contributor's Note

As a builder, Jonathan spends his time making other people's house dreams come true. It was wonderful to visit this home, in which he has realized his own. Like the Trudos themselves, their home is warm and welcoming and just the sort of place you'd be more than happy to spend a snowy winter evening sitting by the fire.

Allison Paige is a writer based in Maine. She writes fiction and poetry and resides in Portland's East End with her husband, son, and rescue dog, Barnabus.

With warm red cedar shingles, a metal seam standing roof, and massive granite pillars, the Trudo home feels at one with its environment. The stone pillars were installed by mason Byron Mecklin. The hardscape and stone walls are by Terrapin Landscapes.

